

Small Business Investment Company-Energy (SBIC-E) Initiative

The Small Business Investment Company-Energy (SBIC-E) Initiative provides Small Business Administration (SBA)-backed financing to licensed private investment funds, increasing the capital to invest in qualifying U.S. small businesses. critical to American energy production, advanced manufacturing, supply chain resilience, and national and economic security. Established through a Memorandum of Agreement between DOE and SBA in August 2026, the SBIC-E Initiative combines DOE's scientific, technical, and commercialization expertise with SBA's long-established Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) Program. Through DOE's Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC), the Department will identify strategic technology priorities, provide technical and commercialization expertise, and help engage the investment community. The SBA Office of Investment and Innovation will administer the initiative and encourage the formation and growth of investment funds.

Leveraging Capital Markets



SBIC-E leverages one of America's strongest competitive advantages, our capital markets, to attract and magnify investment into U.S. Small businesses which are historically undercapitalized. Over \$147B in total capital has been invested in small businesses since 1958.

Creating Jobs



U.S. small businesses that have received investments from SBIC's create jobs and drive innovation. Over 10.6M new jobs have been created or supported by SBIC-backed businesses since 1995.

Investing in DOE Priority Areas



SBIC-E supports DOE priorities to deliver affordable, reliable, and secure energy, and cutting-edge technologies advancing U.S. productivity: Nuclear, Oil & Gas, Geothermal, Coal, Hydropower, Advanced Manufacturing, Quantum, Biomanufacturing, National Defense, and more.

Benefiting Taxpayers without Cost



SBIC-E has no cost to taxpayers, only benefits. It's a zero-subsidy program with \$0 appropriated since 2000. Less than 1% of the aggregate outstanding SBA fund-level leverage currently in default.