



Allowable Budget Items

The JumpStart Microgrant is designed to support undergraduate student entrepreneurs and innovators in the early stages of developing prototypes and minimum viable products (MVPs). By providing funding, these microgrants bridge the gap between conceptual ideas and tangible, testable prototypes. JumpStart Microgrants support a range of expenses tied to the creation, development, and initial testing phases of prototypes and MVPs.

Budget line items may include:

- **Materials and Supplies:** Covers items you need to physically build or test your prototype.
Examples: circuit boards, sensors, raw materials, software plugins, testing kits, or design supplies like foam or fabric.
- **Prototyping Costs:** Covers services that help you turn your idea into a real product or digital tool.
Examples: 3D printing a device casing, laser cutting parts, or paying a service to build an early version of your app.
- **Technical Services:** Funds for expert help when you need skills you don't have on your team.
Examples: hiring a freelancer to write code for your app, an engineer to test your product design, or a graphic designer to create a product interface.
- **IP Development and Protection:** Supports protecting your idea legally so others can't copy it.
Examples: filing for a provisional patent, registering your logo or brand name, or getting legal help to protect your invention.
- **Software and Licensing Fees:** Supports the tools you need to build or test your product.
Examples: licenses for design software (like Adobe or AutoCAD), simulation tools, or access to a development platform (like Unity or MATLAB).
- **Market Analysis and Validation:** Covers costs to test if people want or need your product (should only be used after completing I-Corps and/or customer discovery).
Examples: running surveys, hosting beta tests, or creating product demos to collect user feedback.



Examples of Applications that are NOT a fit for JumpStart Microgrants:

- Web-based or mobile applications that lack substantial innovation or impact
- Purely research & development proposals with no defined commercial applications or potential
- Applications without a clearly defined technological invention or innovation
- Applications that don't address a path to commercialization