



I-Corps Site Program Reimbursement Manual

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About I-Corps Site

The Missouri University of Science & Technology Site program will support teams through customer discovery and commercialization associated with an idea or technology. The program teaches entrepreneurial skills to teams of faculty, students, staff, alumni, and regional teams and focuses on developing potential I-Corps Teams for the National I-Corps program. The program typically lasts for 4 weeks. Teams will attend in-class sessions where they will receive instruction and mentorship. Out-of-class work will focus on gaining a better understanding of customers and testing assumptions. Teams will conduct a minimum of 20 interviews with potential customers and record insights using a frame work called the Business Model Canvas and a digital Tool (Lean LaunchPad™). If needed each team will receive a micro-grant up to \$3000 as a National Science Foundation (NSF) award for their participation in the program. The micro-grant will be used for customer discovery, program educational materials and/or prototype components, materials and supplies.

The I-Corps program runs multiple cohorts throughout the Fall and Spring semesters. A training program in the summer may be offered depending on demand. A limited number of teams will be accepted into each cohort. Business experience is not required to apply, though teams are expected to have an early-stage idea, research, or technology that qualifies as a STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) project. Application to the program is through an online process at <http://i-corps.mst.edu/>

General Guidelines and Responsibilities

In order to be reimbursed from the micro-grant, certain criteria must be met. For the four-week class, you must;

1. Complete a minimum of 21 interviews.
2. Turn in your interview log to the Program Coordinator, post it on the class website (e.g., Google Classroom, Canvas, etc.), or have them logged in Lean LaunchPad.
3. Turn in or post all presentations on the class website.

TRAVELERS RESPONSIBILITY

- Know State travel rules and regulations.
- Know I-Corps policies and procedures.
- Obtain necessary prior authorization before travel, including method of travel.
- Secure the most economical method of travel and food expenses.
- Maintain an accurate record of expenses, and mileage. Expense report can be found on the website at <http://i-corps.mst.edu/> or email Misty House at housem@mst.edu for expense report template.
- Include all required receipts or/or documentation needed when submitting expense report.
- Submit claims for reimbursement for only actual allowed expenses within reimbursement rate limits or amounts approved by the I-Corps Site Program Director or Coordinator.
- University employees must submit their expenses through Travel and Expense process or can work with Misty House housem@mst.edu to set up delegate access. All university employees will follow the travel policies in place by the UM system.

TRAVEL

Travel while conducting I-Corps business may be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses in accordance with I-Corps guidelines. Technical conferences or meetings are not covered by I-Corps micro-grant. However, travel to a trade show is an allowable expense.

The method of transportation that best meets the needs of the project should be selected by the traveler. Travelers are responsible for selecting the most cost-effective means of travel.

PERSONAL VEHICLES

Personal vehicles used will be reimbursed based on the approved map mileage of the most direct route, plus any costs of parking and tolls. The mileage reimbursement rate is set by the Controller's Office by January 1 for each calendar year and posted on the Controller's website. For 2017 the reimbursement rate for mileage is .505¢

SPOUSAL/DEPENDENT/GUEST TRAVEL

Reimbursable expenses incurred by non-team members will not be allowed. Only expenses incurred by I-Corps team members will be reimbursed.

MEALS

Excluded Meal Allowances

If meals are included in conference registrations, covered by other payments, or paid by others, the traveler is not allowed to claim these expenses for reimbursement.

BUSINESS MEALS

University Employees must follow University policy in regards to per diem/meal reimbursement.

Meals are reimbursable as a business expense when they are part of a meeting or activity including other individuals to discuss project business. Reasonable meal costs are reimbursable when sufficient documentation of the business purpose and the individuals in attendance at the meeting is provided.

Documentation should include either the names or titles of individuals attending and their relationship/role to the project.

OTHER BUSINESS EXPENSES

Reimbursement of other business expenses that are necessary and reasonable is permissible if a clear business purpose exists and the expenditure is properly documented including the business purpose, or how the expenditure benefitted the team.

LODGING

Reasonable and necessary amounts are allowed for lodging. When two or more individuals share the same room, the total claimed for reimbursement must not exceed the total paid for the room.

A receipted, itemized statement furnished by the hotel or motel is required for all lodging expenses. Summary statements provided by credit card companies will not be accepted as justification for reimbursement.

PROTOTYPE EXPENSES

Materials, supplies, components, modest amounts of equipment, and some fees paid for use of equipment at commercial shops e.g. Tech Shop in St. Louis are permitted. Detailed documentation and receipts are required for reimbursement. Membership fees are not reimbursable. Some software may be reimbursed but must be approved by the Program Director.

Prototyping Equipment Expenses not allowed

- Tools
- Equipment
- Computers and Peripherals

If you have additional questions about prototyping expenses please contact the I-Corps Site Program Director, Bonnie Bachman at bachmanb@mst.edu

OTHER EXPENSES

Reimbursements will be made for other expenses under the following circumstances:

- Telephone/internet connection - Expenses incurred for official business.
- Miscellaneous Transportation & Related Expenses - When necessary to carry out purpose of trip.
- Registration or Other Meeting Expenses - When necessary to carry out purpose of trip.

EXPENSES NOT ALLOWED

Only expenses essential to the transaction of I-Corps team business are reimbursable. Examples of expenses that are not reimbursable in most cases include but not limited to;

1. Additional hotel expenses, e.g. hotel gym fee, mini-bars, movies, laundry, and vehicle fines.
1. Alcohol purchased during a meal or otherwise
2. Marketing costs or payment for a creation of a logo

For additional questions, please contact the I-Corps Site Program Coordinator Misty House at housem@mst.edu