

As part of the implementation of “Accelerate Alabama”, the State of Alabama has created the Alabama Innovation Fund. The purpose of this fund is to maximize the use of the State’s economic development resources by leveraging annual research and development expenditures by Public Institutions of Higher Education to generate resources which can be used to support economic development activities. The Alabama Innovation Fund shall support and operate two distinct programs: (i) The Renewal Program; and (ii) The Research Program. The budget available for disbursement for the current fiscal year is \$4.5M.

The Renewal Program: Sixty (60%) percent of the annual funding available to the Alabama Innovation Fund (\$2.7M), net of expenses shall be used to fund the Renewal Program. The purpose of the Renewal Program is to strengthen and renew the high technology research capability in Alabama universities and other eligible institutions to help bring in federal research funds to the State, to attract existing high technology businesses to the State, and to create new high technology businesses in the State. Renewal proposals can fall into the following categories:

- Construction of facilities or purchase of critical equipment that enables and expedites new types of high tech research with job creation potential.
- Purchase of critical cyberinfrastructure that enables and facilitates new types of high tech research with job creation potential.
- Financial support (e.g., start up packages for an identified out-of-state candidate¹) for adding to the intellectual firepower within the State by recruiting outstanding faculty researchers (often referred to as “*Commercialization Scholars*”) that will bring in significant external research funding and/or have a track record of utilizing their respective intellectual property to create successful new companies and/or licensing agreements.

The criteria used in making Renewal Program awards shall include without limitation:

1. The likelihood of a Project to create patentable or other proprietary innovative technology capable of successful commercialization,
2. The likelihood of a Project to stimulate further research and development within the State,
3. The likelihood of a Project to contribute directly or indirectly to the creation of additional jobs within the State,
4. Expertise of the research team in fields which would contribute to the success of a Project,
5. Participation by the research team in past projects of a similar nature which have led to successful commercialization and related job creation,
6. The amount of useful technological, economic, human and intellectual property resources available to the research team.

A maximum of two Renewal proposals per university or other eligible institution is allowed to be submitted, for no more than \$500K per proposal, with a one-to-one match required. The proposal should be submitted by the Institutional Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) by COB

¹ It is allowed for the candidate to be identified, but they should have not started work in Alabama as of the date of proposal submission.

August 13, 2015² to: Angela.Till@commerce.alabama.gov, and please copy Roaslyn.Frank@commerce.alabama.gov. Proposal selection will occur via a State-wide competitive proposal evaluation process.

The Research Program: Forty percent (40%) of the annual funding available to the Alabama Innovation Fund (\$1.8M), net of expenses, shall be used to fund the Research Program. These funds shall be distributed, in keeping with the State's goals to stimulate economic development as set out in Accelerate Alabama, to Public Institutions of Higher Education and other eligible institutions who submit an Application through a competitive process described in this chapter. The criteria used in making awards under the Research Program shall include without limitation:

1. The existence of a Public-Private Partnership involving a Project,
2. The likelihood of a Project to create patentable or other proprietary innovative technology capable of successful commercialization,
3. The likelihood of a Project to stimulate further research and development within the State,
4. The likelihood of a Project to contribute directly or indirectly to the creation of additional jobs within the State
5. Expertise of the research team in fields which would contribute to the success of a Project,
6. Participation by the research team in past projects of a similar nature which have led to successful commercialization and related job creation,
7. The amount of useful technological, economic, human and intellectual property resources available to the research team.

A maximum of two Research proposals per university are allowed to be submitted, for no more than \$250K per proposal, with a one-to-one match required. The proposal should be submitted by the Institutional OSP by COB August 13, 2015^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} to: Angela.Till@commerce.alabama.gov, and please copy Roaslyn.Frank@commerce.alabama.gov. Proposal selection will occur via a State-wide competitive proposal evaluation process.

Reporting Requirements

Yearly Reports As a condition for accepting an AIF grant, the applicant must agree to supply an Annual Report to the Alabama Department of Commerce within two months (by November 30th) of the close a fiscal year with AIF expenditures. The Annual Report should include: i) an Annual Report Cover Sheet; ii) an abstract that provides an overview of the project and its goals; iii) a description of progress to date for the program; iv) documentation of accomplishments such as publications, seminars, presentation, intellectual property development; awards, and honors; v) a description of progress toward economic development and job creation, such as new hires, new federal or industrial funding made possible from the AIF investment, or small business development; vi) a summary of AIF budget expenditures as of the close of the fiscal year.

AIF Promotional Materials: The applicant agrees to provide short highlights with pictures suitable for AIF promotional materials upon request by the Commerce Department.

² Note that all Renewal and Research Proposals need to be submitted to the institutional OSP for subsequent institutional down-select with an internal due date to be determined by that OSP.

AIF Annual Report Cover Sheet

Name of PI: _____

PI Institution: _____

Title of AIF Grant: _____

Total AIF Funding: _____

Total Expenditures as of end of Fiscal year: _____

Date of Report Submission: _____

AIF Annual Report Requirements: **(headings have to be in this order and clearly marked)**

1. Cover Sheet
2. Abstract (providing an overview of the project and its goals)
3. Description of Program Progress to Date
4. Documentation of Accomplishments (e.g., publications, seminars, presentation, patents or patent applications, awards, and honors)
5. Economic / Job Creation Progress (new hires, new federal or industrial funding made possible from the AIF investment, small business development, etc.)
6. Budget Expenditure Summary (as of the end of the fiscal year, see attached expenditure form)

PI Signature

OSP Representative Signature

BUDGET EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Project Expenditures as of End of Fiscal Year	Amount Expended	Match Expended
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Staff			
Total Staff Salaries	\$		\$
Total Staff Fringe Benefits	\$		\$
In-State			
Out-of-State			
TOT AL TRAVEL	\$		\$
Facilities (Include rent, utilities, maintenance for rental space, etc. in Budget Narrative)	\$		\$
Communications (telephone, internet, etc.)	\$		\$
Office Supplies (include postage, software, desktop supplies, etc.)	\$		\$
Printing, reproduction and binding	\$		\$
Laboratory materials and supplies (Itemize in Budget Narrative)	\$		\$
Equipment (Itemize in Budget Narrative)	\$		\$
Renovation/construction costs	\$		\$
Other professional fees	\$		\$
Other: (Itemize)	\$		\$
	\$		\$
Overhead Costs	\$		\$
SUPPORTIVE SERVICES (Itemize in Budget Narrative)	\$		\$
TOTAL COSTS	\$		\$