

Build Once. Serve Many. Keep Innovation in Kentucky

Innovation Infrastructure as an Economic Development Tool

The Problem

Kentucky invests in research, workforce development, and entrepreneurship. Yet many startups still lack access to non-university lab and innovation infrastructure. High upfront costs and compliance requirements delay company formation, push startups out of state, or prevent them from forming at all.

The Solution

A competitive, statewide, capital-only grant program administered through KPDI to support independent nonprofit innovation facilities (non-university). Up to \$1M per project for:

- Facility upgrades and building systems
- Capital equipment and physical improvements
- Physical capacity for entrepreneurs

This program does not fund individual companies or programming. It focuses on shared infrastructure that many founders can use.

Proven and Scalable

- This model is already working in Kentucky through LifeSciKY, where companies are choosing to locate because shared innovation infrastructure exists.
- Similar capital tools are used in other states and innovation districts nationwide.
- Because the infrastructure is shared, the approach can be replicated across Kentucky without duplicating costs.



Requested Action

1. Establish the Infrastructure Grant Program within KPDI
2. Fund capital grants with time-limited activation support
3. Require clear performance measures and safeguards to protect taxpayer dollars while attracting companies to Kentucky



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