

Life Sciences Caucus Meeting

May 19, 2026

7:30am

Co-chairs:

Senators Sawrey and Chaudhuri
Representatives White and Reives

Meeting will begin shortly

Agenda

- Welcoming remarks by Chairs
- Discussion of Omnibus Life Sciences Appropriation Bills (H1078/S956)
 - John Hardin, Dept of Commerce
 - Sara Imhof, NCBiotech
 - Laura Gunter, NCLifeSci
 - Joe Lanier, Milestone Strategies
- Q&A

One North Carolina Small Business Program



one north carolina
Small Business Program

Since 2006, the Program has helped small, innovation-based companies bridge the gap between concept and the marketplace, leading to lifesaving discoveries and improved economic well-being and quality of life.

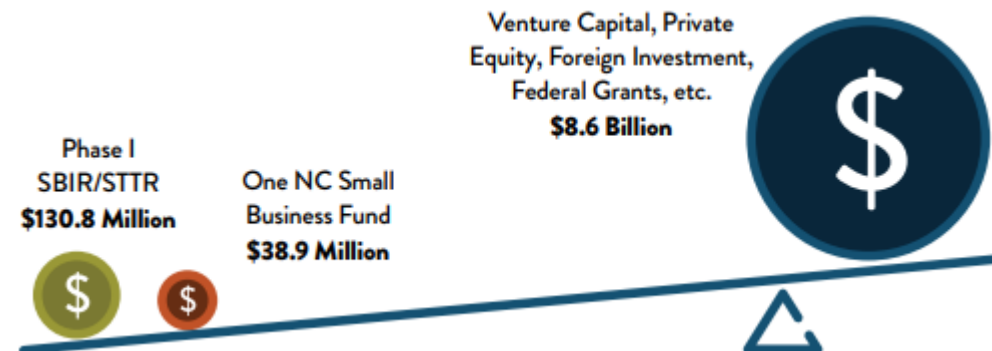
Support is provided via grants to companies that are applying for, or have won, awards through two *highly competitive* federal programs: the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs.

Program Goals

- Leverage Investment
Bring more Federal dollars to NC
- Enable Success
Use of Federal dollars is restrictive, making it difficult for businesses to complete their aims and move to next phase (more Federal \$).
- Maintain Competitiveness
Other states enacted similar programs at higher rates and offer additional incentives for small businesses to relocate.

220x Return on State Investment

State funding leverages larger follow-on funding amounts from multiple other sources.

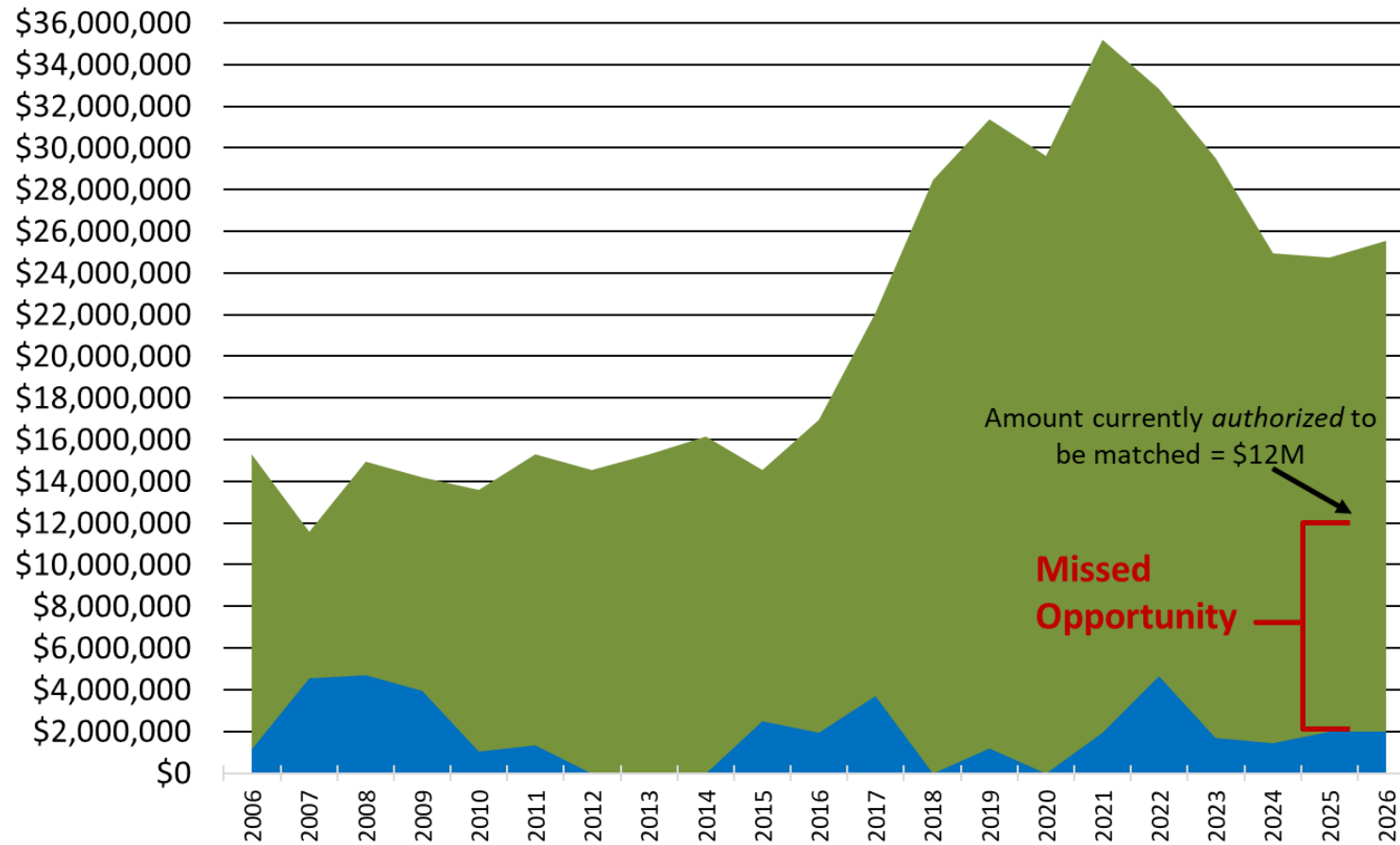


Program Achievements*

- Funded 522 small businesses in 81 cities and 41 counties
- >70% of grantees remain in business
- 2,000+ jobs created and maintained
- Average annual wages more than double the State average
- NC significantly exceeds national average of SBIR/STTR Phase I success rate since enactment of the Program.

* Sources: Grantee companies, NC Secretary of State, Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages. PitchBook.

Program Funding Not Keeping Pace with Opportunity

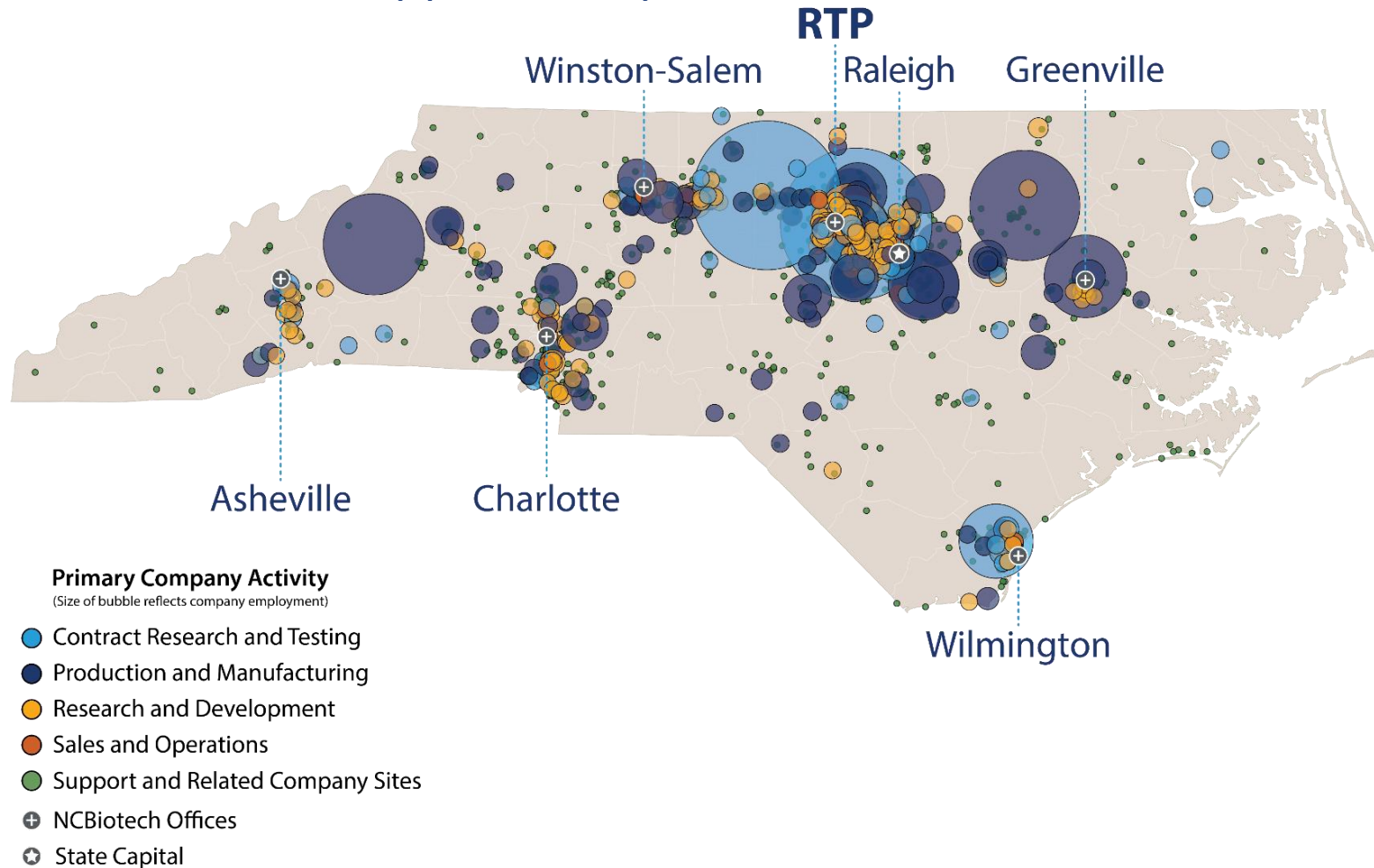


■ SBIR/STTR Phase I Funding Awarded to NC Companies

■ One NC Small Business Program Appropriated Matching Funds

NCBiotech

Life Sciences and Support Companies



- 860 life sciences companies
- 76,000 jobs
 - \$121,000 average annual salary
- \$82B total annual economic activity
- \$2.5B contributed state/local tax revenue
- 91 projects (2022-2026)
 - \$19B in new investment
 - 10,102 new jobs₅

Source: NCBiotech Company Directory (2025)

Reauthorization of the RDAC

- Reauthorizes and restructures the Rare Disease Advisory Council (Taylor's Law G.S. 130A-33.65 et seq)
- Transfers from UNC School of Medicine to NC Department of Health Human Services
- Expands to 19 members with staggered terms:
 - To include representatives from biotechnology and biopharmaceutical industries, Medicaid managed care plans, rare disease patient organizations, genetic counselors, and clinical practitioners
- Appropriates \$250k to support the council's operating expenses
- Mirrors HB1166

- Establishes a Water/Sewer Economic Development Program, modeled on Section 3.3 of House Bill 389 (Version 4, 2025 Session)
 - Addresses one of the most significant barriers to large-scale life science and biomanufacturing facility siting: the availability of industrial-grade water and wastewater infrastructure.
- Reimburse qualifying manufacturers on eligible infrastructure projects subject to:
 - Execution of a company performance agreement
 - Capped at the lesser of fifty million dollars (\$50,000,000) or fifty percent (50%) of the total project costs

- Establishes a new reserve fund within the General Fund to provide state matching and cost-share support for joint federal, state, local, and industry initiatives related to emerging life science and biomanufacturing technologies.
- The reserve positions North Carolina to move quickly when federal grant opportunities, public-private partnerships, or multigovernmental technology initiatives arise—without requiring a separate legislative appropriation for each.
- The fund is structured as a reserve requiring subsequent legislative appropriation for disbursement, preserving General Assembly oversight while enabling strategic responsiveness.
- Initial capitalization is proposed as a framework for future negotiation with appropriators.

Q&A