

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 1. What is an Innovation Voucher?

Vouchers are grants that can help small companies in Rhode Island buy the expertise needed to develop a new product or process. Vouchers can be redeemed for services at a research institution or, **new in 2018**, manufacturers can now apply for a voucher to fund an in-house research & development project.

## 2. What can the vouchers be used for?

Voucher awards may be used for activities such as:

- Technological development or technological exploration;
- Product, service, or market development;
- Services and activities including access to research or scientific expertise;
- Manufacturing in-house research and development projects;
- Improved business practices that implement strategies to grow business and create operational efficiencies.

## 3. Who is eligible for the innovation voucher incentive?

*Rhode Island small businesses that have fewer than 500 employees within the state are eligible to apply. Funded projects must be conducted in Rhode Island in partnership with a Rhode Island knowledge provider or at the recipient's manufacturing facility.*

## 4. Are there services that the vouchers cannot be used for?

Innovation Vouchers are intended to fund R&D activities that support the development of new innovative products and/or processes. Voucher awards cannot be redeemed for ordinary and necessary business expenses such as standard training, software purchases, web or application development, general marketing or sales, general business advice or consulting, any costs associated with applying for grants, entertainment, providing internships or support for undergraduate students.

## 5. What is the voucher amount?

Vouchers can be awarded for project budgets from \$5,000-\$50,000

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Eligible businesses should contact Innovation Program Manager, Kaleena Harrington, for more information on the program or for assistance connecting to a knowledge providing institution.

**APPLY TODAY for your chance  
to receive an Innovation Voucher!**