| ARIZONA BOARD OF REGENTS |
| POLICY MANUAL |

| 3-412   Administration of Technology and Research Initiative Fund |

Revision Dates

9/25/2025, 9/27/2018, 3/2/2001 (adopted)

A.   Authority

The Technology and Research Initiative Fund (TRIF) is a statutory fund established pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-1648 and supported by dedicated sales tax revenues originating from proposition 301, approved by Arizona voters in 2000. The board administers TRIF to advance education, economic development, and research at Arizona's public universities. TRIF serves as a primary tool for the Board to fulfill its responsibility in promoting workforce readiness, degree attainment, and innovation through strategic public investments.

B.   Purpose and Strategic Framing

     1.   TRIF enables the Board to pursue long-term goals critical to Arizona's future by supporting:

         a.   Specific research and academic fields;

         b.   A competitive, knowledge-based workforce and Arizona economy;

         c.   Increased attainment of postsecondary degrees and credentials; and/or

         d.   Partnerships across education, industry, government, and community sectors that are related to this section.

     2.   TRIF is a strategic resource for addressing both institutional and system-level priorities, including university research capacity, student access and success, and major collaborative initiatives.

C.   Structure of TRIF Allocations

     1.   University research, attainment, and workforce initiative funding

         a.   University TRIF research, attainment, and workforce initiative funding is generally allocated to the three public universities based on the scope of university activity in those areas. These funds may be used for a broad range of related expenses, consistent with A.R.S. §15-1648.

         b.   Examples of allowable uses include, but are not limited to:

       (1)   Research infrastructure, such as shared equipment, compliance systems, research administration, and technology transfer capacity. While the Board encourages institutions to prioritize direct research activities, TRIF resources may also support enabling infrastructure necessary to sustain a high-performing research enterprise.

       (2)   Direct research activities, including compensation for researchers and research assistants, materials and supplies, data acquisition, travel for research purposes, and dissemination.

c.   The Board will track the use of TRIF funding across research, attainment, and workforce initiatives. The Board will monitor the use of TRIF funds over time to ensure effective allocation and aim to maximize direct support for research where appropriate.

       (1)   Supports institutional and statewide efforts to enhance Arizona's research capacity.

       (2)   Supports institutional and system-level efforts to advance statewide postsecondary attainment.

           a.   Includes university allocations for student success interventions and board-led initiatives such as FAFSA completion campaigns, postsecondary awareness, data sharing and analysis, and outreach among education stakeholders.

       (3)   Strategic projects approved by the Board to support specific opportunities and partnerships in research, education, or workforce development.

d.   Research project planning and oversight:

       (1)   Universities will submit three-year TRIF research attainment, and workforce project proposals for review by the Executive Director. Proposals should reflect board research priorities and identify anticipated activities, expected outcomes, and evaluation metrics.

       (2)   The Executive Director may approve the plans or elevate specific projects to the Board for additional review if warranted.

       (3)   Once approved, universities may apply their TRIF funding to any project in their approved slate. New projects not

included in the original submission must receive prior approval from the Executive Director.

    (4)   Each year, universities must report on:

        (a)   Which projects were funded and the associated expenditures.

        (b)   The direct research impact (e.g., publications, citations, research training student success, economic and workforce impact), where applicable.

        (c)   The incremental operational impact of TRIF funding, such as enabling new capacity or mitigating disruption.

D.   Board Attainment Initiatives

    1.   Supports institutional and system-level efforts to advance statewide postsecondary attainment.

    2.   Includes university allocations for student success interventions and board-led initiatives such as FAFSA completion campaigns, postsecondary awareness, data sharing and analysis, and outreach among education stakeholders.

E.   Board Industry and Workforce Initiatives

    1.   Strategic projects approved by the Board to support specific opportunities and partnerships in research, education, or workforce development.

    2.   These allocations are adopted as annual line items in the budget and may be renewed in subsequent years to sustain long-term efforts.

F.   Regents and community grants are awarded through competitive processes with terms and reporting requirements defined by the Board Executive Director, or designee.

    1.   Regents grants support university-led applied research in partnership with state or local agencies, addressing issues of public concern such as water, wildfire, housing, and rural access.

    2.   Community grants support nonprofit-university collaborations that bring research expertise into local solutions.

G.   TRIF Operational and Administrative Costs

    1.   Supports the board office's administration of TRIF, including fiscal and grant management, reporting and compliance tracking, policy development, and strategic engagement around TRIF-aligned research, attainment, and workforce issues.

    2.   Administrative funding is capped in the TRIF budget to ensure program funds are maximized for mission-aligned uses.

H.   University opportunity grants

    1.   Available funds remaining after other categories are allocated may be used for major transformation projects.

    2.   Opportunity grants are intended to support bold, high-impact efforts such as expansion of healthcare education, system transformation, or new research-industry hubs.

    3.   Projects are selected through a competitive or strategic solicitation process at the discretion of the Board.

I.   Process and Oversight

    1.   Each TRIF category operates with distinct guidelines, proposal formats, and performance expectations as maintained by the board office.

    2.   All TRIF awards are governed by the Board's annual approval of the TRIF budget.

    3.   Institutions and grantees must submit periodic performance updates and annual reports to demonstrate progress and alignment with approved objectives.

    4.   The board office supports continuous evaluation and convening of TRIF partners to identify promising practices and opportunities for alignment across initiatives.

J.   Reporting

    1.   Pursuant to A.R.S. §15-1648(d), the Board submits an annual TRIF report to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. The board office will compile a summary of TRIF expenditures, funded projects, and associated outcomes each year to inform this report.

    2.   The report includes:

a.   A summary of new TRIF-funded awards and their intended purposes.

b.   Allocation levels across program categories and institutions.

c.   Performance outcomes from continuing and completed initiatives, including research, attainment, and workforce metrics as applicable.

K.   Summary Reporting

1.   To meet its statutory reporting obligations and ensure transparency and accountability, the Board shall prepare a comprehensive annual TRIF report each year. This report fulfills the requirements of A.R.S. §15-1648(d) and serves as a systemwide summary of TRIF allocations, activities, and outcomes.

2.   The report will include, at a minimum:

a.   A description of each category of TRIF investment (e.g., research, attainment, workforce initiatives, grants, and operations).

b.   A list of new TRIF-funded projects and initiatives, including award amounts, durations, and stated goals.

c.   A summary of ongoing projects and updates on performance outcomes.

d.   Highlights of direct research outputs and broader impact measures where available.

e.   Aggregated financial data by institution and category.

3.   The board office is responsible for coordinating data collection, compiling expenditure and performance information from each TRIF recipient, and producing the final report for submission to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives. This report also serves as an internal planning and evaluation tool to inform future TRIF strategy and allocations.

Policy History

3/2/2001   Approved by the Board on second reading.

9/27/2018   Policy revised to reflect "Executive Director" in place of "President."

9/25/2025   Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading.

Related Information