

**NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
**Notice of Funding Availability**  
**New Jersey Indoor Amusement Park Program Application**

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“NJEDA” or “Authority”) will begin accepting applications for the New Jersey Indoor Amusement Park Program on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 10:00AM EST. Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis as of the date and time in which the Authority receives the application and will close on November 1, 2023, at 5:00PM EST. A non-refundable application fee of \$1,000 is due at time of application for each product.

The application can be accessed at [New Jersey Indoor \(NJ\) Amusement Park Grant Program - NJEDA](#).

**Purpose**

The New Jersey Indoor Amusement Park Grant Program (“Program”) will provide eligible applicants with up to \$550,000 if the project is located in an Opportunity Zone eligible census tract and up to \$500,000 for projects **not** located in an Opportunity Zone eligible census tract to offset losses incurred due to decreased business as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Background**

This Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) modifies the prior NOFA posted on June 8, 2023 here: [Public Information - NJEDA](#).

As COVID-19 restrictions prohibited or restricted public gatherings, this public safety measure resulted in a significant reduction in indoor amusement park and arcade attendance and usage, leading to significant loss of revenue to establishments that rely on admission fees to support operations. On June 30, 2022, Governor Murphy signed S2023, the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations Act (“FY2023 Act”), into law as P.L. 2022, c.49. The FY2023 Act allocates significant State funding for numerous strategic economic development investments to support key industries, continue to bolster recovery for New Jersey (“NJ”) businesses, and assist with statewide growth. One of the specific strategic reinvestments in the FY2023 Act is an appropriation of \$5 million to support NJ indoor amusement parks impacted by COVID-19. This funding is specific to NJ businesses primarily engaged in activities under specific North American Industry Classification System (“NAICS”) codes **713110** – Amusement and Theme Parks or **713120** – Amusement Arcades as of April 1, 2020. This budget appropriation allows NJEDA to create and administer a COVID-specific *non-competitive* grant product for this specific industry.

**Grant Amounts and Eligible Uses**

Grant awards will be calculated by the amount of decrease in the applicant’s self-declared gross revenue from April 1, 2019, to March 31, 2020 and April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, or \$500,000, whichever is less. If the applicant is located in an Opportunity Zone eligible census tract, the award cap will be \$550,000. However, if there are more eligible applicants than anticipated with unmet needs greater than the total available funding, the amount provided to each eligible applicant will be reduced such that all applicants receive a share of the funding pool proportional to their eligible unmet need.

Awards will be based purely on the reduction of the applicant-provided gross revenue demonstrated

by a minimum 50 percent reduction in gross revenue from indoor operations for the 12-month period beginning April 1, 2019. Applicants are allowed to receive one grant award per EIN, with a minimum award of \$5,000.00 per EIN.

Applicants that are approved for an award will enter into a grant agreement with NJEDA that the uses of the grant proceeds are limited to support the applicant's **working capital costs only**. The grant cannot be used for any other use. Specific **ineligible** uses may include, but are not limited to, any construction work or contract labor costs, purchase of land, improvements to their facility, and any equipment purchases that exceed costs of \$1,999.99.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for this grant:

- Must be a for profit entity located in NJ.
- Primarily engaged in business activities described in NAICS Code 713110 or 713120, (as those codes read on April 1, 2020) Applicants must provide federal tax returns for 2019, 2020, 2021, and current tax return.
- Demonstrate a minimum 50 percent reduction in indoor gross revenue for the 12-month period beginning April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 and April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 as certified by applicant at time of application.
- Registered to do business in NJ and in good standing with the NJ Division of Taxation, as evidenced by a current NJ Tax Clearance Certificate prior to approval.
- Must be in good standing at time of approval with the NJ Department of Labor, NJ Department of Environmental Protection and NJ EDA.
- Certify at time of application that their business operation has at least a portion that is indoors in the NJ commercial space, and their business is currently open and operating.
- NJ formation documentation that verifies the applicant was formed on or prior to March 9, 2020.
- **Ineligible** applicants: waterparks that have only outdoor operations, activities, rides, or services. An indoor component of operations, rides, activities, or services **must** be within the applicant's commercial space.

### **Application Submission and Review Process**

Applications for this Program will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, based on the date and time in which the Authority receives the application for a period of at least 30 days, or until funds are exhausted, whichever is first. All applications will be reviewed for completeness in the order that they are received by the Authority. At the sole discretion of the Authority, staff may ask for any necessary clarifications of the information provided in the application including, but not limited to, responses, documentation, and attachments . Applicants will be given 5 business days to respond to cure any deficiencies. If at the end of the cure period the applicant is non-responsive, the application will be deemed withdrawn. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis. Limit of one grant award per EIN.

**Fees:**

Applicants for the Program will be charged a \$1,000 at the time of application, as required for pilot products under the Authority's fee rules.

**Additional information may be found at [New Jersey Indoor \(NJ\) Amusement Park Grant Program - NJEDA](#).**

Questions concerning this Notice of Funding Availability should be submitted via email to [customercare@njeda.gov](mailto:customercare@njeda.gov).

**The NJEDA is subject to State and Federal statutes including but not limited to the following which may impact affiliates:** N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq., which prevents New Jersey government entities from certain dealings with businesses on the Treasury list of those engaged in prohibited activities in Belarus or Russia; N.J.S.A. 24:6I-49 which provides that the following are not eligible for most State or local economic incentives (a) a person or entity issued a license to operate as a cannabis cultivator, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or delivery service, or that employs a certified personal use cannabis handler to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service; and (b) a property owner, developer, or operator of a project to be used, in whole or in part, by or to benefit a cannabis cultivator, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or delivery service, or to employ a certified personal use cannabis handler to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service; and N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12, et seq., which prohibits a member of the Legislature or a State officer or employee or their partners or a corporation in which they owns or controls more than 1% of the stock to undertake or execute any contract, agreement, sale, or purchase of \$25.00 or more, made, entered into, awarded or granted by any State agency, with certain limited exceptions.