



THE **GAP Community of Action** centers its effort around investigating and creating resources around the following 11 Gap Fund/Accelerator Best Practice Areas

Best Practice Focus	Topics of Interest
Defining Gap Funding Approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Models/Structures of COA member programs, evolution from one→multiple fund programs • Adopting common community language/definitions for fund types (Translational Research, Proof of Concept, Startup/Seed, etc.) • Identifying nuances in approaches, needs and challenges (size/type of institution, location, tech area specific, etc.)
Raising and Sustaining Gap Funding Programs (R&S)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tactics to R&S funds from institutional support and coordination (royalties, equity, donor/alumni funds) • Tactics to R&S funds from external support (government programs, foundations, co-investment with corporations/investors) • Approaches to keep sources of funding engaged throughout the gap funding process
Communicating the Value, Need, and Expectations of Gap Funding Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General awareness of the innovation process/timeline, the role of university, and the need/positioning of gap funding programs • Increasing public/political interest/engagement in high-tech innovation relative to other priorities • Managing the expectation of process/program outcomes with internal/external stakeholders
Coordinating Gap Funding Programs with Campus Units and Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/collaborating with other offices on campus (Research, Development/Foundations, Alumni, Colleges/RCs, etc.) • Aligning gap fund program/multiple campus funds with the tech commercialization process • Leveraging the COA resources/activities to support buy-in and engagement across the institution
Attracting and Collaborating with Commercial and Investment Partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods to grow network of commercial and investment partners • Co-development/feedback/investment approaches with corporations/startups/investors • Asset/Startup positioning and communication to generate interest
Implementing Policies and Incentives (P&I) that Support Gap Fund Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding institutional P&Is for inventors, Conflict of Interest (COI), ownership, tenure, etc. • Understanding P&Is to attract/structure outside partnerships/investment like research/tax incentives, collaboration agreements, COI, etc. • Expanding on and adopting creative P&I approaches that are demonstrating success
Managing Inventor Involvement in the Gap Funding Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating the program to generate quality interest and submissions • Leveraging the gap fund program process to educate, develop relationship, and improve the current asset/future submissions • Approaches and tactics to set expectations of involvement, ownership, and compensation in the developing asset/startup
Evaluating Technologies and Startups for Gap Funding Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods to evaluate opportunities for funding (scorecards, rating, outsourcing/insourcing, professional feedback/expertise), etc.) • Forming and sustaining advisory groups (in-person, virtual), process structure/management, and setting expectations • Setting project targets and delivering feedback on successful/declined projects
Structuring the Financing and Ownership of Gap Funded Technologies and Startups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form of funding (grant/investment) and funding disbursement approach (milestone, tranche, staged, etc.) • Approaches to equity/royalty dispersion • Tactics to maintain and manage ownership position through the maturation of the technology/startup
Cultivating Gap Fund Support Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attracting and incorporating talent from on-campus experts/programs and from the outside(EIR/mentors/consultants) • Use and examples of external support services that have positively impacted in the development of opportunities • Partnering with other public/private programs in the innovation ecosystem (accelerators, incubators, etc)
Assessing and Reporting Impact and Performance Metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect of gap funding on the technology commercialization process (process metrics, activity, econ dev, etc.) • Ability of gap to attract outside commercial and investment interest (leveraged capital, licenses, community involvement, etc.) • Quantifying the need for more attention and resources directed at the capital gap