

**116W.31 INDUSTRY INNOVATION AND COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAM.**

(a) The authority may establish an industry technology and competitiveness program. The purpose of the program is to advance the technological capacity and competitiveness of existing and emerging science and technology industries. The program shall:

(1) provide matching funds to programs and organizations that assist entrepreneurs in starting and growing qualified science and technology companies including, but not limited to, matching funds for mentoring programs, consulting and technical services, and related activities;

(2) fund initiatives that retain engineering, science, technology, and mathematical occupations in the state including, but not limited to, internships, mentoring, and support of industry and professional organizations; and

(3) fund initiatives that support the growth of targeted industry clusters and the competitiveness of existing qualified science and technology companies in developing and marketing new products and services.

(b) All activities under the industry innovation and competitiveness program shall require:

(1) written criteria set by the authority for the application, award, and use of the funds;

(2) matching funds by the participating qualified science and technology company, college or university, or nonprofit research institution; and

(3) a report by the participating qualified science and technology company, college or university, or nonprofit research institution providing documentation on the use of the funds and outcomes of the award. The report must be submitted to the authority within one calendar year from the date of the award.

**History:** *1Sp2011 c 7 art 9 s 7*