



SAN
FRANCISCO
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE

June 21, 2017

Mr. Craig Buerstatte
U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

Re: Support City Innovate Foundation's application for the i6 Challenge Grants

Dear Mr. Buerstatte:

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, representing over 2,500 local businesses with more than 200,000 employees, is pleased to support City Innovate Foundation's application for the i6 Challenge and Seed Fund Support Grants competition to scale their ground-breaking Startup in Residence (STIR) program nationally. We are excited to collaborate with STIR for Cities and the multi-stakeholder partners to be part of a national network of cities and regions accelerating the commercialization of innovations for the public-sector market.

With over \$140 billion in US government IT spending per year and over \$1 trillion globally, the market for technology products and services in the public sector is a huge opportunity. However, navigating this market can be complex, especially for early-stage and small companies. There is an urgent need for cities and regions to take leadership in catalyzing public-private sector collaborations that drive the development of innovative solutions specifically adapted to the unique needs of government clients.

Over the past three years the STIR program has demonstrated the significant potential of building bridges to early-stage companies and bringing the benefits of leading edge innovations in technology and services to the public sector.

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce is committed to making our cities and regions a hub for innovation, start-up creation and government technology commercialization. We support City Innovate Foundation's efforts to develop a nationally scalable model to product development for government challenges.

Sincerely,

Jim Lazarus
Senior Vice President of Public Policy