

IMPACT REPORT



KENTUCKY SCIENCE &
ENGINEERING FOUNDATION

Kentucky Science & Engineering Foundation

Historically, the Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation (KSEF) has had a broad scope – “raise the bar” on Kentucky’s competitiveness in pursuing federally supported research grants and contracts. In the past, KSEF executed the Kentucky Commercialization Fund (CommFund), the Research and Development Excellence (RDE) and the SBIR/STTR Phase Zero and Phase DoubleZero award programs. We were also the first in the Commonwealth to connect SBIR/STTR federal program officers and consultants with Kentucky tech-based small businesses through outreach and training, raising Kentucky’s success rate in winning SBIR/STTR awards from federal agencies.



This year, KSEF was once again awarded the FAST grant from the U.S. Small Business Association to further our mission of increasing Kentucky’s innovation economy through research grants. We also broadened our efforts to raise Kentucky’s success in the SBIR/STTR federal programs.

SBIR/STTR programs are highly competitive, yet they are the sole non-dilutive source of federal funding exclusively available to small businesses. The programs encourage companies to de-risk their innovations and further develop a viable product while also providing basic early commercialization guidance. KSEF consults with these small businesses to prepare them to compete for SBIR/STTR federal awards, a time-intensive effort.

To increase capacity for this support and in order to scale, we are delivering SBIR proposal accelerators and providing microAwards to allow small businesses to prepare a stronger SBIR/STTR application.

79

**Companies
Served**

389.5

**Consultation
Hours**

32

**Companies
Recruited for NASA
& DOD Accelerators**

microAwards

Reducing Barriers to SBIR/STTR Funding

This year, we introduced a new microAward program to reduce the barriers that early-stage companies face when seeking SBIR/STTR funding. The program provides grants of up to \$5,000 for expenses related to submitting a competitive proposal.

We exceeded the target goal for the program, providing 125% of planned funding and awarding microAwards to 20 Kentucky companies. This success indicates the urgent need for a program such as this, where companies can have flexibility in use of funds not tied to a specific proposal submission to increase their capacity to submit a successful SBIR/STTR application. Funds were used for a variety of purposes including purchasing materials and supplies, conference and training fees, and hiring expert consultants.

33	25	\$125,000	\$117,858	\$4,912
Applications Received	Contracts Executed	Funds Committed	Funds Reimbursed 94% of Committed Funds	Average Award

microAwards

Reducing Barriers to SBIR/STTR Funding



Moving from another state to Kentucky was one of the hardest things that our business has ever done... Thankfully, we were welcomed by the Kentucky startup community and introduced to Kentucky Science & Technology Corporation (KSTC) and Kentucky Science & Engineering Foundation (KSEF).

Receiving the KSEF SBIR \$5,000 microAward and ongoing support from KSTC programs has enhanced our ability to make progress and provided a backboard for a smooth transition to entrepreneurship in Kentucky.

The KSEF SBIR microAward has truly removed barriers to our startup's prototype research and design activities. We successfully submitted an SBIR Grant to the NIMHD with the NHLBI sponsoring our application efforts through the ECG NIH application assistance program initiated by our contact with KSEF.



Dr. Bernard V. Miller III,
Founder/CEO of Miller Diversified
Health Partnerships, LLC



**2022 microAward
Recipient**

Agency-Specific Accelerators

Increasing Participation in NASA & DOD SBIR/STTR

Through agency-specific SBIR/STTR proposal accelerators, we collaborate with other service providers to match companies with the appropriate federal agency and help them align with released proposal topics. Accelerator participants then receive intensive coaching and support through the eight-week process of submitting a competitive proposal.

NASA SBIR/STTR Accelerator



16

Companies
Enrolled

1

Submission

Department of Defense SBIR/STTR Accelerators

DOD 22.1



12

Companies
Enrolled

2

Submissions

1

Company Accepted to
GreenTech Accelerator
Challenge

DOD 22.3

8

Companies
Enrolled

4

Submissions

2

Congressionally Directed
Medical Research
Programs Letters of Intent

17%

of Enrollees had Business
Case for DOD & Submitted
Proposals

Company Consultations

Supporting Competitive SBIR/STTR Proposals

In addition to agency-specific accelerators, we provide one-on-one consultations to support companies in submitting competitive SBIR/STTR proposals to a variety of federal agencies.



SBIR • STTR
America's Seed Fund™
POWERED BY SBA

40

Proposals

6

**Federal
Agencies**

7

**Federal
Awards**



CDMRP



GET INVOLVED

Learn how you can support the research and development fueling technological and economic growth in Kentucky by visiting ksef.kstc.org.



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