SBA’s Office of Investment and Innovation (OII) leads programs that provide the high-growth small business community with access to two things: financial capital and R&D funds to develop commercially viable innovations.

Our work is underpinned by public-private partnerships that operate on or along a very dynamic and economically important intersection.

Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program is an investment program that increases access to capital for growth stage businesses
$4 billion authorization per year | $26 billion of assets under management | 303 active SBICs

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Technology Transfer Research (STTR) programs support the R&D and financing of cutting-edge technologies
~$42 billion since inception | ~$2.5 billion annual set aside | >150,000 awards granted | ~10 patents per day

Innovation Programs - Support the American high growth entrepreneurial ecosystem
Multi-million dollar Accelerator and Incubator Competition | Start-Up America | Crowdfunding
The SBIC is one of the largest fund-of-funds in the United States and can invest up to $4 billion annually. The SBIC program issues debt to venture capitalists, private equity funds and other vehicles that invest in America’s small, but scaling, businesses. Over the past five years, the program has channeled more than $21 billion of capital to more than 6,400 U.S. small businesses spanning a variety of industries across the country. Some of America’s most iconic brands, including those you see below, have received funding from SBICs.

Deployed more than $67 billion of capital
Made more than 166,000 investments in small businesses
Licensed more than 2,100 funds

Launched in 1958 the SBIC Program has:

- 314 licensees managing over $30 billion in assets
- Provided $5.7 billion in financing to 1,079 small businesses in 2017
- Helped to sustain 130,000 jobs just in the past year
The SBIC Program leverages the full faith and credit of the U.S. government to increase the pool of investment capital available to small businesses.

**SBIC Program → How it Works**

- **Role of Private Investors:**
  - Participate as “Limited Partners” in the SBIC
  - Invest the matching funds needed for the fund to access SBA-guaranteed leverage

- **Role of SBA:**
  - Assesses fund manager qualifications, SBIC application and issues SBIC licenses
  - Generally provides up to $2 of government-guaranteed debt for every $1 of private capital, up to a maximum of $150 million

- **Role of SBIC Fund Managers:**
  - Manages all aspects of the fund, including LP relations and compliance with SBA regulations
  - Establishes investment strategy
  - Monitors and exits investments

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**Diagram:**

- **Private Investors**
  - Pensions, Foundations, Banks, High-Net Worth Individuals, etc.

- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**

- **Small Business Investment Company (SBIC)**

- **Small Business**

**Flowchart:**

- $1
- $2
- $3

The flowchart illustrates the process of how the SBIC Program works, showing the involvement of private investors, the SBA, and the SBIC fund managers in funding small businesses.
SBIC Program → Benefits and Opportunity

Flexible Terms:
The duration of SBA’s financing instruments can be easily matched up with short or long term investments.

Exemption from SEC Registration:
SBICs are exempt from SEC registration, yet LPs benefit from SBA’s careful monitoring of each fund’s performance and regulatory compliance.

Exemption from the Volcker Rule:
Bank investments in SBICs are exempt from the 3% cap set forth by the “Volcker Rule” under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (PL-111-203).

Increased Financial Scale:
SBA leverage allows funds to scale up their strategies and extend their financings to more businesses.

Potential for Enhanced Returns:
SBA-guaranteed capital is low cost and does not participate in profit.

Community Reinvestment Act (CRA):
Investments in SBICs are presumed qualified for CRA credit.
SBIC Program
What it takes

**Track Record of Success**
- High quality track record of transactions analogous to those proposed for the SBIC
- Record of positive realizations
- Analysis of fund performance measured against peer funds

**Experienced Manager**
- Two Principals with proven direct investment experience
- Evidence indicating a cohesive and effective team
- Principals with strong, positive reputations

**Strong Investment Strategy**
- Clearly articulated focus and investment thesis
- Evaluation of targeted transaction size, investment themes and type instruments to be used
- Clear indications proposed investments will fund eligible “small businesses”

**Appealing Fund Structure**
- Structure of LP preferred return
- GP carry, management fees and vesting schedules in line with industry norms
- Evidence of fundraising traction
Applicants are given 18 months to raise the private capital needed to be viable. Once raised, the License Application may be submitted.

Once SBA Leverage has been fully repaid, the SBIC will wind-down the fund and return its SBIC License to SBA.
U.S. Small Business Administration
Office of Investment & Innovation
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