Office of Investment and Innovation @30,000 Feet

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 | $32 billion of assets under management | 302 active SBICs

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Technology Transfer Research (STTR) programs support the R&D and financing of cutting-edge technologies
~$50 billion since inception | ~$4 billion annual set aside | >150,000 awards granted | 7,000 new awards per year

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 nearly $30 billion of capital to more than 5,700 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.

Launched in 1958 the SBIC Program has:

- Deployed more than $73 billion of capital
- Made more than 168,000 investments in small businesses
- Licensed more than 2,300 funds

Today the SBIC Program has:

- 302 licensees managing more than $32 billion in assets
- Provided $4.9 billion in financing to 1,063 small businesses in FY 2020
- Halfway through FY 2021, the 292 SBICs have already invested $3.2B
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.

**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 $175 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
The most recent SBIC pooling was September 22, 2021

- 534 debentures from 74 SBICs
- $1.3 billion—largest in SBIC program history
- 1.304%—second lowest in SBIC program history
- 0.028% spread from 10 year Treasury
**Flexible Terms:**
The duration of SBA’s financing instruments can be easily matched up with short or long term investments.

**Rapid Deployment of Funds:**
The potential to capitalize as much as two-thirds of a fund with SBA leverage means managers spend less time fundraising and more time investing.

**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
SBIC Program → From Start to Finish

Start
Pre-Screening call (available on request)
Initial Application Submitted
SBA Due Diligence
Investment Committee Votes on Application
Vote
Green Light Letter Issued
Vote
Fund Interviews

License Application Submitted
Applicants are given 18 months to raise the private capital needed to be viable. Once raised, the License Application may be submitted.

Votes
SBA Administrator’s Approval
Two levels of SBA review and voting
SBA Reviews of License Application and Legal Documentation
Raise Funding (18 months)
Green Light Letter Issued
Vote
Fund Interviews

SBIC License Issued
SBIC Investment Period (~5 years)
SBIC Harvest Period (~5 years)
Wind Down
Finish

Once SBA Leverage has been fully repaid, the SBIC will wind-down the fund and return its SBIC License to SBA.
Contact Us

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For Questions about the SBIC Program
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For Questions about Underlicensed or First Priority

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