



NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA)
NJ Manufacturing Voucher Program (NJ MVP)- Pre-Qualification & Application

REVISED AS OF FEBRUARY 27, 2023

Board approval will be sought on March 8, 2023 to increase the available funding from \$20,000,000 to \$33,750,000. Under N.J.S.A. 34:1B-4i, no Board action has force or effect until 10 business days after the Authority delivers meeting minutes to the Governor's Office. Accordingly, the increase in funding remains conditional until at least March 23, 2023. Assuming the Board approves and the Governor does not veto, this program will make a total of \$33.75 million less \$1 million for administrative expenses available to support New Jersey manufacturers' access to manufacturing equipment needed to become more efficient, productive, and profitable. Eligibility requirements and all other terms and conditions will remain the same.

REVISED AS OF JANUARY 12, 2023 EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY

Revision clarifies the pre-qualification review is a courtesy review and extends the second stage of the application to a 14 day cure period for applicants with an incomplete application.

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA or Authority) will begin accepting pre-qualification submissions from manufacturing companies that are: in an identified Targeted Industry and/or purchasing eligible equipment that meets the Advanced Manufacturing definition for the New Jersey Manufacturing Voucher Program (NJ MVP) pilot at 10:00 AM on December 15, 2022. The pre-qualification submission deadline is 5:00 PM on December 22, 2022. The pre-qualification application can be accessed at ww.njeda.com/njmvp. There is no fee for pre-qualification submission. If NJEDA determines a pre-qualification submission to be eligible and offers an application, a fee of \$1,000 is due from the applicant at the time of application.

Purpose

The purpose of NJ MVP is to support New Jersey manufacturers' access to manufacturing equipment needed to become more efficient, productive, and profitable.

Overview

On June 30, 2022, Governor Murphy signed the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act (Act) into law as P.L.2022, c.49. The Act includes \$35 million for a Manufacturing Initiative to grow and strengthen the State's manufacturing sector, including programs to spur capital investment, increase the adoption of new technology, attract new suppliers to the state, and expand workforce development and training opportunities. NJ MVP is utilizing \$33.75 million to stimulate private sector investments to modernize New Jersey's manufacturing industry, and to help keep pace with state-of-the art product development and manufacturing technology.

Program Details

NJ MVP will provide equipment grants sized at 30% to 50% of the cost of the eligible equipment (including installation), up to a maximum award amount of \$250,000. The program will support the purchase of manufacturing equipment for New Jersey manufacturers in Targeted Industries for their manufacturing process or equipment that meets the definition of Advanced Manufacturing. (See Targeted Industry List and definitions: https://www.njeda.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Appendix-C-Targeted-Industries-Definitions-12.6.22_v2.pdf)

Examples of advanced manufacturing technologies include additive manufacturing technologies, computer-aided manufacturing, utilization of advanced sensors and robotics to improve

production, development of advanced materials to support production, and digital twin development and utilization. This industry also includes firms that manufacture either finished or interim advanced technologies or components. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and remain open until all funds are committed.

The program will offer bonuses for Certified Woman, Minority, and Veteran Owned Businesses (WMVB); businesses located within opportunity zones; manufacturing equipment purchased from a New Jersey manufacturer or assembler; as well as bonuses for companies that have a collective bargaining agreement in place. NJ MVP is also committed to supporting Small Businesses by awarding manufacturers with up to 100 employees or Full Time Equivalent employees with higher award percentages.

A “Small Business” means a business engaged primarily in one industry with 100 or fewer employees, as determined six months before application and at the time of application. An “Employee” of a small business shall include a person who is employed for consideration for at least 35 hours a week; who is employed pursuant to an employee leasing agreement for at least 35 hours a week; or who is a partner of a business who works for the partnership for at least 35 hours a week. An Employee of a small business shall also include any person who works as an independent contractor for the business or a contract worker who works at the business for at least 35 hours a week. For those persons who are employed by the business or who work for the business as independent contractors or contract workers for less than 35 hours, 35 hours of employment a week shall constitute one employee, regardless of whether the hours of work were performed by one or more persons. This is known as “Full Time Equivalents.” The Authority may determine a different number of hours a week or other standard of service generally accepted by custom or practice as full-time employment. For purposes of the number of employees, a small business shall include all of its affiliates, regardless of whether the affiliate may contribute full-time jobs or capital investment to the project.

Program Eligibility:

NJ MVP will provide funding for New Jersey Manufacturers who meet of the following eligibility criteria:

- Applicant company must be either a manufacturer in a Targeted Industry or the equipment to be purchased by the applicant company must meet the Advanced Manufacturing definition. (See Targeted Industry List and definitions: https://www.njeda.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Appendix-C-Targeted-Industries-Definitions-12.6.22_v2.pdf)
- Applicant company must obtain a Tax Clearance Certificate.
- Applicant company must be in substantial good standing with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD) and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).
- Applicant company must intend the equipment for use at a location in New Jersey.

- Applicant company must provide purchase quote, order proforma, and/or equipment listing.
 - Projects with executed contracts, a purchase order placed, or a deposit dated prior to submitting a pre-qualification for an NJ MVP application WILL NOT be considered for funding.
- Applicant company must have a business location. Home-based businesses are not eligible.
- Applicant company must intend the equipment for use in the manufacturing process. (Please see www.njeda.com/njmvp.)
- Total aggregated project cost (equipment + installation) must be at least \$25,000.00.
 - New and/or used equipment is eligible.

In addition, all contracts (including manufactures/supplier agreements) are subject to New Jersey's prevailing wage laws.

Bonus Eligibility:

NJ MVP will award bonuses to applicants as follows:

Stackable 5% Bonuses Available for:

- Equipment located, installed, and used in an Opportunity Zone Eligible Census Tract
- Certified Woman, Minority, and Veteran Owned Businesses (WMVB)
- At least one Collective Bargaining Agreement in place.

Stackable 10% Bonuses Available for:

- Purchase of equipment from a New Jersey Manufacturer. (Equipment must be manufactured and/or assembled in New Jersey.)

Eligible Uses:

Funding can only be used for the purchase and installation of new and/or used manufacturing equipment used in the manufacturing process. The equipment must be located and installed at a New Jersey location. Eligible manufacturing equipment includes technologically advanced equipment or production/operating systems, such as robotics, additive manufacturing equipment, hardware or software for digital twinning, advanced sensor or control systems, as well as interconnected sensors, instruments, and other devices networked together with industrial applications, and related security. The acquisition of eligible equipment as it relates to NJ MVP must be executed at arm's length.

Application Process:

The process will include two-steps:

- First, the interested applicant company must submit a pre-qualification application. The pre-qualification application will open on December 15, 2022, and will remain open on a rolling basis until December 22, 2022.
 - All pre-qualification applications will be reviewed by NJEDA for completeness and eligibility. Applicants that submit incomplete pre-qualification applications will be provided the opportunity to submit missing information within seven (7) business days.
- Second, a pre-qualified applicant company will then be offered an invitation by NJEDA to apply. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. The application will remain open until all funds are committed. Applicants that submit incomplete applications will be provided fourteen (14) days after their application is reviewed to provide missing or incomplete documents.
 - Applicant companies may purchase equipment once an application is submitted at their own risk but are encouraged to wait for an NJEDA approval.

Fees:

There is no fee for the pre-qualification application. Once a pre-qualification applicant is deemed eligible by NJEDA, a link will be provided to the applicant to fill out the NJMVP application. A fee of \$1,000 is due at time of application submission.

Funding Levels:

- Grant awards will be 30% to 50% of eligible project cost (depending on stackable bonuses and number of employees), with a minimum award of \$7,500 and maximum award amount of \$250,000 per applicant.
- Applicant companies may submit multiple project applications. However, the aggregate amount awarded to any one company may not exceed \$250,000 and the total aggregated project cost must be at least \$25,000.
- One single award disbursement will be issued when proof of equipment delivery and installation is provided.
 - Approved applicants will have until **June 30, 2023**, to order/purchase equipment.
 - Approved applicants will be allowed 12 months for the delivery and installation of the equipment with two six-month extensions.
- All disbursements are subject to availability of funding.