

CHAPTER 106
SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
TRANSFER OUTREACH PROGRAM (AMERICA'S SEED FUND)

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 4/22/31

261—106.1(15) Definitions. As used in this chapter unless the context otherwise requires:

“Applicant” means a business applying to the authority for assistance under the program.

“Assistance” means technical and financial assistance available under the program.

“Authority” means the economic development authority created in Iowa Code section 15.105.

“Award” means SBIR/STTR grant or contract funds awarded by federal agencies.

“Board” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 15.102.

“Committee” means the technology commercialization committee established by the board pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.116.

“Corporation” means the bioscience development corporation established pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.107.

“Eligible applicant” means a business meeting the criteria in rule 261—106.2(15).

“Financial assistance” means assistance provided only from the funds, rights, and assets legally available to the authority and includes but is not limited to assistance in the form of grants, loans, forgivable loans, and royalty agreements.

“Innovative business” means the same as defined in Iowa Code section 15E.52(1) “c.”

“Phase II award” means an award that provides funding to continue research and development funded with a prior award.

“Program” means the small business innovation research and technology transfer outreach program established pursuant to Iowa Code section 15.411 and this chapter.

“SBIR/STTR” means the federal Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs known as America’s seed fund.

[ARC 0134D, IAB 3/18/26, effective 4/22/26]

261—106.2(15) Eligibility requirements. To be eligible for the program, an applicant must meet the following requirements:

1. Meet the small business requirements defined by the federal Small Business Administration (SBA).
2. Be an innovative business;
3. Have a reasonable likelihood of receiving an award;
4. Be likely to stimulate subsequent investment by industry, venture capital, and other sources; and
5. Be likely to commercialize promising technology.

[ARC 0134D, IAB 3/18/26, effective 4/22/26]

261—106.3(15) Program benefits, application procedures, and delegation of functions.

106.3(1) Technical assistance.

a. Technical assistance provided by the authority under the program may include the following:

(1) Detailed outlines and other tools to facilitate drafting of a proposal and gathering accompanying documentation.

(2) Reviews and critiques of proposal drafts.

(3) Evaluation of budgets and budget justifications.

(4) Assistance with the electronic registrations and the application submission process.

b. To facilitate technical assistance, applicants shall submit pre-proposal documents to the authority that demonstrate a customized strategy for application for an award consistent with the requirements for the relevant rules and regulations of each applicable federal agency.

106.3(2) Application for financial assistance and award procedures. Eligible applicants may submit applications to the authority for financial assistance. Authority staff will confirm program eligibility before forwarding an application to the committee for a recommendation on financial assistance. The committee

will provide its recommendation to the board. The board may approve, deny, or defer each application for financial assistance. The board will consider applications for financial assistance on a first-come, first-served basis. The board may award up to \$75,000 in financial assistance, to be disbursed as indicated in subrule 106.4(3).

106.3(3) *Delegation of certain administrative functions to the corporation.* The authority may delegate certain administrative functions of the program to the corporation.

106.3(4) *Administrative functions not delegated.* The authority will retain, and not delegate, the performance of the following functions:

- a. The final determination as to whether to approve, deny, or defer an award of financial assistance;
- b. The disbursement of moneys provided for in an award of financial assistance; and
- c. The final determination as to whether there is a default in the terms of an agreement entered into under the program, including all decisions regarding appropriate remedies for such a default.

[ARC 0134D, IAB 3/18/26, effective 4/22/26]

261—106.4(15) Agreement and report information required.

106.4(1) *Agreement required.* An applicant awarded financial assistance under the program shall enter into an agreement with the authority that includes all terms and conditions for receipt of funds. The authority will make the final determination as to compliance with the terms of the agreement and as to whether and when to disburse funds to the applicant.

106.4(2) *Reporting information required.* An applicant may be required to submit all information necessary for the authority to compile a report on the results of the program.

106.4(3) *Disbursement.* Up to \$50,000 in financial assistance may be disbursed to an eligible applicant upon receipt of an award. Up to \$25,000 in financial assistance may be disbursed to an eligible applicant at the time the eligible applicant submits a proposal for a phase II award.

[ARC 0134D, IAB 3/18/26, effective 4/22/26]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code section 15.411.

[Filed ARC 0611C (Notice ARC 0408C, IAB 10/17/12), IAB 2/20/13, effective 3/27/13]

[Filed ARC 3195C (Notice ARC 2938C, IAB 2/15/17), IAB 7/5/17, effective 8/9/17]

[Filed ARC 6356C (Notice ARC 6243C, IAB 3/23/22), IAB 6/15/22, effective 7/20/22]

[Filed ARC 0134D (Notice ARC 9831C, IAB 12/24/25), IAB 3/18/26, effective 4/22/26]