

The Innovation Funding Journey

Oct. 1, 2025 | 9 AM – 4 PM | \$45 | Durham/Hybrid

Unlock Funding for Your Innovation:
A Comprehensive Guide for NC Entrepreneurs

 Hutchison PLLC

North Carolina
Biotechnology Center.





Registration: sbtcd.org/events/the-innovation-funding-journey

9:00 – 9:15 Setting the Stage – Building a Funding Roadmap

Part 1: Grant and Contract Funding

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| 9:15 – 9:45 | SBIR/STTR Federal R&D Grant and Contract Funding
<i>Ramya Vijapurapu, SBTDC</i> |
| 9:45 - 10:00 | One NC Small Business Program – SBIR Incentive and Match
<i>Chris Schmidt, NC Board of Science Technology and Innovation –</i> |
| 10:00 - 10:15 | NC Innovation Grant Program
<i>David Wyrick, NC Innovation</i> |
| 10:15 - 10:30 | Break |
| 10:30 – 10:45 | NC Biotechnology Center Grant Programs
<i>Tracey DuLaney, NC Biotechnology Center</i> |
| 10:45 - 11:00 | NC IDEA Grant Programs
<i>Leigh Blancato, NC IDEA</i> |
| 11:00 – 11:45 | Grant Recipient Panel – Lessons Learned
Moderator:
<i>Conor Steenbock, SBTDC</i>
Panelists:
<i>Trevor Ham – Atlantic Fish Co.</i>
<i>TBD</i>
<i>TBD</i> |

Part #2: Legal and Loans

11:45 – 12:05	Lunch Pick-up
12:10 – 12:25	Entity Formation and Legal Structure <i>John Rudd, Hutchison Law</i>
12:25 – 12:40	NC Biotechnology Center Loan Program <i>TBD</i>
12:40 – 12:55	Small Business Loans <i>Joel Harper, SBTDC</i>

Part 3: Equity Funding

1:10 – 1:45	Introduction to Equity Funding <i>Kevin Nicusanti, SBTDC</i>
1:45 – 2:30	Sources and Stages of Equity Funding Panel Moderator: <i>Kevin Nicusanti, SBTDC</i> Panelists: <i>Kevin Mosely, Front Porch Ventures</i> <i>Logan Yonavjak, Founder Readiness Institute</i> <i>Steve DeVrieze, NeuroTech Insights</i>
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 3:15	Equity Funding Journey Stories Panel Moderator: <i>Kevin Nicusanti, SBTDC</i> Panelists: <i>Bob Neusner, BMI Organbank</i> <i>Runbin Dong, Scale Social AI</i>
3:15 – 4:00	Women Funders, Funding Women Founders Moderator: <i>Andrea Giska, SBTDC Equity Funding Specialist – moderator</i> Panelists: <i>TBA</i>

The SBTDC is a business advisory service of the UNC System and is funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration.

