

# SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

## SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS PARTICIPATION IN FEDERAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) TO IMPROVE HEALTH

Are you a small business looking to make a big impact? The **Small Business Program at the National Institute of Nursing Research (NINR)** provides technical and financial support for small businesses to develop new and innovative products, technologies, and services that improve health.

As part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), **NINR** supports nursing science that solves pressing health challenges and informs practice and policy, improving health outcomes and health equity by addressing the realities of people's daily lives and living conditions in the communities and settings in which nurses practice. Find out more about NINR's areas of interest at [nintr.nih.gov/researchandfunding/sbir-sttr](http://nintr.nih.gov/researchandfunding/sbir-sttr).

**You don't have to be a nurse to apply to the Small Business Program at NINR**

Participating small businesses benefit from non-dilutive funding, retain their Intellectual Property (IP) rights, and have the opportunity to apply for additional technical assistance, commercialization R&D support, and training programs.

### Programs

There are two types of small business programs at NINR:

**SBIR**

#### Small Business Innovation Research

- Supports small businesses in early-stage R&D projects.
- Principal Investigator (PI) must be employed by the small business.

**STTR**

#### Small Technology Transfer Research

- Supports small businesses in formal collaboration with non-profit research institutions.
- PI can be employed by the small business or research institution partner.

### Eligibility

To be eligible, small businesses must be in the U.S., for-profit, and have 500 or fewer employees. Women-owned small businesses (WOSB) and socially and economically disadvantaged small businesses (SDB) are encouraged to apply.

Review the full list of program eligibility requirements at [sbir.nih.gov](http://sbir.nih.gov).



**TO START YOUR APPLICATION**

visit [www.nintr.nih.gov/researchandfunding/sbir-sttr](http://www.nintr.nih.gov/researchandfunding/sbir-sttr).

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## Awards

### PHASE I Feasibility & Proof of Concept

- Up to six months (SBIR) or 1 year (STTR)
- Awards up to \$150,000 for six months (SBIR) or 1 year (STTR)
- Establish technical merit, feasibility, and potential for commercialization

### PHASE II Research/Research & Development (R/R&D)

- 2 years
- Awards up to \$1 million
- Continues Phase I R&D with advanced product development commercialization planning
- Requires a commercialization plan

Find out more about the application process at: [sbir.nih.gov/infographic](http://sbir.nih.gov/infographic)

See the latest funding announcements and learn about NINR's program priorities at: [sbir.nih.gov/funding#omni-sbir](http://sbir.nih.gov/funding#omni-sbir)



## Spotlight on SBIR Awardee Improving Patient-Provider Communication



Communication barriers between patients and providers can lead to significantly poorer medical outcomes. To address this, Iowa Adaptive Technologies (dba Voxello®) developed the **noddle® switch** and the **noddle-chat™ communication tablet** with the support of **NIH SBIR funding from NINR**. The **noddle®** is a smart switch that uses patented gesture-detecting algorithms to

identify a patient's smallest intentional gesture, such as a finger tap, and activate a hospital's nurse call system. The **noddle-chat™ communication tablet** generates a synthesized voice allowing patients to communicate with others and be actively engaged in their care. After commercialization, Voxello's technology has been used with adult and pediatric patients at 15 major medical centers across the U.S. Importantly, Voxello's [latest update](#) of noddle-chat™ will include bilingual vocabularies to support patient-provider communication for patients with limited English proficiency.

**TO START YOUR APPLICATION**

visit [www.ninr.nih.gov/researchandfunding/sbir-sttr](http://www.ninr.nih.gov/researchandfunding/sbir-sttr).

**For more information:** Kristopher Bough, PhD  
Program Director, Small Business & Technology Program  
[kristopher.bough@nih.gov](mailto:kristopher.bough@nih.gov) | 301-337-1372

