



BIOKANSAS
THE BIOSCIENCE NETWORK IN KANSAS



The Enterprise Center in
Johnson County

2018 Bioscience & Innovation Policy Priorities

● Leverage federal support for entrepreneurship and innovation

- Each year, Kansas entrepreneurs have the opportunity to leverage over \$190 million in federal innovation R&D grants (like SBIR and STTR awards) to grow their companies and commercialize university research.
- In 2017, Kansas companies won only 8 SBIR or STTR awards, as compared with an average of 20 awards per year between 2000 and 2014. In missing opportunities to compete for these awards, we are leaving money on the table that could help grow early-stage businesses in Kansas.
- Since 2014, the state of Kansas has failed to fund technical assistance for local companies and researchers interested in competing for SBIR and STTR grant opportunities. Technical assistance includes helping entrepreneurs search for grant opportunities and completed lengthy and complex grant applications.
- The Kansas Department of Commerce has statutory responsibility to provide such assistance, but the Department has not been appropriated funding specific to this task and as budgets have tightened, fewer resources have been invested in helping Kansas entrepreneurs maximize this opportunity.

Solution: *Fund technical assistance to Kansas entrepreneurs applying for federal R&D grants. Appropriate \$1,000,000 from the EDIF, dedicated to funding regionally-based technical assistance specialists at existing entrepreneurship support organizations, to be chosen through a competitive application process. Specify that at least \$100,000 of this appropriation be used to create administrative capacity within Commerce to manage this program.*

● Preserve the EDIF as a source of funding for entrepreneurship support programs.

- The Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) is intended by statute to support projects “enhancing the economic foundation of the state and fostering growth,” a mission that is clearly achieved by support for entrepreneurship and innovation efforts.
- To mitigate the state’s budget challenges, large portions of the EDIF have been swept to the State General Fund (SGF) in recent years.
- While ensuring our state’s financial stability is of utmost importance, it is also important to ensure that EDIF funds are not used to fund programs and initiatives outside the program’s statutory intent.

Solution: *Oppose additional sweeps from the EDIF and oppose efforts to dedicate EDIF funding to programs that do not directly contribute to economic development and economic growth.*



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Kansas Bioscience & Innovation Agenda

- Engage the Kansas legislature & key constituents to help strengthen the Angel Investor Tax Credit
- Engage the Department of Commerce & the Legislature to provide SBIR/STTR resources across Kansas
- Provide opportunities for state legislators to engage with Kansas innovators thru events such as Bioscience Day at the Capitol & the Capitol Graduate Research Summit (Feb. 20th)
- Engage with the Kansas legislature to ensure continued funding for NBAF Funding, Development and associated commercialization
- Engage with the Kansas legislature to ensure continued support for the University of Kansas Cancer Center as they strive for comprehensive NCI designation

