

SBIR/STTR — the US Federal Government's Four-Decade Small-Business R&D; Funding and Procurement Pipeline

City Innovation Library · Good practice · United States of America

Quality score: 76/100

Evidence strength: Observational / pre–post

Summary

Since 1982, the US SBIR/STTR programs have channelled over \$3bn a year in non-dilutive federal R&D; awards to small businesses across 11+ agencies, generating 70,000+ patents, 700+ public companies and \$41bn in follow-on venture capital — reauthorised through FY2031 in March 2026.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	3/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	2/3
Scalability	3/3
Sustainability / continuity	3/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	1/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	2/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-14

[U.S. Small Business Administration \(SBA\), coordinating 11+ participating federal agencies](#) — accessed 2026-09-14

[CSIS — SBIR and STTR Reauthorization and the Future of Small Business Innovation](#) — accessed 2026-09-14

[NASA SBIR/STTR Program](#) — accessed 2026-09-14

[NCBI Bookshelf — Participation of Women and Minorities in SBIR/STTR at NIH](#) — accessed 2026-09-14

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