

Do you have an idea for a device or service that can improve the lives of people with disabilities? If so then please be aware that NIDILRR's Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) program is inviting applications for its Phase I competition.

Each year, NIDILRR's SBIR program funds up to ten Phase I feasibility (or proof-of-concept) projects for approximately six months (for up to \$75,000 each). After completion of the Phase I stage, most of these businesses can compete for Phase II awards. Phase II awards can last up to 24 months for a total of up to \$575,000.

NIDILRR's SBIR program is unique among all other SBIR programs in that it focuses solely on products and services that benefit the lives of people with disabilities. This program funds research and development projects that propose a sound approach to the investigation of an important education, assistive technology, science, or engineering question or problem. The purpose of the program is to: stimulate technological innovation; increase small business participation in federal research and development; foster and encourage participation by minority and disadvantaged persons in technological innovation; and increase private sector commercialization of technology derived from federal research and development.

NIDILRR's SBIR program holds one annual Phase I and one annual Phase II competition:

- **Phase I** - The objective of Phase I is to determine the scientific or technical merit and feasibility of the proposed research or research & development (R/R&D) efforts. The Phase I period concentrates on the R/R&D efforts that prove the scientific or technical feasibility of the approach or concept. This feasibility is a prerequisite for further support in Phase II. Phase I awards are for periods up to 6 months in amounts as indicated in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.
- **Phase II** - The objective of Phase II is to continue the research or R&D effort initiated in Phase I with approaches that have commercialization potential as a result of successful Phase I awards. Phase II awards are for periods up to 2 years in amounts as indicated in the Funding Opportunity Announcement.

Please go to www.Grants.gov and search for “*NIDILRR SBIR*” or “*HHS-2016-ACL-NIDILRR-BI-0142*”

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- <http://www.acl.gov/Programs/NIDILRR/Grant-Funding/Programs/sbir/index.aspx>
- <http://www.acl.gov/Programs/NIDILRR/Grant-Funding/Programs/sbir/applicant.aspx>
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