

LOI COVER LETTER
Regional Innovation Grant Program

April 23, 2026

Subject: Overview – Regional Innovation Grant Hubs Program

Dear Interested Applicant(s),

The Regional Innovation Grant Hubs Program, administered by the South Carolina Research Authority, invites eligible ecosystem organizations to apply for funding that strengthens regional innovation capacity and founder support. Opening April 23, 2026, this inaugural opportunity offers funding for nonprofit entrepreneurial support organizations (ESOs), incubators, accelerators, universities, and economic development organizations actively engaged with their regional innovation ecosystem. Awards will be milestone-based over two years, with a five-year reporting period for sustainability tracking. Proposals should demonstrate how the initiative fills a critical regional gap, expands the startup pipeline (especially in deep technology sectors), and aligns with regional innovation roadmaps. Matching funds or in-kind contributions are strongly encouraged. Applications will be evaluated on organizational capability, regional impact, collaboration strength, and measurable outcomes such as venture formation, IP generation, and job creation.

Interested applicants should submit a Letter of Intent (template available on our website) for initial review by the Review Board. If additional information is needed or questions arise, a member of the Review Board or a regional representative may contact the applicant to schedule a discussion. Applicants selected to advance in the process will be invited to complete a full application, which will be available beginning May 4, 2026. The application period will close on May 29, 2026, with additional submissions considered on a rolling basis thereafter.

Any questions and Letter of Interest submissions can be sent to innovationhubs@scra.org.

Sincerely,

Adam Fisher
Manager, Strategic Initiatives
SCRA - Regional Innovation Grant Program

Enclosed: Letter of Intent Template – Attachment F

LETTER OF INTENT TEMPLATE

Regional Innovation Grant Program

[Date]

Regional Innovation Grant Program Reviewers
South Carolina Research Authority (SCRA)
1000 Catawba Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Subject: *Letter of Intent for the Regional Innovation Hub Grant Program*

Dear Review Committee,

On behalf of **[Applicant Organization]**, I am pleased to submit this Letter of Intent for consideration under SCRA's Regional Innovation Hub Grant Program. Our organization is committed to strengthening South Carolina's innovation ecosystem and is eager to participate in this opportunity as summarized in the announcement cover letter.

[Applicant Organization] seeks to develop **[briefly describe the proposed program or resource]**, which is designed to address a clearly defined regional gap in founder support, technological capability, or ecosystem alignment. The critical gaps have been identified as **[brief list of highest priority gaps to be addressed]**. This initiative will serve **[describe target population or region]** by providing **[brief summary of expected services, resources, or impact]**, ultimately contributing to increased competitiveness, stronger commercialization pathways, and long-term regional growth.

Our team brings relevant experience in **[entrepreneurship support, technology development, sector expertise, etc.]** and has established partnerships with **[key partners, if known]** that will enhance the quality, reach, and sustainability of the proposed effort.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our interest and look forward to submitting a full application. Please feel free to contact us at **[email/phone]** should additional information be needed.

Sincerely,

[Name]
[Title]
[Applicant Organization]
[Email]
[Phone]