



Comprehensive SSTI Public Policy Platform

COMMERCIALIZATION

1. Proof-of-concept centers: SSTI supports the increased use of proof-of-concept centers as one vehicle to encourage the commercialization of research. This could include advocating for the permanency of the i6 Challenge.
2. Technology commercialization: SSTI supports improving the processes by which technology, from either the university or federal labs setting, is brought into the market place. SSTI supports federal incentives that encourage commercialization.

SEED-STAGE FUNDING

3. Funding for regional innovation ecosystems and clusters: SSTI supports ways to increase funding for regional innovation systems, such as supporting authorizing legislation to make permanent the i6 Challenge and Jobs Accelerator programs, whereby granting them statutory authority and creating a new funding stream specifically targeted toward regional innovative ecosystems.
4. Access to early stage capital: SSTI supports increasing ways for small businesses to be able to access early-stage capital. Specifically, SSTI supports the SSBCI program out of the Department of Treasury, which provides states with the flexibility to implement funds addressing this issue. SSTI believes that any further investment in SSBCI should be for equity investments and not used for revolving loan funds. SSTI also supports expanding the SBIC program to make nonprofit entities eligible to serve as intermediaries.
5. EDA Reauthorization: SSTI supports the reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration, with particular emphasis on the institutionalization of de-siloed funding streams, and efforts to support regional innovation systems.
6. Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program: SSTI supports the MEP program and will advocate for continued funding for the program.
7. Federal funding for basic and applied research: SSTI believes that a key role of the federal government is to provide funding to support basic and applied research. To that end, SSTI will advocate for increased funding for basic and applied research.
8. Multi-agency collaboration: It is rare that one program within the federal government can address the entire need of a community. SSTI will work to encourage multiple agencies to coordinate and attempt to align their efforts for maximum benefits to the economic growth of this country. SSTI believes that by pooling capital resources and de-siloing funding streams, more substantial changes can be made.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

9. Workforce issues: SSTI supports the inclusion of entrepreneur training programs within the reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act that supports innovative job opportunities.
10. Immigration reform: SSTI supports thoughtful immigration reform that would allow entrepreneurs and foreign students that have completed their masters and doctoral degrees to stay in this United States.
11. Supporting manufacturing: SSTI believes that having a strong manufacturing base, with a particular focus on advanced manufacturing, is critical to the TBED community.