



E-Nnovation Initiative Fund Program
ANNUAL REPORT
FISCAL YEAR 2025

As required by the Economic Development Article Section 6-623

Respectfully submitted to the General Assembly of Maryland by

Renee Winsky, Chair

401 East Pratt Street

Baltimore, MD 21202

December 2025



Wes Moore, Governor | Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Overview

Pursuant to Section §6–623 of the Economic Development Article as amended, on or before January 1st of each year beginning in 2016, the Department of Commerce (Commerce) shall submit a report on the implementation of the E-Nnovation Initiative Fund Program (Program) to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, and the House Ways and Means Committee.

The Program became fully operational on July 1, 2014, and this is the ninth annual report. The purpose and intent of the Program is to retain and recruit top university researchers and encourage collaboration among Maryland research universities, federal agencies, and the private sector (especially entrepreneurial companies). The combination of top talent and collaboration can enhance the economic competitiveness of the State as it builds on existing clusters of research and innovation. The Program gives Maryland a tremendous advantage in the intense global competition for the best minds in the world, and will provide opportunities, jobs, and industries created by their work.

The Program leverages the impact of State funds through matching funds from private donors to universities. The legislation which created the Program, calls for an annual appropriation of \$8.5 million beginning in FY 2016. The Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Fund Authority (Authority) believes that the Program is meeting legislative goals. The breadth of applicants and the stature of the awardees provide Maryland with a depth of experience that will advance the State's competitive advantage.

Members of the Maryland E-Nnovation Initiative Fund Authority are:

- Renee Winsky (Chair), President & Founder, Bay One Group, LLC, Senate President Appointee
- Kevin Anderson/Harry Coker, Jr., Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce ex officio
- Jay Perman, Chancellor, University System of Maryland ex officio
- Troy Stovall, Chief Executive Officer, TEDCO ex officio
- Stephen Auvil, Chief Federal Engagement Officer, TEDCO ex officio
- Jack Miner, Chief Investment Officer, TEDCO ex officio
- Carol Washington, President & CEO, UTech Consulting, Speaker of the House Appointee

Commerce staff and the Office of the Attorney General provide administrative and legal support to the Authority.

II. Meetings of the Authority

During FY 2025, the Authority held four meetings: on July 1, 2024, September 5, 2024, January 31, 2025, and May 1, 2025. The Authority had four open meetings in FY 2025 and considered amendments to three endowed professorship research plans.

The Authority met on July 1, 2024, to review first-round applications and discussed and approved Washington College's request to modify the FY 2016 Chief of Entrepreneurial

Sciences to Director of Watershed Innovation and the FY 2017 Director of Regenerative Agriculture to Director of Sustainable Food Systems. On September 5, 2024, the Authority met to review and approve the Nonprofit Institution of Higher Education's (NPIHE) FY 2024 Comprehensive Annual Report in accordance with the changes to COMAR 24.05.22. On January 31, 2025, the Authority met to review second-round applications. On May 1, 2025, the Authority reviewed and discussed the NPIHE's FY 2024 Annual Reports and discussed and approved Hood College's request to modify the FY 2022 Endowed Director of the Biomedical Research and Training Center to Endowed Director of the Bioscience Research and Education Center.

III. FY 2025 Matching Fund Awards and Disbursements

FY 2025 Matching Funds Awards

Activities which continued in FY 2025 included the approval of matching funds to successful applicants. The Authority gave nine awards to five different institutions during the Round 1 application process, with the Authority approving awards at the July 1, 2024, meeting. The Authority made one additional award during the Round 2 application process during the January 31, 2025, meeting.

Awards totaled \$9,750,000 in FY 2025.

The following decisions were announced for FY 2025 Round 1 awards:

- Bowie State University for the Endowed Chair of CyberEntrepreneurship – (\$500,000)
- Johns Hopkins University for the Boone Pickens Rising Professor of Ophthalmology – (\$1,250,000)
- Johns Hopkins University for the Neurosurgery Rising Professor - (\$750,000)
- Johns Hopkins University for the Professor of Cancer Genetics and Epigenetics - (\$1,250,000)
- University of Maryland, Baltimore for the Bartley P. Griffith, MD Professorship in Surgery, Transplantation, and Innovation in the Department of Surgery – (\$750,000)
- University of Maryland, Baltimore for the Brown Capital Management, LLC Professorship in Sickle Cell Disease - (\$500,000)
- University of Maryland, Baltimore for the Mordecai P. Blaustein Faculty Scholar Professorship - (\$750,000)
- University of Maryland College Park for the Brin Endowed Chair in Mathematics – (\$2,000,000)
- Washington College for the Chief of Entrepreneurship and Innovation – (\$1,000,000)

Total awarded \$8,750,000

The following decision was announced for FY 2025 Round 2 award:

- University of Maryland, Baltimore County for the Dr. Thomas I. Seidman Endowed Chair in Applied Mathematics - (\$1,000,000)

Total awarded \$1,000,000

FY 2025 Disbursements

The following are the nonprofit institutions of higher education that received allocation and distribution of funds from the Fund during FY 2025:

Bowie State University
1400 Jericho Park Road
Bowie, Maryland 20715

- Contact: Anika Bissahoyo, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Research
- Number of FY 2025 Awards: 1
- Amount of FY 2025 Awards: \$500,000
- Cumulative Awards: \$1,500,000
- Undisbursed amount at the end of FY 2025: \$0

Johns Hopkins University
3400 North Charles Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

- Contact: Denis Wirtz, Ph.D., Vice Provost of Research
- Number of FY 2025 Awards: 3
- Amount of FY 2025 Awards: \$3,250,000
- Cumulative Awards: \$21,131,250
- Undisbursed amount at the end of FY 2025: \$0

University of Maryland, Baltimore
220 Arch Street, 14th Floor
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

- Contact: Bruce Jarrell, Ph.D., President
- Number of FY 2025 Awards: 3
- Amount of FY 2025 Awards: \$2,000,000
- Cumulative Awards: \$18,849,750
- Undisbursed amount at the end of FY 2025: \$0

University of Maryland, Baltimore County
1000 Hilltop Circle
Baltimore, Maryland 21250

- Contact: Kimberly Robinson, Office of Institutional Advancement
- Number of FY 2025 Awards: 1
- Amount of FY 2025 Awards: \$1,000,000
- Cumulative Awards: \$2,900,000
- Undisbursed amount at the end of FY 2025: \$250,000

University of Maryland, College Park
7901 Regents Drive
College Park, MD 20783

- Contact: Jim F. Harris, Vice President, University Relations
- Number of FY 2025 Awards: 1
- Amount of FY 2023 Awards: \$2,000,000
- Cumulative Awards: \$15,829,250
- Undisbursed amount at the end of FY 2025: \$0

Washington College
300 Washington Avenue
Chestertown, Maryland 21620

- Contact: Jennifer Hizer, Assistant Director, Government Grants and Sponsored Programs
- Number of FY 2025 Awards: 1
- Amount of FY 2025 Awards: \$1,000,000
- Cumulative Awards: \$7,976,825
- Undisbursed amount at the end of FY 2025: \$0

IV. Observations and Recommendations

- Supply and Demand

The Authority notes that there was strong demand for the matching grants and expects this demand to continue as Commerce increased promotion of the Program to non-profit institutions of higher education in the State in FY 2025. The Authority recommends a continued level of funding in future years.

- Increased Participation of Institutions

There continues to be increased participation in the program by smaller colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities, contributing more broadly to economic development across Maryland. Continued funding of the Program should continue to stimulate private, multi-million-dollar donations to Maryland's colleges and universities.

- Diversity of Awards

The Authority has observed that the tenth year of the Program has seen a diverse range of recipients and institutions being awarded. This diversity extends to demographics, geographic locations, and technical and scientific fields of study. Although eight of the ten awards were given to large, research-oriented universities, the Authority is pleased to note that there was participation from smaller, less traditionally research-oriented institutions in the Program. It is worth emphasizing that highly talented and entrepreneurial individuals can make valuable contributions outside of the traditional research institutions that are typically associated with state-funded programs. The Program has funded various fields of study in FY 2025, including professorships in cyber entrepreneurship, ophthalmology, neurosurgery, cancer genetics and epigenetics, transplantation,

sickle cell disease, membrane physiology, translational mathematics, innovation and entrepreneurship, behavioral science, and applied mathematics.