

Small Business Innovation Research

Outreach Training and Technical Assistance Program

In 2016 the Western Rural Development Center (WRDC), with support from the other Regional Rural Development Centers, led a national collaboration with the USDA-NIFA Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program to develop and deliver online training modules about the SBIR grant proposal and submission process. The training specifically targeted Cooperative Extension Service specialists and agents to prepare them to better assist potential SBIR grant applicants.

In 2017, WRDC was awarded a renewal by USDA-NIFA-SBIR to:



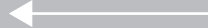
Assemble a team of Extension professionals from the eight states with historically low proposal submissions and awards.



Collaborate with Dawnbreaker* to customize proposal training materials.



Promote these training materials to other Extension professionals.



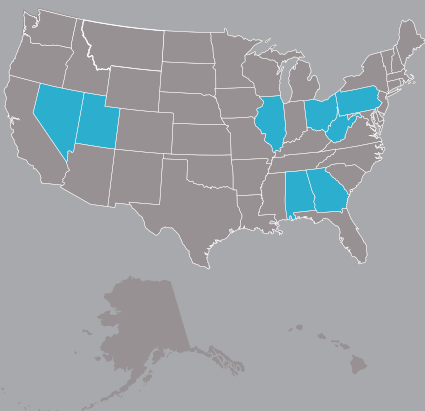
Coordinate delivery of face-to-face trainings targeting qualified women-owned and minority-owned businesses.



Develop evaluation tools to determine the effectiveness of the trainings.



Analyze data for needed improvements prior to the 2019 funding cycle.



SBIR Outreach and Technical Training Assistance

SBIR-NIFA staff identified eight states with historically low SBIR proposal submissions and awards to focus training efforts in 2018.

8

States receiving face-to-face trainings

*Dawnbreaker is a company contracted by Federal agencies to "advance national technology innovation initiatives of Federal agencies and small, advanced technology firms." Visit wrdc.usu.edu/sbir to learn more about this program.



This material is based upon work supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Any opinions, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the U.S. Department of Agriculture