

NJ INNOVATION FELLOWS

Sample Application

Updated June 11, 2025

Program Overview

The Innovation Fellows program supports would-be entrepreneurs, particularly diverse entrepreneurs, with “income replacement” grants. This resource creates an opportunity for the entrepreneurs to pursue unique startup business ventures with the security of initial income replacement funding in the two-year ideation and formation period of their businesses.



BASE AWARD

\$200,000

per team and must be used as income-replacement for entrepreneurs who leave the workforce to open and operate a business in an eligible municipality

BONUSES

Up to an additional \$200,000

Bonuses include \$50,000 if any one of the entrepreneurs in a team resides in an Opportunity Zone within the State. An additional \$50,000 bonus is awarded for each Entrepreneur leader on the Fellows team with a diversity self- certification or education bonus up to \$150,000, resulting in a total potential award of \$400,000.



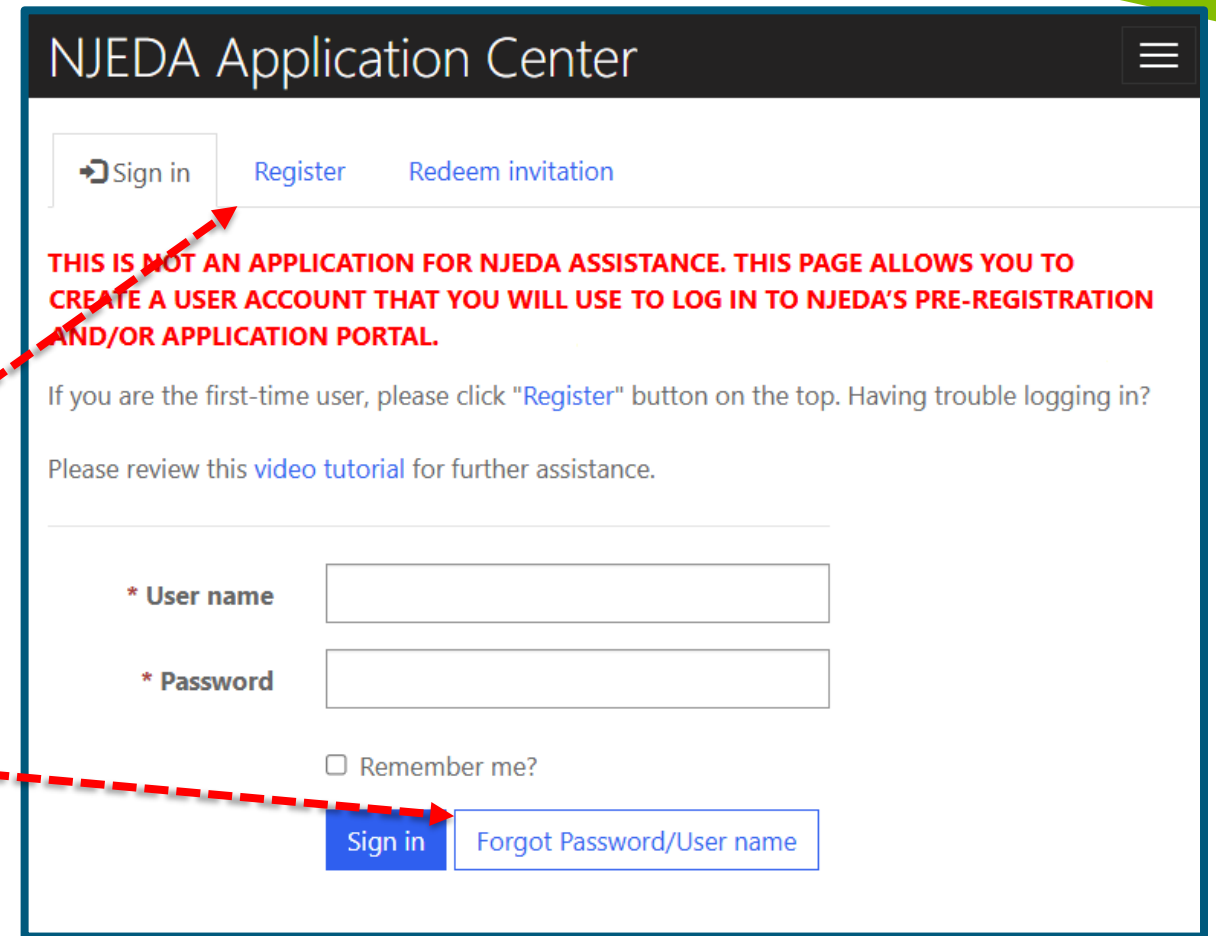
APPLICATIONS FOR THE A.I. COHORT WILL OPEN ON **JUNE 18, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M. AND WILL BE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS THROUGH 5:00 P.M. ON JULY 30, 2025.**

NJEDA Application Center Sign-In Page

Visit the NJEDA Application Center through the webpage of the specific NJEDA program you are interested in or by going to the general log-in page at <https://programs.njeda.com/en-US/NJEDAPrograms/>.

If this is the first time you are using this portal to apply for an NJEDA product, please click the *Register* tab, listed towards the top of the screen.

If you do not have your login information, click on the *Forgot Password/Username* button and follow the instructions. This will send you an email with reset information. Your Username will be included in the email you receive, so please be sure to use your correct username when you sign in.

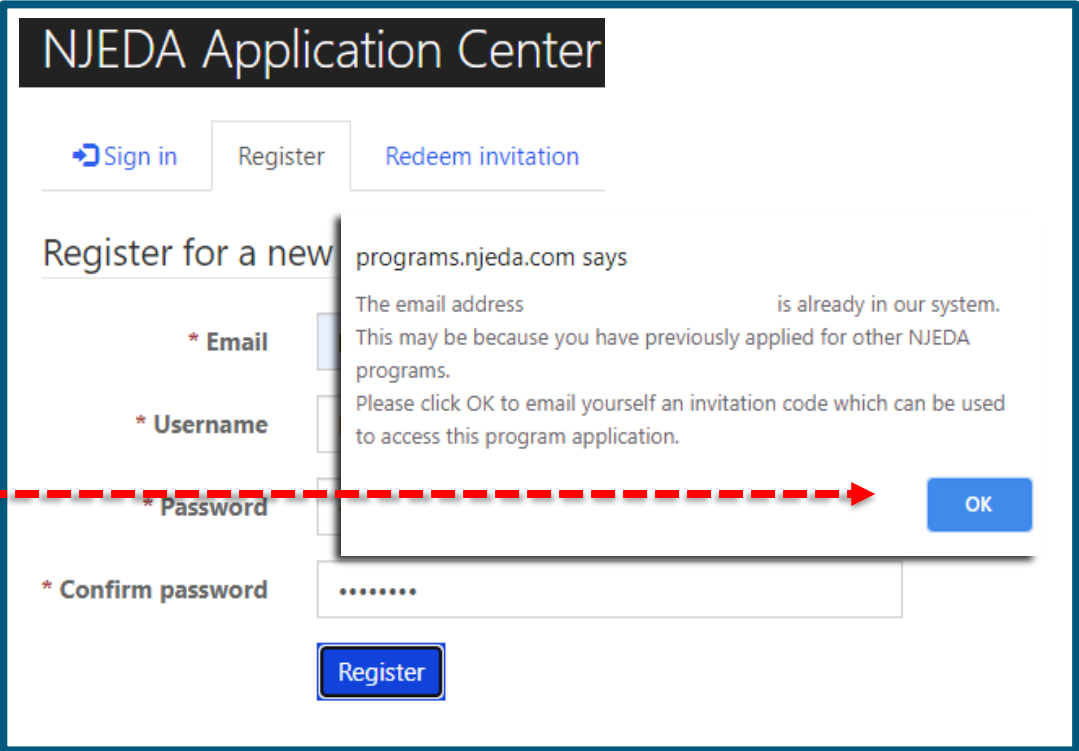


The screenshot shows the NJEDA Application Center sign-in page. At the top, there is a dark header with the title "NJEDA Application Center" and a menu icon. Below the header, there are three tabs: "Sign in" (with a key icon), "Register", and "Redeem invitation". A red dashed arrow points from the "Register" tab to the text below. The text reads: "THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR NJEDA ASSISTANCE. THIS PAGE ALLOWS YOU TO CREATE A USER ACCOUNT THAT YOU WILL USE TO LOG IN TO NJEDA'S PRE-REGISTRATION AND/OR APPLICATION PORTAL." Below this, it says: "If you are the first-time user, please click 'Register' button on the top. Having trouble logging in? Please review this [video tutorial](#) for further assistance." The form contains two input fields: "* User name" and "* Password". Below these is a checkbox labeled "Remember me?". At the bottom, there are two buttons: "Sign in" (in a blue box) and "Forgot Password/User name" (in a white box with a blue border). A red dashed arrow points from the "Forgot Password/User name" button to the text in the third paragraph.

If Your Email is Recognized By the Application Portal

If you attempt to register with the Application Center, but your email address is already in the system, you will receive a pop-up notice stating that you will need to send yourself an invitation code to access your account.

Begin this process by clicking on the blue “OK” button within the pop-up box and follow the prompts.



The screenshot shows the NJEDA Application Center interface. At the top, there are three tabs: "Sign in" (with a blue arrow icon), "Register", and "Redeem invitation". Below these is a "Register for a new" section with input fields for "Email", "Username", "Password", and "Confirm password". A blue "Register" button is at the bottom. A pop-up message box is overlaid on the right side of the form. The message reads: "programs.njeda.com says The email address [redacted] is already in our system. This may be because you have previously applied for other NJEDA programs. Please click OK to email yourself an invitation code which can be used to access this program application." There is a blue "OK" button at the bottom right of the pop-up. A red dashed arrow points from the text "Begin this process by clicking on the blue “OK” button" to the "OK" button in the pop-up.



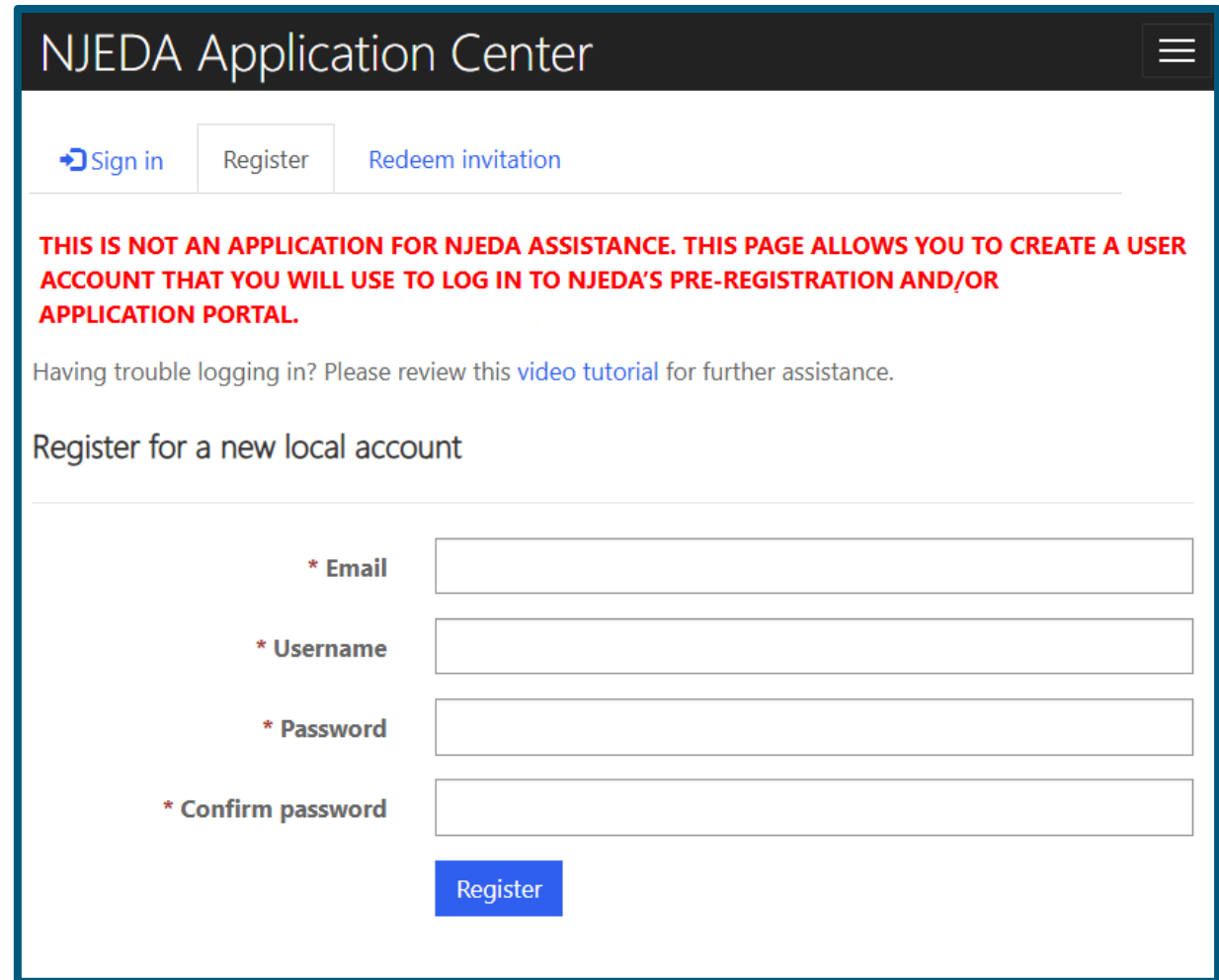
Remember to check your spam/junk folders if you can't locate an email from NJEDA. Emails are sent from crmnoreply@njeda.gov (NJEDA NoReply).

New Users: How to Register Your Email Address

Enter your email, username (which can be the same as your email) and your desired password.

Passwords must contain characters from at least three of the following four classes: uppercase, lowercase, number, and non-alphanumeric (special) characters.

Once information is filled in click *Register* to continue.



The screenshot shows the NJEDA Application Center registration interface. At the top, there's a dark header with the title "NJEDA Application Center" and a menu icon. Below the header, there are three tabs: "Sign in" (with a blue arrow icon), "Register" (which is the active tab), and "Redeem invitation". A red warning message states: "THIS IS NOT AN APPLICATION FOR NJEDA ASSISTANCE. THIS PAGE ALLOWS YOU TO CREATE A USER ACCOUNT THAT YOU WILL USE TO LOG IN TO NJEDA'S PRE-REGISTRATION AND/OR APPLICATION PORTAL." Below this, a link offers a "video tutorial" for users having trouble logging in. The main section is titled "Register for a new local account" and contains four required input fields: "* Email", "* Username", "* Password", and "* Confirm password". A blue "Register" button is positioned at the bottom right of the form area.



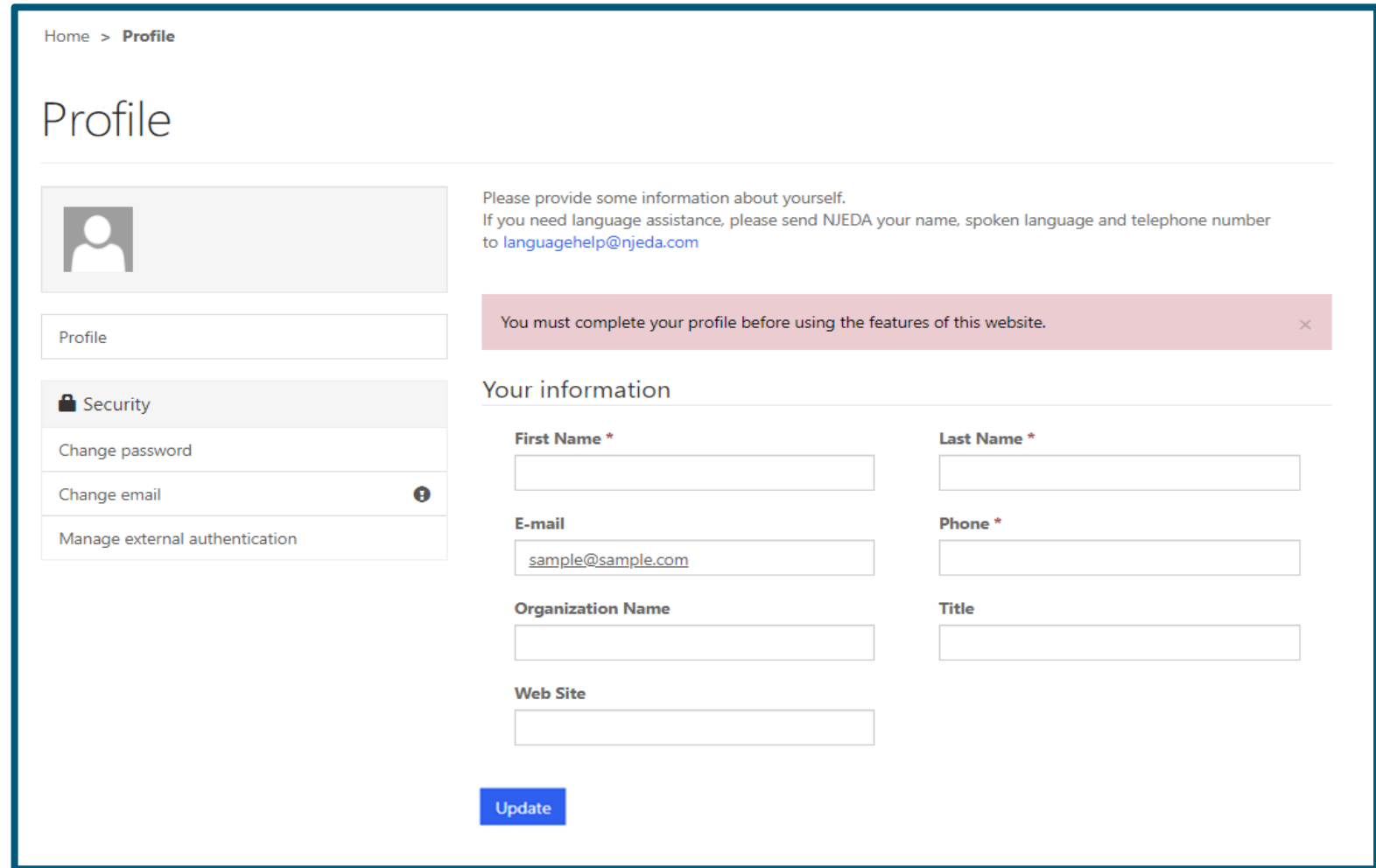
PLEASE BE SURE TO WRITE-DOWN/SAVE YOUR USERNAME AND PASSWORD

New Users: How to Register Your Email Address

After registering your email, you will be prompted to fill out your profile information.

Enter the information requested and confirm your email address is correct. This email address will be the primary way the NJEDA contacts your business.

Once complete, click “Update.”



The screenshot shows the 'Profile' page of the NJEDA website. At the top, there is a breadcrumb 'Home > Profile'. The main heading is 'Profile'. On the left, there is a sidebar with a profile picture placeholder and a 'Security' section containing links for 'Change password', 'Change email' (with an information icon), and 'Manage external authentication'. The main content area has a message: 'Please provide some information about yourself. If you need language assistance, please send NJEDA your name, spoken language and telephone number to languagehelp@njeda.com'. Below this is a red error message: 'You must complete your profile before using the features of this website.' The 'Your information' section contains several input fields: 'First Name *', 'Last Name *', 'E-mail' (with 'sample@sample.com' entered), 'Phone *', 'Organization Name', 'Title', and 'Web Site'. An 'Update' button is at the bottom.

Home > Profile

Profile

Please provide some information about yourself.
If you need language assistance, please send NJEDA your name, spoken language and telephone number to languagehelp@njeda.com

You must complete your profile before using the features of this website.

Your information

First Name *

Last Name *

E-mail

sample@sample.com

Phone *

Organization Name

Title

Web Site

Update

New Users: Confirm Your Email Address

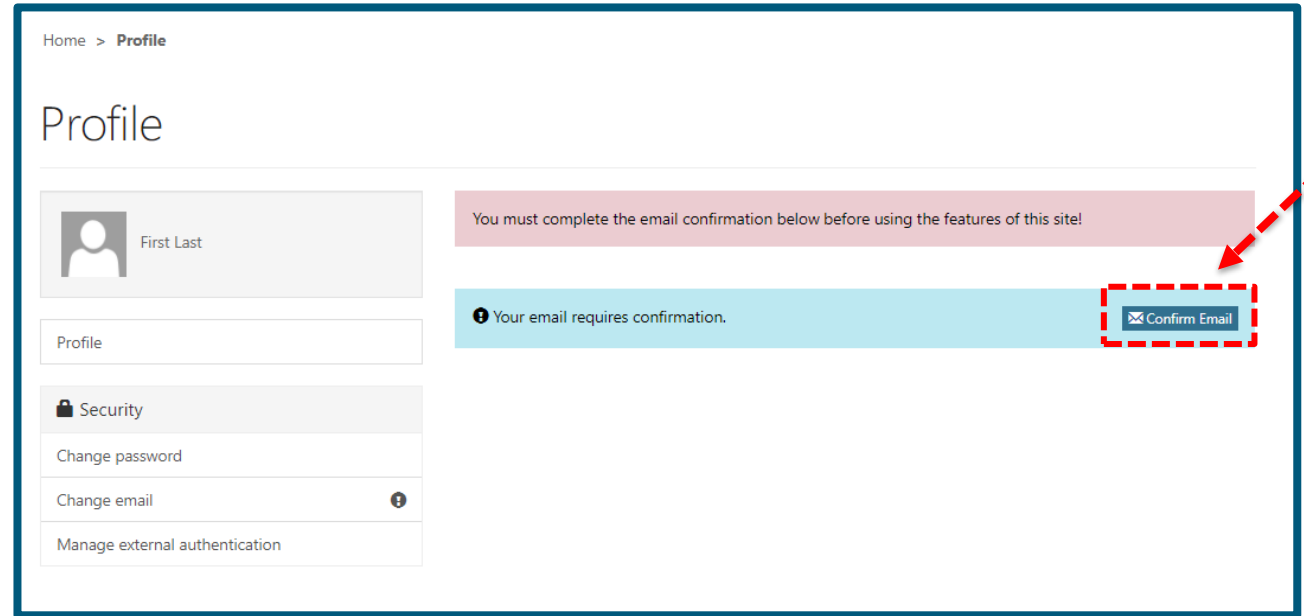
Once your profile information is complete, you need to confirm your email address.

Within the blue box, click on "Confirm Email".

An email will be sent to the email address listed.

Go to your email and follow the instructions within the email.

In order to fully access the application portal, you **MUST** confirm your email address by clicking on the link that is sent to your email.



If you have any issues creating a username or password, redeeming an invitation code, or otherwise logging into the portal, please email us at CustomerCare@njeda.gov or call our Customer Care line at (844) 965-1125.

Select Your Program

After you are fully logged in, the Application Center homepage will have two options at the bottom of the page. Select the *NJEDA Programs* button to see the full list of active NJEDA programs.



On the next page, find and select the program you wish to apply for.

Programs are not listed in alphabetical order, so please read through the entire list if you are having difficulty locating your desired program.

NJEDA Programs

Welcome to the NJEDA's online application Center.

Interested in learning more? Please visit us at [NJEDA.gov](https://www.njeda.gov)

Questions about submitting your application? Please contact NJEDA Customer Care at 844-965-1125



Application Process Overview

There are four major steps this application.

The first three steps must be fully completed prior to the application deadline for consideration.

Please share these expectations with each of your entrepreneurs in order to submit your application on time.

STEP 1



Initial Submission

To be completed by the main point of contact.

STEP 2



Entrepreneur Supplemental Application Submission

To be completed multiple times, once by each member of the Entrepreneur Team

- ☐ Entrepreneur 1 Supplemental Application
- ☐ Entrepreneur 2 Supplemental Application
- ☐ Entrepreneur 3 Supplemental Application
- + *any additional Entrepreneur Team members*

STEP 3



Application Completion

The main point of contact will return to the initial application in order to complete the application. This can only be done after each member of the Entrepreneur Team has submitted their supplemental application section.

STEP 3A

Application Review by NJEDA

STEP 4



Resubmission/Providing Additional Details After Initial Approval

To be completed by the main point of contact, after the NJIF team has reviewed and conditionally approved your application. NJIF staff will contact you directly with additional instructions.

Application Process Overview

STEP 1: Initial Submission of Main Application



To be completed by the main point of contact.

This section will ask for:

- ☐ Point of Contact details
- ☐ Targeted Industry details
- ☐ Main Location details
- ☐ Business Plan and Pitch Deck
- ☐ Names and contact information for each member of the Entrepreneur Leadership Team

Application Process Overview

STEP 2: Entrepreneur Supplemental Application Submission



To be completed multiple times, once by each member of the Entrepreneur Team

This section will ask each entrepreneur for:

- ☐ Contact Details
- ☐ Work Experience
- ☐ Education Details
- ☐ Most Recent Income and Tax Information
- ☐ Legal Disclaimers and Certifications

Application Process Overview

STEP 3: Returning to the Main Application



To be completed by the main point of contact, after the completion of each of the Entrepreneur Supplemental Applications.

Here you will be able to:

- ☐ Confirm earlier entered information
- ☐ View your potential application amount
- ☐ Submit the \$250 application fee
- ☐ Electronically sign and formally submit the application

Application Process Overview

STEP 3A: NJEDA Review of Application

The New Jersey Innovation Fellows staff will review application information, reaching out to the main point of contact for any missing or unclear information, and then providing a notice of approval or denial.

Application Process Overview

STEP 4: Resubmission/ Providing Additional Details After Initial Approval



To be completed by the main point of contact, after the NJIF team has reviewed and conditionally approved your application. NJIF staff will contact you directly with additional instructions.

Information requested includes:

- ☐ Organization Formation Information
- ☐ Federal Tax Identification Number (FEIN)
- ☐ NJ Tax Identification Number
- ☐ NJ Tax Clearance Certificate
- ☐ Payroll Service Provider

Start Your Application

Welcome

Before beginning the application read through the information provided on the welcome page.

Once ready click “Create New Jersey Innovation Fellows Application” to begin.

FYI:

Your application will automatically be saved every time you click the “Next” button.



New Jersey Innovation Fellows AI Cohort Application

I. Purpose and Program Overview

The New Jersey Innovation Fellows Program (NIIF) is a competitive grant program designed to support aspiring teams of entrepreneurs with their unique startup ideas through mentorship and income replacement grants. This Program helps entrepreneurs navigate the challenging early stages of forming and ideating their businesses. Initially funded with a \$10 million appropriation, the program is governed by Sections 65-68 of P.L.2021, c.160 and administered by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA).

Successful teams of entrepreneur applicants can receive a **base grant of \$200,000**, with additional grants **up to \$200,000 in bonuses**, bringing the total potential award to **\$400,000**. Bonuses are available based on the following criteria:

- A team of entrepreneurs may receive a \$50,000 bonus if one of the identified entrepreneurs resides in an Opportunity Zone at the time of application.
- A team of entrepreneurs that includes at least one member who is a graduate of a New Jersey college or university, or is a “diverse” entrepreneur, and meets the eligibility requirements, may receive \$50,000 bonuses for each certifying entrepreneur leader for up to three bonus awards totaling \$150,000.

Additionally, all grantees are required to participate in a **mandatory two-year mentorship program** aimed at guiding them through their business development journey. This program ensures that the recipients receive the support necessary to transition from ideation to successful business operations.

II. Eligibility Criteria for NIIF Applicants:

Applicants must meet several key requirements to be considered for the program:

1. **Minimum Team Composition:** Teams must consist of at least three full-time entrepreneurs.
2. **First-Time Entrepreneurs:** At least half of the entrepreneur leadership must certify as “first-time entrepreneurs.” A first-time entrepreneur must certify they have never been listed as a founder, co-founder, or owner of a business entity which operated in a targeted industry in the state of New Jersey and has received third-party funding. Third-party funding includes professional Angel investment, institutional Venture (VC), or Private Equity (PE) capital.
3. **Workforce Background:** Each applicant must be transitioning from a paid position (full- or part-time) or be recent graduates who have worked in a paid position within 60 days of applying and commit to full-time entrepreneurship.
4. **Paid NJ Income Tax:** Each applicant must have paid New Jersey gross income tax at the time of application or within the past 60 days. Documentation of income tax payment must be provided, such as pay stubs or a NJ Gross Income Tax Declaration of Estimated Tax Form (NJ-1040ES) with proof of payment.
5. **Personal Address Documentation:** Each applicant must provide proof of their personal address through documents such as utility bills or lease agreements.
6. **Majority Equity Ownership:** The entrepreneur leadership team must own more than 50% of the equity in the proposed business.
7. **Targeted Industry:** The proposed business must operate in one of New Jersey’s designated **targeted industries**.
8. **Eligible Municipality:** The proposed business must be in an eligible municipality as defined by the NJEDA.
9. **Educational Background:** Each applicant seeking an education bonus must provide educational credentials such as a diploma or transcript.
10. **Full-Time Commitment:** Each entrepreneur must commit to working full-time on their business for at least two years following receipt of the grant, with a minimum of **35 hours per week** and no more than 20 hours per week in outside work.

Additional Documentation Required for the NIIF General Application:

For the NIIF General Application, the following documentation is required:

- **Well-Written Business Plan:** A well-written plan (maximum 3,000 words) detailing the business concept, innovation strategy, and market challenges.
- **Pitch Deck:** A high-level overview of the business, key strategies, financials, and team (limited to 15 slides)
- **Organizational Chart and Resumes:** An organizational chart detailing team roles and individual resumes showing relevant professional experience, skills, education and certifications.

III. AI Cohort Specific Eligibility:

In 2024, an additional **\$2 million in funding** was allocated to the Program specifically to support **AI-focused startups** in New Jersey. The NIIF AI Cohort is designed to foster **AI-driven innovation** by encouraging the development of AI technologies that lead to meaningful outcomes across targeted industries. All general eligibility criteria for the NIIF program (including team composition, equity ownership, and other documentation requirements) apply to AI Cohort applicants. The AI Cohort awardees will be required to attend and participate in a mandatory two-year mentorship program to be managed by Princeton University.

To be eligible for the NIIF AI Cohort, applicants must meet the following additional eligibility criteria:

1. Focus on one or more of six **specific AI technologies**:
 - Machine learning, deep learning, and predictive maintenance
 - Autonomous decision-making
 - AI-driven analytics and data insights
 - Natural language processing
 - Perception and Interaction:
 - Generative AI for product design or content creation
2. Achieve one or both of the following **innovation outcomes**:
 - **Improved efficiency** through optimization, automation, or enhanced productivity
 - **Novel products or services** that represent breakthrough innovations
3. Submit a **Code of Conduct** that outlines the company’s commitment to addressing issues like bias, fairness, and transparency in AI development.

IV. NIIF Program Guide

Please visit www.njeda.gov/new-jersey-innovation-fellows-program/ to review the Program in more detail. Questions concerning this Program’s Notice of Funding Availability should be submitted to NIInnovationFellows@njeda.gov

Create New Jersey Innovation Fellows Application

Language Access

Provide a “Yes/No” response to indicate whether English is your primary language or select “Prefer Not to Answer”.

If English is not your primary language, free language assistance services are available.

If you are interested in using an interpreter provided by EDA, please indicate your primary language.

Language Access

Is English your primary language? *

Select

Please identify which of the following languages is your primary language: *

Select

Select

español (Spanish)

العربية (Arabic)

粵語 (Cantonese Chinese)

普通話 (Mandarin Chinese)

ગુજરાતી (Gujarati)

हिंदी (Hindi)

italiano (Italian)

한국어 (Korean)

po polsku (Polish)

português (Portuguese)

Tagalog

Other

If the NJEDA needs to contact you regarding your application, would you be interested in having an EDA provided interpreter in your native language? *

Select

Select

Yes

No

Registered Business

The program accepts applications from teams of eligible first-time entrepreneurs with a prospective business idea, meaning applicants have not already formed or registered a business, but have an idea that they want to develop. If you decide to move forward with an already registered business, you may be deemed ineligible.

Note: If approved, business not already formed, will have 30 days following notification of award to fully form the business.

Registered Business

Is the applicant team's business already formed? *

Select ▼

For the purposes of this program, will the team be utilizing a currently registered business in New Jersey?

Please note: Approved eligible applicants for the New Jersey Innovation Fellows grant program with businesses that have yet "to be formed" or unregistered businesses will be required to form their businesses and register as a New Jersey business within 30 days of notification. Unregistered applicants who fail to register as a new business and provide state registration documents, as evidenced by its subsequent Tax Clearance Certificate (or verification from the Division of Taxation during the allotted 30 days of the forthcoming Tax Clearance Certificate), within the allotted time will be declined and must reapply for consideration in subsequent cohorts.

[Previous](#) [Next](#)

Primary Point of Contact

On this page we will collect contact information for the Primary Point of Contact for this application.

Please ensure that the email provided is the correct email for the primary point of contact on this application.

This email will be used for the fee correspondence and any other communications to the applicant team.

Primary Point of Contact

Throughout the life of a project – from application, to approval, to closing, and to certification/servicing – NJEDA will need to engage with various members of your team. This section collects contact information for individuals we may need to speak with as part of this project.

Please provide contact information for the primary point of contact within the applicant that NJEDA will keep updated on the status of this application.

NOTE: It is highly recommended that the primary point of contact be the individual that is currently filling out this application.

Salutation

Select

First Name *

Middle Initial

Last Name *

Suffix

Select

Title *

Email Address *

Email Address Confirmed *

Please be sure the email address you enter is a valid email address, as this will be the primary address by which NJEDA contacts you on the status of this application.

Business Details

In this section, we would like to learn about the proposed new business.

This page will request applicant information including but not limited to:

- Proposed Business Name
- Proposed Business Location
- The [Eligible Municipality](#) where the business will be located
- The AI technology to be used (if applicable)
- The business's [Targeted Industry](#) details and description
- Business Plan
- Pitch Deck

Teams of prospective Innovation Fellows must submit a complete and well-written business plan and a pitch deck in presentation format, similar to this [sample template](#). This template is being provided to best achieve an equitable evaluation process by the NJEDA.

Teams should ensure the presentation adequately describes all relevant features of their proposed business venture. Consider the program requirements and scoring framework as you compose the deck. For additional support consider engaging freely with available counseling via groups like the [NJ Business Action Center](#) and [SCORE](#).

Business Details

Proposed Business Name *

Business Address

Country *

Select

Street 1 *

Enter a location

Please continue typing out your full address (include city, state, etc.) until the correct address appears in the dropdown.

Street 2

City

State / Province

Zip Code

Identify the Eligible Municipality where the business will be located. *

Select

Identify the targeted industry in which the business will operate. *

Select

Please describe why you believe your proposed business meets the definition of the chosen targeted industry. *

Upload a PDF copy of your business plan.

Document	Files
Business Plan *	<div><div>Add Files</div><div>Teams of prospective Innovation Fellows must submit a complete and well-written business plan for the venture in presentation format similar to this Sample Template. This template is being provided to best achieve an equitable evaluation process by the NJEDA.</div><div>Teams should ensure the presentation adequately describes all relevant features of their proposed business venture. Consider the program requirements and scoring framework as you compose the deck. For additional support consider engaging freely available counseling via groups like: NJSBDC, SCORE</div></div>

Upload a copy of your pitch deck for your proposed business

Document	Files
Pitch Deck *	<div><div>Add Files</div></div>

Provide a detailed description of the business' future business operations. *

Previous

Next

Authorized Representative

This page only appears if the primary point of contact is not an authorized representative for the applicant. If this is the case, you will be asked to fill out the contact information for the person who is an authorized representative.

Authorized Representative

Please input the following information for the contact who is authorized to sign legally binding documents and make legally binding certifications in this application on behalf of the applicant company.

Salutation

Select

First Name *

Middle Initial

Last Name *

Suffix

Select

Title *

Email Address *

Email Address Confirmed *

Phone Number and Extension (if available) *

To include an extension with your phone number, simply enter the phone number first, followed by the extension.

NJIF AI Cohort General Application*

This section includes questions inquiring about artificial intelligence, including:

- The proposed type of AI technology
- Your proposed Code of Conduct
- Intended innovation outcomes

*This application page will only appear if the NJIF application being submitted is for the AI Cohort.

NJIF AI Cohort General Application

Proposed AI Technology *

Select

Select

Learning and Adaptation

Autonomous Decision-Making

Data-Driven Insights

Natural Language Processing

Perception and Interaction

Generative AI

None of the Above

Upload a copy of your code of conduct policy for your proposed business.

Document	Files
Code of conduct policy *	<div>Add Files</div>

What innovation outcomes does your proposed AI solution aim to achieve? *

Select

Select

Improved Efficiency (e.g., optimizing processes, reducing waste, enhancing performance)

Novel Product or Service (e.g., enabling the creation of new products, AI-driven innovation)

None of the Above

Previous

Next

Management Team

In this section, we would like to learn more about the entrepreneur leaders of the new business.

A minimum of **THREE** entrepreneurs must be a part of the management team.

Half of the team must be first time entrepreneurs.

All members of the management team must be **equity owners** in the business.

The entrepreneur leadership team must have **majority equity interest (>50%)**.

This page also requests a copy of the management team's organizational chart and the number of years that the entrepreneur team has worked together.

Management Team Overview

How many entrepreneurs are part of the management team (including the Primary Point of Contact)? *

The management team must consist of at least 3 entrepreneurs (including the Primary Point of Contact).

Are at least half of the total number of entrepreneurs indicated above first-time entrepreneurs? *

Will all the entrepreneurs of the management team own equity stakes in the business? *

Total combined percentage of ownership of the entrepreneurs. *

Upload Management Team Organization Chart.

Document	Files
Organization Chart *	<input type="button" value="Add Files"/>

Please specify the number of years the entrepreneurs have been working together. *

Select

Less than 1 year

Between 1 and 3 years

More than 3 years

Additional details *

Previous

Next

Management Team Entrepreneurs

Please use the “Add Entrepreneur” button to complete an entry for each entrepreneur leader on the management team.

Management Team Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs

Please input details for EACH of your Management Team Entrepreneurs (including the Primary Point of Contact).

Add Entrepreneur

Stakeholder ID ↓	Entrepreneur First Name	Entrepreneur Middle Name	Entrepreneur Last Name	Percent of Ownership	Entrepreneur Phone Number	Entrepreneur Email	Stakeholder Status
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A pop-up window will appear asking for specific contact and experience information. Complete this pop-up page for each entrepreneur leader. If you (the person filling out the application) are one of the entrepreneur leaders, please complete this additional pop-up page for yourself, in addition to the other leaders.

The application system will use the email address you enter here to email each of the additional entrepreneur leaders to collect additional information.

Entrepreneur

Entrepreneur First Name * Entrepreneur Middle Name Entrepreneur Last Name *

Percent of Ownership * Entrepreneur Phone Number *

Entrepreneur Email * Entrepreneur Email Confirmed *

Please be sure to enter the correct email address for all entrepreneur leaders on the team. Each entrepreneur leader is required to fill out a supplemental portion of the application that will be accessible via a unique link sent to the emails provided here once confirmed.

Is the entrepreneur a first-time entrepreneur? *

Select

A “first-time entrepreneur” is one who has have never been listed as a founder, co-founder, or owner of a business entity which operated in a targeted industry in the State of New Jersey, nor have I received third-party, institutional, funding for past entrepreneurial opportunities at the ideation phase, the earliest phase of business formation, or any later stage of business formation.

Does the entrepreneur live in an opportunity zone? *

Select

[Click here](#) for the mapping tool.

Is the entrepreneur a graduate of a New Jersey University or College? *

Select

“New Jersey college or University” includes 2- or 4- year colleges.

Is the entrepreneur a “diverse entrepreneur” as defined in N.J.S.A. 54:10A-5.29? *

Select

“Diverse entrepreneur” is defined in N.J.S.A. 54:10A)5.29 as individuals meeting the criteria for “minority business” or “female Business” defined in N.J.S.A. 52:32-19 as either “persons who are black, Hispanic, Portuguese, Asian-American, American Indian or Alaskan natives” or a woman.

General Professional Experience: Average years of professional experience. *

Select

Industry Expertise: Average years of expertise the entrepreneur leader has in the addressable industry *

Select

Competency in Key Business Areas: Average years of experience the entrepreneur leader has in sales, operations, product development, and finance *

Select

Save

Management Team Entrepreneurs (Continued)

Once you have entered each of your Entrepreneur Team Members, check the completion box and then the “Next” button.

Management Team Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs

Please input details for EACH of your Management Team Entrepreneurs (including the Primary Point of Contact).

Add Entrepreneur

Stakeholder ID ↓	Entrepreneur First Name	Entrepreneur Middle Name	Entrepreneur Last Name	Percent of Ownership	Entrepreneur Phone Number	Entrepreneur Email	Stakeholder Status	
STKHLD-0000152	xxxxxxx		xxxxxxxxxxxxx	xx%	xxx-xxx-xxxx	xxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx	New	▼
STKHLD-0000151	xxxxxxx		xxxxxxxxxxxxx	xx%	xxx-xxx-xxxx	xxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx	New	▼
STKHLD-0000150	xxxxxxx		xxxxxxxxxxxxx	xx%	xxx-xxx-xxxx	xxxxxx@xxxxx.xxx	New	▼

☐ Have you completed an entry for every entrepreneur on the management team? *

Previous

Next

Pending Supplemental Completion Page

This application page is a holding page and you will not be able to advance past this page until all of the Entrepreneur Supplemental forms are submitted.

If you, as the person filling out the application, are one of the Entrepreneur Team Members, select the “New Jersey Fellows Entrepreneur Supplemental Form” button.

If you are not an Entrepreneur Team Member, you may exit the application at this time. Your application progress has been saved. Once all of your entrepreneurs have completed their supplemental sections, this page will update and you will be able to complete the application.

Pending Supplemental Completion

Each entrepreneur has been sent an email with a link to complete the supplemental forms at their confirmed email address. Once all entrepreneur supplemental forms have been completed, the primary point of contact may return the application to continue with the process of submitting the full application.

If you (the person filling out the application) are one of the entrepreneurs, please select button below to be directed to the supplemental forms for your completion.

New Jersey Innovation Fellows Entrepreneur Supplemental Form

Previous

Entrepreneur Supplemental Form

After selecting the “New Jersey Fellows Entrepreneur Supplemental Form” button or clicking on the link sent by email, the following page will show as a welcome page.

At the bottom of the page there will be a record listing for the entrepreneur to complete. The entrepreneur should select the Stakeholder ID, which will take them to the full Entrepreneur Supplemental Form for them to complete.

Stakeholder ID ↓	Entrepreneur First Name	Entrepreneur Middle Name	Entrepreneur Last Name	Percent of Ownership	Entrepreneur Phone Number	Entrepreneur Email	Stakeholder Status
STKHL-00000151	XXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XX.XX	XXX-XXX-XXXX	XXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXX	Pending Stakeholder Completion

New Jersey Innovation Fellows AI Cohort Application - Entrepreneur Supplement

I. Purpose and Program Overview

The New Jersey Innovation Fellows Program (NIJF) is a competitive grant program designed to support aspiring teams of entrepreneurs with their unique startup ideas through mentorship and income replacement grants. This Program helps entrepreneurs navigate the challenging early stages of forming and ideating their businesses. Initially funded with a \$10 million appropriation, the program is governed by Sections 65-68 of P.L.2021, c.160 and administered by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA).

Successful teams of entrepreneur applicants can receive a **base grant of \$200,000**, with additional grants **up to \$200,000 in bonuses**, bringing the total potential award to **\$400,000**. Bonuses are available based on the following criteria:

- A team of entrepreneurs may receive a \$50,000 bonus if one of the identified entrepreneurs resides in an Opportunity Zone at the time of application.
- A team of entrepreneurs that includes at least one member who is a graduate of a New Jersey college or university, or is a “diverse” entrepreneur, and meets the eligibility requirements, may receive \$50,000 bonuses for each certifying entrepreneur leader for up to three bonus awards totaling \$150,000.

Additionally, all grantees are required to participate in a **mandatory two-year mentorship program** aimed at guiding them through their business development journey. This program ensures that the recipients receive the support necessary to transition from ideation to successful business operations.

II. Eligibility Criteria for NIJF Applicants:

Applicants must meet several key requirements to be considered for the program:

- Minimum Team Composition:** Teams must consist of at least three full-time entrepreneurs.
- First-Time Entrepreneurs:** At least half of the entrepreneur leadership must certify as “first-time entrepreneurs.” A first-time entrepreneur must certify they have never been listed as a founder, co-founder, or owner of a business entity which operated in a targeted industry in the state of New Jersey and has received third-party funding. Third-party funding includes professional Angel investment, institutional Venture (VC), or Private Equity (PE) capital.
- Workforce Background:** Each applicant must be transitioning from a paid position (full- or part-time) or be recent graduates who have worked in a paid position within 60 days of applying and commit to full-time entrepreneurship.
- Paid NJ Income Tax:** Each applicant must have paid New Jersey gross income tax at the time of application or within the past 60 days. Documentation of income tax payment must be provided, such as pay stubs or a NJ Gross Income Tax Declaration of Estimated Tax Form (NJ-1040ES) with proof of payment.
- Personal Address Documentation:** Each applicant must provide proof of their personal address through documents such as utility bills or lease agreements.
- Majority Equity Ownership:** The entrepreneur leadership team must own more than 50% of the equity in the proposed business.
- Targeted Industry:** The proposed business must operate in one of New Jersey’s designated **targeted industries**.
- Eligible Municipality:** The proposed business must be in an eligible municipality as defined by the NJEDA.
- Educational Background:** Each applicant seeking an education bonus must provide educational credentials such as a diploma or transcript.
- Full-Time Commitment:** Each entrepreneur must commit to working full-time on their business for at least two years following receipt of the grant, with a minimum of **35 hours per week** and no more than 20 hours per week in outside work.

Additional Documentation Required for the NIJF General Application:

For the NIJF General Application, the following documentation is required:

- Well-Written Business Plan:** A well-written plan (maximum 3,000 words) detailing the business concept, innovation strategy, and market challenges.
- Pitch Deck:** A high-level overview of the business, key strategies, financials, and team (limited to 15 slides)
- Organizational Chart and Resumes:** An organizational chart detailing team roles and individual resumes showing relevant professional experience, skills, education and certifications.

III. AI Cohort Specific Eligibility:

In 2024, an additional **\$2 million in funding** was allocated to the Program specifically to support **AI-focused startups** in New Jersey. The NIJF AI Cohort is designed to foster **AI-driven innovation** by encouraging the development of AI technologies that lead to meaningful outcomes across targeted industries. All general eligibility criteria for the NIJF program (including team composition, equity ownership, and other documentation requirements) apply to AI Cohort applicants. The AI Cohort awardees will be required to attend and participate in a mandatory two-year mentorship program to be managed by Princeton University.

To be eligible for the NIJF AI Cohort, applicants must meet the following additional eligibility criteria:

- Focus on one or more of six **specific AI technologies**:
 - Machine learning, deep learning, and predictive maintenance
 - Autonomous decision-making
 - AI-driven analytics and data insights
 - Natural language processing
 - Perception and Interaction:
 - Generative AI for product design or content creation
- Achieve one or both of the following **innovation outcomes**:
 - Improved efficiency** through optimization, automation, or enhanced productivity
 - Novel products or services** that represent breakthrough innovations
- Submit a **Code of Conduct** that outlines the company’s commitment to addressing issues like bias, fairness, and transparency in AI development.

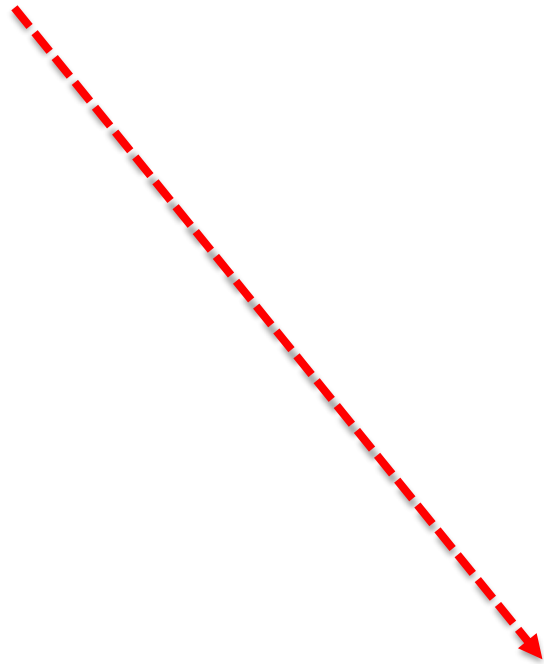
IV. NIJF Program Guide

Please visit www.njeda.gov/new-jersey-innovation-fellows-program/ to review the Program in more detail. Questions concerning this Program’s Notice of Funding Availability should be submitted to NIInnovationFellows@njeda.gov

Stakeholder ID ↓	Entrepreneur First Name	Entrepreneur Middle Name	Entrepreneur Last Name	Percent of Ownership	Entrepreneur Phone Number	Entrepreneur Email	Stakeholder Status
STKHL-00000151	XXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XX.XX	XXX-XXX-XXXX	XXXXXXXX@XXXXXXXX.XXX	Pending Stakeholder Completion

Entrepreneur Supplemental Form

The application page of this section is a status page where no information can be entered by the applicant. Select the “Next” button to proceed.



Information

New Section

Entrepreneur Name
—

Stakeholder ID
STKHLD-00000151

Common Application ID
CAPP-00030026

Stakeholder Status
Pending Stakeholder Completion

Note Text
There are no notes to display.

Next

Language Access

Provide a “Yes/No” response to indicate whether English is your primary language or select “Prefer Not to Answer”.

If English is not your primary language, free language assistance services are available.

If you are interested in using an interpreter provided by EDA, please indicate your primary language.

Language Access

Is English your primary language? *

Select

Please identify which of the following languages is your primary language: *

Select

Select

español (Spanish)

العربية (Arabic)

粵語 (Cantonese Chinese)

普通話 (Mandarin Chinese)

ગુજરાતી (Gujarati)

हिंदी (Hindi)

italiano (Italian)

한국어 (Korean)

po polsku (Polish)

português (Portuguese)

Tagalog

Other

If the NJEDA needs to contact you regarding your application, would you be interested in having an EDA provided interpreter in your native language? *

Select

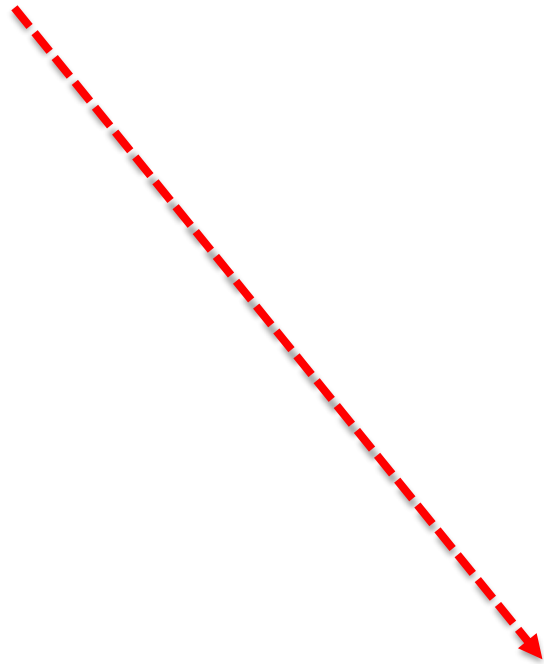
Select

Yes

No

Entrepreneur Supplemental Form

The application page of this section is a status page where no information can be entered by the applicant. Select the “Next” button to proceed.



Information

New Section

Entrepreneur Name
—

Stakeholder ID
STKHLD-00000151

Common Application ID
CAPP-00030026

Stakeholder Status
Pending Stakeholder Completion

Note Text
There are no notes to display.

Next

Management Team Entrepreneur

On this page, entrepreneur leaders are asked to provide and confirm contact information, work experience, education, and demographic information.

Management Team Entrepreneur

The Innovation Fellows program will support would-be entrepreneurs, particularly diverse entrepreneurs, with "income replacement" grants. This resource creates an opportunity for the entrepreneurs to pursue unique startup business ventures with the security of initial income replacement funding in the two-year ideation and formation period of their businesses.

The Management Team Member Entrepreneur Questionnaire must be filled out and signed by each member of the management team. This questionnaire will ask specific questions regarding the eligibility of the team member for this program. Supporting documents must be attached and uploaded to this application as needed.

Entrepreneur First Name *

Entrepreneur Middle Name

Entrepreneur Last Name *

Percent of Ownership

00.00

Entrepreneur Phone Number *

Entrepreneur Email

xxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxx

This email address was provided by the Primary Point of Contact for New Jersey Innovation Fellows Application and can only be altered by the Primary Point of Contact on the main application affiliated with this supplemental portion. If you wish to use a different email address or if this email address should no longer be associated with this New Jersey Innovation Fellows grant application, please contact the primary point of contact to update and resubmit this information on the main application.

Are you located in New Jersey? *

Please select an option for address verification: *

Most Recent Work Experience:

Company *

Last Day of Employment *

MM/DD/YYYY

Reference Name *

Reference Email Address *

☐ I certify that I paid gross income tax to New Jersey within 60 days leading up to application. *

Please select an option for gross income tax payment verification: *

Are you a "First-time entrepreneur"? *

A "first-time entrepreneur" is one who:

A. Has never been listed as a founder, co-founder, or owner of a business entity which operated in a targeted industry in the State of New Jersey; AND

B. Has not received third-party or institutional funding for past entrepreneurial opportunities in a targeted industry at the ideation phase, the earliest phase of business formation, or any later stage of business formation in the State of New Jersey. Third -party funding includes professional Angel investment, institutional Venture (VC), or Private Equity (PE) capital at the ideation phase of business formation, or any later stage of business formation in the State of New Jersey.

Targeted Industries means:

Advanced Transportation and Logistics, Advanced Manufacturing, Aviation, Autonomous Vehicle and Zero-emissions research or development Clean Energy, Clean Tech, Life Sciences, Hemp Processing, Information and High Technology, Finance and Insurance, Professional Services, Film and Digital Media, Non-retail food and beverage business (including food innovation)

☐ I, hereby certify that I am a "First-Time Entrepreneur." I have never been listed as a founder, co-founder, or owner of a business entity which operated in a targeted industry in the State of New Jersey, nor have I received third-party, institutional, funding for past entrepreneurial opportunities at the ideation phase, the earliest phase of business formation, or any later stage of business formation. *

Are you a "diverse entrepreneur" as defined in N.J.S.A. 54:10A-5.29? *

"Diverse entrepreneur" is defined in N.J.S.A. 54:10A-5.29 as individuals meeting the criteria for "minority business" or "female Business" defined in N.J.S.A. 52:32-19 as either "persons who are black, Hispanic, Portuguese, Asian-American, American Indian or Alaskan natives" or a woman.

☐ I hereby certify that I am a Diverse Entrepreneur. *

Are you a graduate of a New Jersey College (including community college) or University? *

Please include a copy of the NJ college/university diploma to the NJIF application

Document

Files

NJ College/University Diploma *

Add Files

☐ I authorize the New Jersey Innovation Fellows Application associated with the below Application ID to be submitted on my behalf and understand that this Entrepreneur Supplemental Portion will be included as part of the full application submission once completed: *

Common Application ID

CAPP-00030026

☐ I affirm, represent, and warrant that the information contained in this questionnaire and in all associated attachments submitted herewith is to the best of my knowledge true and complete. *

☐ I understand that our NJ Innovation Fellows application is being submitted as a team and any misrepresentations made by me or any members of the team on any part of the application may effect the eligibility of the application and/or lead to disqualification/debarment or suspension, as per the Authority's Disqualification/Debarment Regulations and Executive Orders 34 (Byrne 1976) and 189 (Kean 1988). *

Electronic Signature *

Please upload your resume.

Document

Files

Entrepreneur Resume *

Add Files

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Next

Legal Questionnaire

In this section, applicants are required to answer background question pertaining to any causes that may lead to debarment, disqualification, or suspension from eligibility.

Additionally, applicants are required to identify any “affiliate” entities. There are two main types of Affiliates:

First, applicants must identify any individuals or entities that hold a 30% or more ownership *in the applicant*.

Second, applicants must identify any individual or entity where *the applicant holds a 30% or more* interest, and are either named in the application and/or agreement, or will receive a direct benefit from the financing, incentive, or other agreement with NJEDA.

Entrepreneur leaders should take their time and make sure to read this section carefully.

Legal Questionnaire

Entrepreneur Full Legal Name:

Please note “Applicant” includes individuals and all types of entities applying for and receiving NJEDA financial assistance, incentives or contracts, including but not limited to: for profit businesses, non-profit organizations, municipalities, counties, colleges, universities and other institutions of higher learning.

Persons (entities or individuals) applying for NJEDA programs are subject to the Authority’s Disqualification/Debarment Regulations (the “Regulations”), which are set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:30-2.1, et seq. Applicants are required to answer the following background questions (“Legal Questionnaire”) pertaining to causes that may lead to debarment, disqualification, or suspension from eligibility under the Regulations and Executive Orders 34 (Byrne 1976) and 189 (Kean 1988) after consideration of all relevant mitigating factors.

Note that this form has recently been modified.
Please review this form in its entirety prior to providing any responses or certifications.

DEFINITIONS

Notwithstanding any terms defined elsewhere or otherwise herein, the following definitions shall govern in responding to this Legal Questionnaire:

“Affiliates” means any entities or persons having an overt or covert relationship such that any one of them directly or indirectly controls or has the power to control another. This includes (however is not limited to):

- entities or persons having an ownership interest in the applicant of 30% or greater;
- entities in which an applicant holds an ownership interest of 30% or greater and are either named in the application and/or agreement or will receive a direct benefit from the financing, incentive or other agreement with NJEDA; and
- other entities that are named in the application and/or agreement, or that will receive a direct benefit from the financing, incentive, or other agreement with NJEDA.

“Legal Proceedings” means any civil, criminal, or administrative or regulatory proceedings in a State or Federal court or administrative tribunal in the United States or any territories thereof.

RELEVANT AFFILIATES

In accordance with the above, please identify any individuals or entities that hold a **30% or more ownership in the applicant**:

Are there any individuals or entities that hold a 30% or more ownership interest in the applicant? *

Select ▼

Applicant-Owned Affiliates

In accordance with the above, please identify any entities in which the **applicant holds a 30% or more interest**, and are either named in the application and/or agreement, or will receive a direct benefit from the financing, incentive, or other agreement with NJEDA.

[ADD APPLICANT-OWNED AFFILIATES](#)

Entity ↑

FEIN #

There are no records to display.

Other Affiliates

In accordance with the above, please identify any other entities not already identified that are either named in the application and/or agreement, or that will receive a direct benefit from the financing, incentive, or other agreement with NJEDA:

[ADD OTHER AFFILIATES](#)

Entity ↑

FEIN #

There are no records to display.

Legal Questionnaire (Continued)

There are several specific questions regarding the past proceedings of an applicant.

It is essential that Entrepreneur Leaders take their time, reading this section carefully, while keeping in mind the corresponding "look-back" periods for civil, criminal, environmental, and other legal matters.

Part A. Past Proceedings

- Has Applicant, or any identified Affiliates of Applicant, been found or conceded or admitted to being guilty, liable or responsible in any Legal Proceeding, or conceded or admitted to facts in any Legal Proceedings that demonstrate responsibility for any of the following violations or conduct? (Any civil or criminal decisions or verdicts that have been vacated or expunged need not be reported.)
1. Commission of a criminal offense as an incident to obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract, or subcontract there under, or in the performance of such contract or subcontract. *
 2. Violation of the Federal Organized Crime Control Act of 1970, or commission of embezzlement, theft, fraud, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, perjury, false swearing, receiving stolen property, obstruction of justice, or any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or honesty. *
 3. Violation of the Federal or State antitrust statutes, or of the Federal Anti-Kickback Act (18 U.S.C. 874). *
 4. Violation of any law governing the conduct of elections of the Federal Government, State of New Jersey or of its political subdivision. *
 5. Violation of the "Law Against Discrimination" (P.L. 1945, c169, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq., as supplemented by R.L. 1975, c127), or of the act banning discrimination in public works employment (N.J.S.A. 10:2-1 et seq.) or of the act prohibiting discrimination by industries engaged in defense work in the employment of persons therein (P.L. 1942, c114, N.J.S.A. 10:1-10, et seq.). *
 6. To the best of your knowledge, after reasonable inquiry, violation of any laws governing hours of labor, minimum wage standards, prevailing wage standards, discrimination in wages, or child labor. *
 7. To the best of your knowledge, after reasonable inquiry, violation of any law governing the conduct of occupations or professions of regulated industries. *
 8. Debarment by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the State or Federal government. *
 9. Violation of the Conflict of Interest Law, N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq., including any of the following prohibitions on vendor activities representing a conflict of interest, or failure to report a solicitation as set forth below: *
 - i. No person shall pay, offer or agree to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or other thing of value of any kind to any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee, as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13(b) and (e), with which such person transacts or offers or proposes to transact business, or to any member of the immediate family as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13(f), of any such officer or employee, or partnership, firm, or corporation with which they are employed or associated, or in which such officer or employee has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13(g).
 - ii. The solicitation of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or other thing of value by any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee from any person shall be reported in writing by the person to the Attorney General and the NJEDA Ethics Liaison Officer.
 - iii. No person may, directly or indirectly, undertake any private business, commercial or entrepreneurial relationship with, whether or not pursuant to employment, contract or other agreement, express or implied, or sell any interest in such person to, any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee having any duties or responsibilities in connection with the purchase, acquisition or sale of any property or services by or to the Authority, or with any person, firm or entity with which he or she is employed or associated or in which he or she has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13(g). Any relationships subject to this subsection shall be reported in writing to the NJEDA Ethics Liaison Officer and the State Ethics Commission, which may grant a waiver of this restriction upon application of the Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee upon a finding that the present or proposed relationship does not present the potential, actually or appearance of a conflict of interest.
 - iv. No person shall influence, or attempt to influence or cause to be influenced, any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee in his or her capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of the officer or employee.
 - v. No person shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any Authority officer or employee or special Authority officer or employee to use, or attempt to use, his or her official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the person or any other person.
 10. Violation of any State or Federal law that may bear upon a lack of responsibility or moral integrity, or that may provide other compelling reasons for disqualification. Your responses to the foregoing question should include, but not be limited to, the violation of the following laws, without regard to whether there was any monetary award, damages, verdict, assessment or penalty, except that any violation of any environmental law in category (v) below need not be reported where the monetary award, damages, etc. amounted to less than \$1 million. *
 - i. Laws banning or prohibiting discrimination or harassment in the workplace.
 - ii. Laws prohibiting or banning any form of forced, slave, or compulsory labor.
 - iii. The New Jersey Conscientious Employee Protection Act, N. J. Stat. Ann. § 34:19-1 et seq., or other "Whistleblower Laws" that protect employees from retaliation for disclosing, or threatening to disclose, to a supervisor or to a public body an activity, policy or practice of the employer, that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule or regulation issued under the law.
 - iv. Securities or tax laws resulting in a finding of fraud or fraudulent conduct.
 - v. Environmental laws, where the monetary award, penalties, damages, etc. amounted to more than \$1 million.
 - vi. Laws banning anti-competitive dumping of goods.
 - vii. Anti-terrorist laws.
 - viii. Criminal laws involving commission of any felony or indictable offense under State or Federal law.
 - ix. Laws banning human rights abuses.
 - x. Laws banning the trade of goods or services to enemies of the United States.

Part B. Pending Proceedings

11. To the best of your knowledge, after reasonable inquiry, are Applicant, or any officers or directors of Applicant, or any Affiliates, a party to pending Legal Proceedings wherein any of the offenses or violations described in questions 1-10 above are alleged or asserted against such entity or person? With respect to laws banning or prohibiting discrimination or harassment in the workplace, please provide only information pertaining to any class action lawsuits or individual lawsuits alleging violations under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination. *
- If the answer to any of the foregoing questions is affirmative, you must provide the following information as an attachment to the application: (i) the case name and court/administrative agency (including jurisdiction and venue) in which such matters were tried or are pending; (ii) the charges or claims adjudicated or alleged; and (iii) status of the matter (e.g. Pending Dismissed following Settlement, Dismissed following Motion, etc.).
- Please Note:** An Applicant may refer to or attach specific provisions of a 10-K/Q or other filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC); however, the Applicant should be aware that different laws apply to disclosures to the Authority. This means that the Authority does not have the same types of materiality thresholds as the SEC. The Applicant is expected to supplement its SEC filings to ensure that all relevant matters are disclosed to the Authority, including any matters that were below the SEC's materiality threshold and any matters that may have occurred after its most recent filing.
- Please Note:** Eligibility is determined based on the information presented in the completed Application. If, at any time while engaged with the Authority the Applicant should become aware of any facts that materially alter or change its answers, or that render any of them incomplete or inaccurate, the Applicant has a duty to promptly report such facts to the Authority in writing. The Authority reserves the right to require additional clarifying or explanatory information from the Applicant regarding the answers given, to ask additional questions not contained in this Legal Questionnaire, and to perform its own due diligence investigations and searches.

Document	Files
Legal Questionnaire Addendum	Add Files

CERTIFICATION OF LEGAL QUESTIONNAIRE AND AUTHORIZATION TO RELEASE INFORMATION

This certification shall be signed as follows:

- by applicant's General Counsel or Chief Legal Officer (recommended); or
- for a corporation, by a principal executive officer at least the level of vice president;
- for a partnership, by a general partner;
- for a sole proprietorship, by the proprietor;
- for a governmental entity, by the contact person (business administrator, manager, mayor, etc.);
- for other than above, by the person with legal responsibility for the application.

I hereby represent and certify that I have reviewed the information contained in this Legal Questionnaire, and that the foregoing information is true and complete under penalty of perjury. I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment. I further agree to inform the New Jersey Economic Development Authority of any changes in the foregoing information which may occur prior to execution of any agreement with the Authority, and so long as any such agreement is in effect. Failure to disclose relevant matters may render the Applicant ineligible for the financial benefits sought and may subject the Applicant to disqualification, debarment, suspension, or referral to the office of the state's Attorney General.

The undersigned, on behalf of the Applicant, understands and acknowledges that information and documents provided to the New Jersey Economic Development Authority: (1) are subject to public disclosure during deliberations of the Authority at public meetings regarding the application and as set forth in the minutes of the Authority's public meetings; and (2) are subject to public disclosure under certain laws, including, but not limited to, the Open Public Records Act, N.J.S.A. 47A:1-1 et seq., and the common law right-to-know.

Electronic Signatures

Pursuant to written policy, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority allows documents to be signed electronically and hereby agrees to be bound by such electronic signatures. Please confirm that you, as a signatory to this document, also agree to be bound by electronic signatures.

Legal Questionnaire Electronic Signature *

Title *

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Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus

In this section, we will be collecting the Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus.

Certification of Non-Involvement in Activities in Russia or Belarus

Program Name: **New Jersey Innovation Fellows Application - Entrepreneur Supplement**

Applicant Name:

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq. ([P.L. 2022, c.3](#)) any person or entity (hereinafter 'Applicant') that seeks to be approved for or continue to receive an economic development subsidy from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority must complete the certification below indicating whether or not the Applicant is identified on the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list, available here: (<https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov/>). If the New Jersey Economic Development Authority finds that an Applicant has made a certification in violation of the law, it shall take any action as may be appropriate and provided by law, rule or contract, including but not limited to, imposing sanctions, seeking compliance, recovering damages, declaring the party in default and seeking debarment or suspension of the party. By signing this certification, Applicant agrees that it has an affirmative ongoing obligation to disclose to NJEDA whether it appears on the OFAC list for any reason, during the application process and the agreement term.

Certification

I, the undersigned, have read and reviewed the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list, and having done so certify (must check one appropriate box and complete the Authorized Signature section below):

A. That the Applicant is not identified on the OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list on account of activity related to Russia and/or Belarus and is not engaged in activities related to Russia or Belarus. OR

Select

B. That I am unable to certify as to "A" above because the Applicant is identified on the OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list on account of activity related to Russia and/or Belarus. OR

Select

C. That I am unable to certify as to "A" or "B" above because the Applicant, though identified on the OFAC Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list on account of activity related to Russia and/or Belarus, is engaged in activities in Russia or Belarus consistent with federal law, regulation, license or exemption. A detailed, accurate and precise description of how the Applicant's activity related to Russia and/or Belarus is consistent with federal law is set forth below, including a copy of the license or listing the exemption. (Attach Additional Sheets If Necessary.)

Select

Authorized Signature

I understand that if the above statements are willfully false, I shall be subject to penalty.

Applicant Authorized Representative

Name

E-Signature of Applicant *

Definitions

"Economic development subsidy" means the provision of an amount of funds to a recipient with a value of greater than \$25,000 for the purpose of stimulating economic development in New Jersey, including, but not limited to, any investment, bond, grant, loan, loan guarantee, matching fund, tax credit, or other tax expenditure.

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Certification of Application

On this page, applicants will affirm the accuracy and truthfulness of the application information provided.

Certification of Application

Eligibility of financial assistance by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) is determined by the information presented in this application. Any changes in the status of the proposed project from the facts presented herein could disqualify the project. Only Board Members of the governing board of the particular program for which you are applying, by resolution, may take action to determine project eligibility and to authorize the issuance of funds.

I, _____, THE UNDERSIGNED, BEING DULY SWORN UPON MY OATH SAY:

I affirm, represent, and warrant that the information contained in this application and in all associated attachments submitted herewith is to the best of my knowledge true and complete and that the funding applied for herein is not for personal, family, or household purposes. *

Select

I understand that if such information is willfully false, I am subject to criminal prosecution under N.J.S.A. 2C:28-2 and civil action by the NJEDA which may at its option terminate its financial assistance. *

Select

I authorize the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety to verify any answer(s) contained herein through a search of its records, or records to which it has access, and to release the results of said research to the NJEDA. *

Select

I authorize the NJEDA to provide information submitted to it by or on behalf of the applicant to any bank or State agency which might participate in the requested financing with the NJEDA. *

Select

I certify my understanding that an electronic signature of this Application and any Approval Letter or Agreement shall be a binding on the parties. *

Select

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Entrepreneur Acknowledgement of Program Requirements

Applicants will affirm their understanding of the qualifications, conditions, limitations, and restrictions of participating in this program.

Entrepreneur Acknowledgement of Program Requirements

Applicants that are approved for grant funding under the New Jersey Innovation Fellows Program must agree to share ownership of deliverables with the Authority.

The applicant acknowledges NJIF grant recipients must:

- give full-time commitment to the development of the venture proposed for grant funding over the next two years.
- pay gross income tax to New Jersey for the two years following the initial disbursement of the fellowship grant.
- participate in a mentorship program for the program's duration.

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING:

Note: Upon formation of the business, if any member of the entrepreneur team who controls the applicant business or who own or control more than 1% of the stock of the applicant business is a State employee, then the applicant business is likely not eligible for financial assistance from the NJEDA and is not recommended to proceed with this application.

State employee means that this individual is employed by:

- 1) one of the principal departments in the Executive Branch of the New Jersey State government, or a division, board, bureau, office, commission or other instrumentality within or created by such department, or
- 2) an interstate agency to which New Jersey is a party, or
- 3) any independent State authority, commission, instrumentality or agency.

An Individual employed by a county or municipality is not considered a State employee.

Under the Uniform Ethics Code, a State employee may not enter into a contractual agreement with the State or execute any contract or agreement with a value of \$25 or more, made, entered into, awarded or granted by any State agency. State officer or employee also includes his or her partners, any other person for the use or benefit of the State employee or on his or her account or any corporation which he/she controls or in which he/she owns or controls more than 1% of the stock. This means that if a State employee owns or controls more than 1% of a business, that business may not seek financial assistance from the NJEDA.

If you have any questions, you or the individual in question should contact an Ethics Liaison Officer or the State Ethics Commission.

☐ I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above terms for receiving financial assistance from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. *

PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING:

Any applicant business that has applied for or received from the New Jersey Cannabis Regulatory Commission (NJ-CRC) a license, or is an employer of a certified personal use cannabis handler is likely not eligible for the Innovation Fellows Program and is not recommended to proceed with this application.

New Jersey State law prohibits certain cannabis licensees and certified personal use cannabis handlers' employers from receiving or continuing to receive most financial incentive awards, including the Innovation Fellows Program.

N.J.S.A. 24:61-49(b)(2)(a) states:

(i) A person or entity issued a license to operate as a cannabis cultivator, cannabis manufacturer, cannabis wholesaler, cannabis distributor, cannabis retailer, or cannabis 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 shall not be eligible for a State or local economic incentive.

(ii) The issuance of a license to operate as a cannabis cultivator, cannabis manufacturer, cannabis wholesaler, cannabis distributor, cannabis retailer, or cannabis delivery service, or the issuance of a certification to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service to a person or entity that has been awarded a State or local economic incentive shall invalidate the right of the person or entity to benefit from the economic incentive as of the date of issuance of the license or certification.

Please note that the program to which you have applied does not satisfy the criteria in N.J.S.A. 24:61-49(c)(2)(a) that authorizes New Jersey Economic Development Authority to create certain financial incentive programs for cannabis licensees and employers of certified personal use cannabis handler.

Note: Any applicant that is a property owner, developer, or operator of a project that is or will be used, in whole or in part, by or to benefit certain cannabis businesses or to employ certain certified personal use cannabis handler is likely not eligible for the Innovation Fellows Program and is not recommended to proceed with this application.

New Jersey State law prohibits certain cannabis licensees and certified personal use cannabis handlers' employers from receiving or continuing to receive most financial incentive awards.

N.J.S.A. 24:61-49(b)(2)(b) states:

(i) A property owner, developer, or operator of a project to be used, in whole or in part, by or to benefit a cannabis cultivator, cannabis manufacturer, cannabis wholesaler, cannabis distributor, cannabis retailer, or cannabis 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, shall not be eligible for a State or local economic incentive during the period of time that the economic incentive is in effect.

(ii) The issuance of a license to operate as a cannabis cultivator, cannabis manufacturer, cannabis wholesaler, cannabis distributor, cannabis retailer, or cannabis delivery service, or issuance of a certification to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service at a location that is the subject of a State or local economic incentive shall invalidate the right of a property owner, developer, or operator to benefit from the economic incentive as of the date of issuance of the license or certification.

Please note that the program to which you have applied does not satisfy the criteria in N.J.S.A. 24:61-49(c)(2)(a) that authorizes New Jersey Economic Development Authority to create certain financial incentive programs for cannabis licensees and employers of certified personal use cannabis handler.

☐ I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above terms for receiving financial assistance from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority. *

Electronic Signature *

Title *

[Previous](#)

[Next](#)

Electronic Signature

Applicants must agree to the terms and digitally sign their application.

Electronic Signature

Pursuant to written policy, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority allows documents to be signed electronically and hereby agrees to be bound by such electronic signatures. Please confirm that you, as a signatory to this document, also agree to be bound by electronic signatures.

☐ I agree to be bound by electronic signatures *

☐ I am an Authorized Signer for this organization and I accept the above terms and conditions *

Full Name *



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Enter the code from the image

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Confirmation Page

After signing and submitting, the Entrepreneur Leaders will see the following confirmation page. After all Entrepreneur Supplemental forms are submitted, the main applicant must still return to the main application section to complete the application.

Full Application Submitted Page

Thank you **for completing the Entrepreneur Supplement portion of the New Jersey Innovation Fellows Program.**

Your confirmation code is: **STKHLD-XXXXXXXX**

New Jersey Innovation Fellows CAPP ID: **CAPP-XXXXXXXX**

For questions regarding your New Jersey Innovation Fellows Program Application, please reach out to program administrators at NJInnovationFellows@njeda.gov

To learn about other NJEDA programs, visit njeda.gov

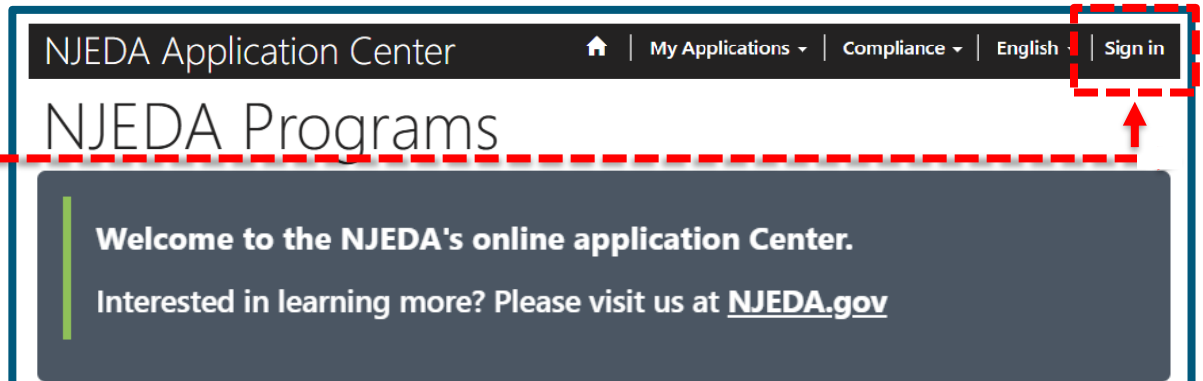
Thank You,
NJEDA

[Return to home page](#)

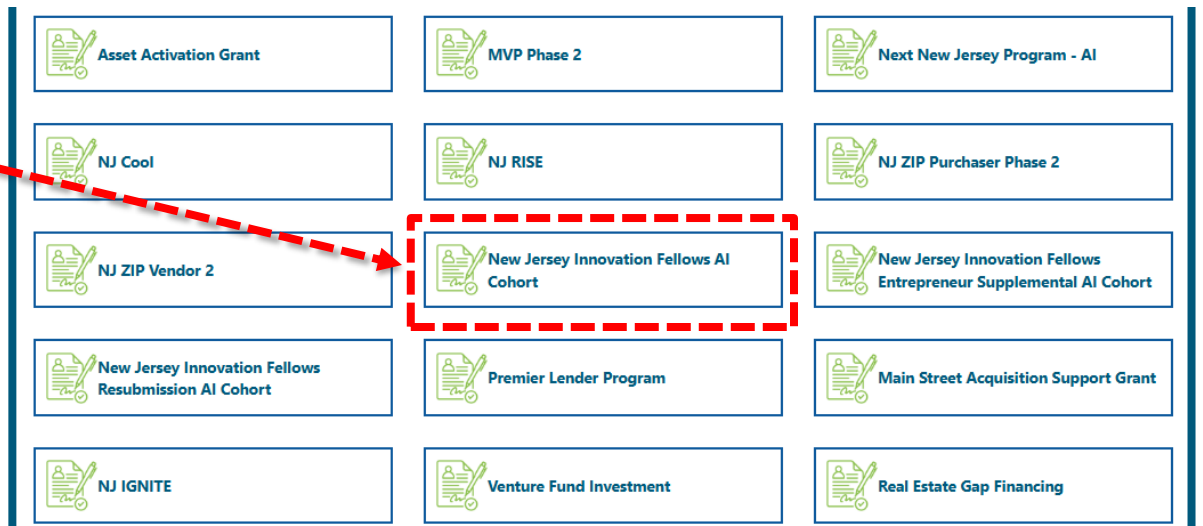
Returning to the Main Application

After all of the Entrepreneur Team Members have submitted their supplemental sections, the primary point of contact must return to the main application through the NJEDA Application Center at <https://programs.njeda.com/en-US/NJEDAPrograms/>.

Sign in.



Then locate and select the *New Jersey Fellows AI Cohort* program.



Selecting Your Application

Selecting the *New Jersey Fellows AI Cohort* program will return you to the main welcome page.

Scroll to the bottom of this page where you will see the record of your main application.

Then select the application hyperlink, which will return you to your application.

Common Application ID	Applicant Organization Name	Applicant Entity Type	Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)	Application Status	Created On	Full Application Submitted
CAPP-00000000				In Process	00/00/0000 0:00 PM	

New Jersey Innovation Fellows AI Cohort Application

I. Purpose and Program Overview

The New Jersey Innovation Fellows Program (NIJF) is a competitive grant program designed to support aspiring teams of entrepreneurs with their unique startup ideas through mentorship and income replacement grants. This Program helps entrepreneurs navigate the challenging early stages of forming and ideating their businesses. Initially funded with a \$10 million appropriation, the program is governed by Sections 65-68 of P.L.2021, c.160 and administered by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA).

Successful teams of entrepreneur applicants can receive a **base grant of \$200,000**, with additional grants **up to \$200,000 in bonuses**, bringing the total potential award to **\$400,000**. Bonuses are available based on the following criteria:

- A team of entrepreneurs may receive a \$50,000 bonus if one of the identified entrepreneurs resides in an Opportunity Zone at the time of application.
- A team of entrepreneurs that includes at least one member who is a graduate of a New Jersey college or university, or is a "diverse" entrepreneur, and meets the eligibility requirements, may receive \$50,000 bonuses for each certifying entrepreneur leader for up to three bonus awards totaling \$150,000.

Additionally, all grantees are required to participate in a **mandatory two-year mentorship program** aimed at guiding them through their business development journey. This program ensures that the recipients receive the support necessary to transition from ideation to successful business operations.

II. Eligibility Criteria for NIJF Applicants:

Applicants must meet several key requirements to be considered for the program:

- Minimum Team Composition:** Teams must consist of at least three full-time entrepreneurs.
- First-Time Entrepreneurs:** At least half of the entrepreneur leadership must certify as "first-time entrepreneurs." A first-time entrepreneur must certify they have never been listed as a founder, co-founder, or owner of a business entity which operated in a targeted industry in the state of New Jersey and has received third-party funding. Third-party funding includes professional Angel investment, institutional Venture (VC), or Private Equity (PE) capital.
- Workforce Background:** Each applicant must be transitioning from a paid position (full- or part-time) or be recent graduates who have worked in a paid position within 60 days of applying and commit to full-time entrepreneurship.
- Paid NJ Income Tax:** Each applicant must have paid New Jersey gross income tax at the time of application or within the past 60 days. Documentation of income tax payment must be provided, such as pay stubs or a NJ Gross Income Tax Declaration of Estimated Tax Form (NJ-1040ES) with proof of payment.
- Personal Address Documentation:** Each applicant must provide proof of their personal address through documents such as utility bills or lease agreements.
- Majority Equity Ownership:** The entrepreneur leadership team must own more than 50% of the equity in the proposed business.
- Targeted Industry:** The proposed business must operate in one of New Jersey's designated **targeted industries**.
- Eligible Municipality:** The proposed business must be in an eligible municipality as defined by the NJEDA.
- Educational Background:** Each applicant seeking an education bonus must provide educational credentials such as a diploma or transcript.
- Full-Time Commitment:** Each entrepreneur must commit to working full-time on their business for at least two years following receipt of the grant, with a minimum of **35 hours per week** and no more than 20 hours per week in outside work.

Additional Documentation Required for the NIJF General Application:

For the NIJF General Application, the following documentation is required:

- Well-Written Business Plan:** A well-written plan (maximum 3,000 words) detailing the business concept, innovation strategy, and market challenges.
- Pitch Deck:** A high-level overview of the business, key strategies, financials, and team (limited to 15 slides).
- Organizational Chart and Resumes:** An organizational chart detailing team roles and individual resumes showing relevant professional experience, skills, education and certifications.

III. AI Cohort Specific Eligibility:

In 2024, an additional **\$2 million in funding** was allocated to the Program specifically to support **AI-focused startups** in New Jersey. The NIJF AI Cohort is designed to foster **AI-driven innovation** by encouraging the development of AI technologies that lead to meaningful outcomes across targeted industries. All general eligibility criteria for the NIJF program (including team composition, equity ownership, and other documentation requirements) apply to AI Cohort applicants. The AI Cohort awardees will be required to attend and participate in a mandatory two-year mentorship program to be managed by Princeton University.

To be eligible for the NIJF AI Cohort, applicants must meet the following additional eligibility criteria:

- Focus on one or more of six **specific AI technologies**:
 - Machine learning, deep learning, and predictive maintenance
 - Autonomous decision-making
 - AI-driven analytics and data insights
 - Natural language processing
 - Perception and Interaction
 - Generative AI for product design or content creation
- Achieve one or both of the following **innovation outcomes**:
 - Improved efficiency** through optimization, automation, or enhanced productivity
 - Novel products or services** that represent breakthrough innovations
- Submit a **Code of Conduct** that outlines the company's commitment to addressing issues like bias, fairness, and transparency in AI development.

IV. NIJF Program Guide

Please visit www.njeda.gov/new-jersey-innovation-fellows-program/ to review the Program in more detail. Questions concerning this Program's Notice of Funding Availability should be submitted to NIJFinnovationFellows@njeda.gov

Create New Jersey Innovation Fellows Application

Common Application ID	Applicant Organization Name	Applicant Entity Type	Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN)	Application Status	Created On	Full Application Submitted
CAPP-00000000				In Process	00/00/0000 0:00 PM	

Returning to Your Main Application

After you click into your application, you will see a *General* application page.

Select the *Next* button.

This will take you back to the beginning of your main application. **All of the information you previously entered will be saved.** You may change any of this information, if necessary, or simply click through each step until you get to the *Management Team Entrepreneur* page.

Step 1 Of 12

General

Application ID

CAPP-00030026

Applicant Organization Name

—

Created On

06/10/2025 1:23 PM

Application Status

In Process

pdf download

There are no notes to display.

Next

Returning to the *Management Team Entrepreneur* Page

The *Management Team Entrepreneur* page should now show the *Stakeholder Status* for all of your Entrepreneur Team members as *Submitted*. This will now allow you to complete the application.

Management Team Entrepreneurs

Entrepreneurs

Please input details for EACH of your Management Team Entrepreneurs (including the Primary Point of Contact).

Add Entrepreneur

Stakeholder ID ↓	Entrepreneur First Name	Entrepreneur Middle Name	Entrepreneur Last Name	Percent of Ownership	Entrepreneur Phone Number	Entrepreneur Email	Stakeholder Status
STKHLD-00000152	XXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XX%	XXX-XXX-XXXX	XXXXXX@XXXXX.XXX	Submitted <div></div>
STKHLD-00000151	XXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XX%	XXX-XXX-XXXX	XXXXXX@XXXXX.XXX	Submitted <div></div>
STKHLD-00000150	XXXXXXXX		XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XX%	XXX-XXX-XXXX	XXXXXX@XXXXX.XXX	Submitted <div></div>

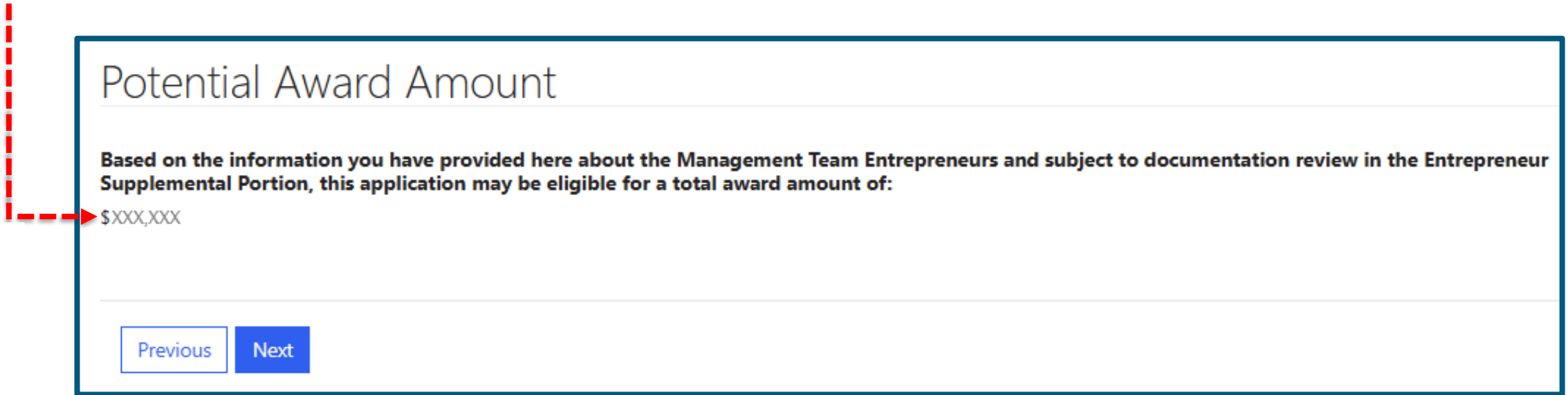
☐ Have you completed an entry for every entrepreneur on the management team? *

Previous

Next

Potential Award Amount

If all of the Entrepreneur Team Members have submitted their supplemental sections, the *Potential Award Amount* will show how much of a grant your team is eligible for.



Potential Award Amount

Based on the information you have provided here about the Management Team Entrepreneurs and subject to documentation review in the Entrepreneur Supplemental Portion, this application may be eligible for a total award amount of:

\$XXX,XXX

Previous Next

Application Fee Payment

The application fee is \$250.00 and must be paid by credit card. Select the credit card payment method.

Payment Method

Select form of payment: *

Credit Card

Select

Credit Card

Previous

Next

Then select the *Go To Payment Page*.

Payment Details

Applicant Organization Name

—

Application Fee Request ID

FREQ-0346393

Fee Amount


\$ 250.00

Previous

Go To Payment Page

Application Fee Payment


Complete the requested credit card information.




Order Section

Amount	250.00 USD
Description	NJEDA CAPP-00030026
Invoice Number	FREQ-0346393

Checkout

 **Secure**
Payment




Order Section

Amount	250.00 USD
Description	NJEDA CAPP-00030026
Invoice Number	FREQ-0346393


Payment

PAYMENT CARD



Card Number *

Expiration Date(MMY) *

CVV2 

Billing Address

Company

First NameLast name

Address1

Address2

CityState/ProvincePostal Code


Country

Email Address

Phone

Submit Payment

[Elavon Privacy Policy](#)

 **Secure**
Payment

Application Fee Payment

After submitting your credit card payment, you will see your payment confirmation code – **however your application is still incomplete.**

Make sure to select the *Next* button to advance the application.

New Jersey Innovation Fellows

Payment Confirmation

Applicant Organization Name

—

Payment Confirmation Code

130625C45-BB016FC3-F36C-46DD-B713-DFAA75E6435B795802

Next

Electronic Signature

Applicants must agree to the terms and digitally sign their application.


Select the *Submit Application* button. Your application will not be considered until you hit *Submit*.

Electronic Signature (Pre-application)

☐ I agree to be bound by electronic signatures *

☐ I am an Authorized Signer for this organization and I accept the above terms and conditions *

Full Name *



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Enter the code from the image

Previous

Submit Application

Submission Confirmation Page

After successful submission, you will see the confirmation page, which will list the Applicant's application confirmation number.

All future application communication will be sent to the email provided in the application.

You may return to the Application Homepage, by clicking "Return to Homepage."

New Jersey Innovation Fellows

Thank you for completing this portion of your New Jersey Innovation Fellows Program application.

Your New Jersey Innovation Fellows Program application ID is: **CAPP-00030026**.

If selected for the Innovation Fellows Program, a notice of selection will be sent to the Primary Point of Contact's email on file. Your team will have 30 calendar days from the date of notice of selection to fully form and register your business with the State of New Jersey.

A web link will accompany the notice of selection with instructions to complete the business forms and upload valid business registration documents.

Any communications on the status of your application will be sent to: **XXXXX@XXXXX.XXX**

For questions regarding your application, please reach out to program administrators at NJInnovationFellows@njeda.gov

To learn about other NJEDA programs, visit njeda.gov

Thank You,
NJEDA

CAPP-00030026

[Return to homepage](#)

Next Steps

After your submission, the NJ Innovation Fellows team will review your application.

Additional information is needed if you are accepted into the program. This will be the fourth and final step of the application, which is called “Resubmission” and additional instructions will be provided at that time.

Additional communications will be sent by email, to the email address you included on the Primary Point of Contact page. Please be sure to check your spam folder and reach out to CustomerCare@njeda.com if you have any questions.



www.njeda.gov/new-jersey-innovation-fellows-program



@NewJerseyEDA

njeda.gov

844.965.1125