

New Jersey Accelerate

NJ Accelerate recognizes the strength of accelerators in nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs. Through NJ Accelerate, the NJEDA will provide entrepreneurs access to best in class programs to call NJ home with the tools and support to grow their businesses in the Garden State.

An accelerator is a fixed-term, cohort-based “boot camp” for start-up founders, exposing them to mentors, including former entrepreneurs, venture capitalists (VCs), angel investors, and corporate executives.

If you have any further questions, please email NJAccelerate@njeda.com.



NJ Accelerate is a Win-Win for Accelerators and Emerging Businesses

Through the NJ Accelerate Program, NJEDA will:

- Promote Approved Accelerator program opportunities to the NJ innovation ecosystem
- Match sponsorship support for Approved Accelerator programs and events held in NJ
- Provide direct loans and rent support to eligible Approved Accelerator graduates
- Support Governor Murphy’s goal of making NJ the most diverse innovation ecosystem in the country

Program Overview:

NJ Accelerate is a two-step process to encourage the engagement of accelerator programs in New Jersey, while facilitating the participation of NJ businesses in these accelerator programs:

1. Accelerator operators apply to be pre-qualified as an “Approved Accelerator”
2. Approved Accelerator graduates are eligible for financial assistance from the NJEDA

Benefits for Accelerator Operators:

As a benefit for Approved Accelerators participating in NJ Accelerate, the NJEDA will:

- Disseminate information about, and facilitate introductions for Approved Accelerator Programs
- Offer sponsorship to each Approved Accelerator to host Programmatic Events in the State (e.g. Accelerator’s Demo Day; classes; pitch competitions; networking events)

1:1 matching sponsorship up to \$25,000 per event, per Approved Accelerator. NJEDA will fund up to \$100,000 for each Approved Accelerator during this pilot program, of bonus of 5% for Approved Accelerators that demonstrate meaningful written policies and practices for promoting companies owned by women and minorities, as defined by the NJ Department of the Treasury for purposes of the MBE/ WBE certification.

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Eligibility for Accelerator Operators:

The NJEDA will welcome all accelerators that meet the program criteria and evaluate them during the pilot on a first-come, first-served basis.

The accelerator entity must meet the minimum following criteria:

- The Accelerator is best-in-class, defined by the NJEDA's evaluation criteria (see eligibility checklist)
- The Accelerator has a US presence accessible for a site visit, etc.
- The Accelerator will provide financial investment in some form to at least one participant company per cohort
- The Accelerator must have graduated a minimum of two cohorts prior to NJ Accelerate approval
- The Accelerator Program has a consideration for at least one sector including: advanced manufacturing, information/technology, life sciences, finance and insurance, clean energy, food and beverage, advanced transportation, food and beverage, film and digital media with a preference for all accelerator programs that have a focus on supporting female entrepreneurs and founders of color.

Benefits for Businesses Participating in Approved Accelerators:

Businesses that graduate from Approved Accelerators may be eligible for:

Direct Funding: 1:1 matching NJEDA loan funding up to \$250,000, with expedited consideration. A NJ-certified MBE/WBE is eligible for a 5% bonus. Additionally, there is a 10-year warrant equal to 50% of the loan amount.

Rent Support: Rent support up to the highest level of NJEDA grant support of 6-months at participating NJ Ignite collaborative work spaces, post-accelerator graduation, not to exceed \$25,000 (in addition to any direct support from the NJ Ignite host site). A NJ-certified MBE/WBE is eligible for a bonus month of rent sponsorship.

Eligibility Requirements for Businesses Participating in Approved Accelerators:

Companies must meet the following criteria within six months of graduation (or the latter date of departure out of the physical space offered, with respect only to the rent award of NJ Accelerate) from the Approved Accelerator to qualify for support.

- New Jersey Tax Clearance Certificate
- More than 50% of the company employees work or pay taxes in NJ
- A minimum of 2 founders devoting 100% of their professional time to the Company in NJ.
- The Company is in one of the eight NJ targeted sectors as listed in Governor Murphy's Economic Development Plan, The State of Innovation, referenced above.

The company must support its verification with the following documents, including, at minimum:

- New Jersey Tax Clearance Certificate
- 2-page executive summary
- NJWR30, or NJ Registered PEO letter
- Letter from Approved Accelerator confirming successful program graduation

Questions?

Email:
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