

DEEPER DIVE: SBIR AND STTR AWARDS

Overview

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) grant programs were established to better integrate and strengthen the role of innovative small businesses in federally funded research and development efforts. The U.S. Small Business Administration serves as the coordinating agency for the program.

Regional Performance

Tampa Bay performs well below the national average for SBIR/STTR awards per capita of \$2.98, ranking 19th at \$1.28 and sharing the bottom tier with #18 South Florida (\$1.97) and #20 Jacksonville (\$0.50). Orlando ranks #8 in this year's edition at \$6.19. An examination of five years' worth of SBIR/STTR awards shows that this year was no anomaly. Among the Florida cohort, the Orlando region accounted for 41.9 percent of total awards and 49.8 percent of awarded dollars between 2013 and 2017.

2013-2017 SBIR/STTR AWARDS, MAJOR FLORIDA REGIONS

	Tampa Bay	Jacksonville	Orlando	South Florida
Awards	54	17	156	145
Share	14.5%	4.6%	41.9%	39.0%
Award Value	\$23,174,933	\$7,851,319	\$60,152,765	\$29,504,208
Share	19.2%	6.5%	49.8%	24.4%
Average	\$429,165	\$461,842	\$385,595	\$203,477

Significant regional variation also exists in the source of grant dollars. In Tampa Bay, the Department of Defense and the Department of Health and Human Services lead in the number of awards, but the value of the Defense grants is roughly 50 percent greater than Health and Human Services. In South Florida, Health and Human Services grants account for the majority of awards in the period of examination. In Jacksonville and Orlando, Department of Defense grants are by far the most common, both in terms of number and magnitude of the awards. Throughout the state, Department of Defense grants accounted for nearly two-thirds of all awards in this most recent five-year period.

Department/ Agency	Tampa Bay		Jacksonville		Orlando		South Florida		Florida Major Metros	
	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$	#	\$
Agriculture	0	-	0	-	0	-	3	\$644,743	3	\$644,743
Commerce	0	-	0	-	0	-	1	\$400,000	1	\$400,000
Defense	19	\$9,389,804	13	\$5,330,999	125	\$49,290,907	34	\$13,309,724	191	\$77,321,434
Education	0	-	0	-	1	\$74,898	2	\$649,967	3	\$724,865
Energy	7	\$4,954,469	0	-	6	\$1,824,705	3	\$1,299,877	16	\$8,079,051
Health/ Human Services	18	\$6,792,387	3	\$2,220,320	8	\$3,716,144	81	\$6,792,387	110	\$19,521,238
Homeland Security	1	\$99,926	0	-	0	-	1	\$99,468	2	\$199,394
EPA	2	\$178,868	1	\$300,000	0	-	0	-	3	\$478,868
NASA	3	\$938,125	0	-	7	\$2,121,233	10	\$3,122,980	20	\$6,182,338
NSF	4	\$821,354	0	-	9	\$3,124,878	10	\$3,185,062	23	\$7,131,294
Total	54	\$23,174,933	17	\$7,851,319	156	\$60,152,765	145	\$29,504,208	372	\$120,683,225
Share of Total	14.5%	19.2%	4.6%	6.5%	41.9%	49.8%	39.0%	24.4%	100.0%	100.0%

Key Takeaways

- Orlando outpaces its fellow Florida communities in the value (both total and proportionate) of SBIR/STTR awards.
- Department of Defense grants account for the majority of grants awarded to the major Florida metro areas over the past five years.
- As home to both a major research university and a major military installation, Tampa Bay has the requisite ingredients to move the needle on this indicator, should the community wish to make it a priority.