



United States Department of Agriculture

## Some Resources for Small Businesses at USDA and other Federal Agencies

### USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Technology Transfer Resources

**Technologies:** The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) Office of Technology Transfer website contains a list of available technologies and biological materials: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/office-of-technology-transfer>

**Patent and Biological Materials Licensing:** USDA is looking for commercial partners to develop and market inventions made by USDA scientists: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/office-of-technology-transfer/licensing>

**Partnering:** Here is a link to template agreements and the different mechanisms used to transfer ARS technologies: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/office-of-technology-transfer/templates>

**National Programs:** ARS research is organized into National Programs. These programs serve to bring coordination, communication, and empowerment to approximately 690 research projects carried out by ARS. The National Programs focus on the relevance, impact, and quality of ARS research. <https://www.ars.usda.gov/research/programs>

**Research Project Search:** Search for an ARS research project by looking for a keyword in the title, approach, objective, or all of those fields: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/research/projects>

**Pilot Plants:** Pilot Plants at ARS can be used if the business is collaborating with one of our scientists/has a collaboration agreement: <https://www.ars.usda.gov/business/Docs.htm?docid=24756>

**Networking:** Agricultural Research Partnerships (ARP) Network: The goal of this network is to bring together all players in the innovation ecosystem into one extensive network. Here is a link is to the ARP Network LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/agricultural-research-partnerships-arp-network-3863a8147>

### Small Business Resources

**United States Small Business Administration (SBA):** Provides financial, technical and management assistance to start, run and grow a business: <https://www.sba.gov>

**Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE):** The nation's largest network of volunteer, expert business mentors, with more than 10,000 volunteers in 300 chapters: <https://www.score.org>

**Small Business Development Centers (SBDC):** Provides assistance to small businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs throughout the United States and its territories. There are dozens of host networks branching out with hundreds of service delivery points throughout the U.S., the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands: <https://americassbdc.org>



**Minority Business Development Agency (MBDA) Business Centers:** Minority-owned firms seeking to penetrate new markets, domestic & global, and growing in size and scale, can access business experts at a MBDA Business Center. The Centers can help with securing capital, competing for a contract, identifying a strategic partner or becoming export-ready. The Centers are located in areas with the largest concentration of minority populations and the largest number of minority businesses:

<https://www.mbda.gov/page/state-offices-minority-and-women-business-enterprises>

**Economic Development Programs:** Check your state, county and municipal economic development offices which have interests in helping businesses succeed to boost local and regional economies:

<https://www.eda.gov/resources>

**National Economic Development Organizations:** Here is an economic development directory:

<https://www.eda.gov/resources/national-economic-development-organization.htm>

## Funding

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR): National Institute of Food and Agriculture-USDA is one of the 12 agencies that has an SBIR Program:

<https://nifa.usda.gov/program/small-business-innovation-research-program-sbir>

Small Business Innovation Research-Technology Transfer (SBIR-TT): This program provides SBIR funds for applicants to enter into collaborations or license agreements with the Agricultural Research Service:

<https://www.usda.gov/media/blog/2014/10/21/new-program-helps-bringing-technology-and-innovation-market>

USDA Rural Development provides funding opportunities for rural small businesses through loans, loan guarantees, and grants: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/programs-services-businesses>