

UPDATED 10/26/2022



SBIR/STTR Direct Financial Assistance FAQ (For Direct Funding and Bridge Funding)

Question 1: Can a company apply for both Direct Funding and Bridge Funding?

Answer: No. A company may only apply for one of the grant components: either the \$25k Direct Funding for Phase I, Fast Track, and Direct to Phase II award/contract winners or the \$50k Bridge Funding for companies that have completed Phase I and applied for a Phase II Federal SBIR/STTR grant.

Question 2: My company has won a Phase I SBIR for Project X which is expected to be completed in June. We have also completed a Phase I SBIR and submitted a Phase II application for Project Y. Since these are two different projects but from the same company, can we apply for both Direct Funding for Project X and Bridge Funding for Project Y?

Answer: No. A company may only apply for one of the grant components even if it has projects that qualify for both.

Question 3: I am currently undergoing a Federal Phase I grant. Do I need to complete the project to apply for Direct Funding?

Answer: No. A company does not need to complete the Federal Phase I project to apply for Direct Funding. Eligible applicants need to have won a Phase I award within the previous two (2) years prior to the issuance of the Notice of Funding (no earlier than 09/16/2022).

Question 4: Can I apply for Bridge Funding if I have received a Federal Phase I grant but not the Phase II yet, even though I have previously received a Federal Phase II for another project?

Answer: Yes. A company can apply for Bridge Funding if it has completed the Federal Phase I grant, has applied for a Federal Phase II grant, and has not yet received notification regarding their application, all for the same project.

Question 5: I completed my SBIR Phase I project two years ago from the issuance of the Notice of Funding, am I still qualified to apply?

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Answer: The two (2) years is measured from the date on the SBIR/STTR Phase I award letter (i.e. not the completion of the project or the start of the project).

Question 8: I'd like to speak to someone about general questions I have regarding the Direct Financial Assistance Program. Can you please provide a point of contact for the program?

Answer: Kindly send any specific questions to csitsbir@njeda.com.

Question 9: There is a company limit of no more than five SBIR awards. If a company has exceeded that number, they are ineligible for the grant. Does this limit apply to entire history of the company or only for the last five years, or last 2 years, etc.?

Answer: The limit of a maximum of five federal Awards / Contracts applies to lifetime of the Company. The applicant Company cannot have received more than five Phase I Federal SBIR/STTR awards/contracts (Phase I, Fast Track, Direct to Phase II combined).

Question 10: Our company is in NJ but was incorporated in Delaware. Do we qualify?

Answer: A Company registered or incorporated outside of NJ is eligible to apply as long as that Company is able to provide a valid NJ tax clearance certificate and is able to meet the employee eligibility and other requirements of the program.

Question 12: Is the application common for Phase 1 and 2?

Answer: The online application portal to apply is the same for both Phase 1 and 2 applications: https://application.njeda.com/Application_Information_CSIT.aspx. However, there are different questions for the Direct Funding Grant (\$25K) and Bridge Funding Grant (\$50K). An applicant will see the relevant questions for each grant, when they choose the specific grant to apply for.

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Question 13: Is a PI needed to apply?

Answer: There should be an identified PI on the corresponding federal SBIR/STTR award / contract. This individual should be identified on the CSIT application.

Question 14: What is the total available funding for these awards? Answer: The total budget for this program is \$1,000,000.

Question 15: Do Startups that do not yet have a payroll qualify for Phase 1?

Answer: If you have been awarded a Federal SBIR/STTR, Fast-Track, or Direct to Phase II award or contract the company is eligible to apply. At least 50% of the employees (full-time, part-time and/or contractors) must be based in NJ.

Question 16: When will funding decisions be made?

Answer: The final decision on funding is made by the CSIT Board after review of recommendations from CSIT staff to the CSIT Program Committee and completion of any appeals. It is anticipated that the CSIT Board will approve awards at the January 2023 Board meeting.

Question 17: We received funding through this program from CSIT last year, to support our direct to Phase II SBIR. The grant has been renewed for another year. Can we still apply for the \$25K? Or is it only for new grants?

Answer: Companies who have received a renewal of their Federal Phase I grant may be eligible for Round 4 of the CSIT Direct Financial Assistant Grant. For purposes of CSIT Round 4 Direct Financial Assistance Grant, CSIT would treat a renewal of a Federal Phase I grant, the same as initial receipt of the Phase I Grant. Applicants must still meet all other program requirements to be eligible and receive an award.