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).

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.

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**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 [sibir.nih.gov](http://sibir.nih.gov).

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**TO START YOUR APPLICATION**

SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

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

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

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 noodle® switch and the noodle-chat™ communication tablet with the support of NIH SBIR funding from NINR. The noodle® 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 noodle-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 noodle-chat™ will include bilingual vocabularies to support patient-provider communication for patients with limited English proficiency.

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TO START YOUR APPLICATION  visit www.ninr.nih.gov/researchandfunding/sbir-sttr.