

# Route 80 Business Assistance Grant Program

## Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. Where/when can I apply for the Route 80 Business Assistance Grant program?

The application will open and close on the following schedule:

NJ Businesses within a 5-mile radius of Exit 34 Closures

Open: 10:00 a.m. May 29, 2025

Close: 5:00 p.m. June 4, 2025

The application will be located at <https://programs.njeda.com>

### 2. Below is a list of the eligible zip codes within 5 miles of the Route 80 closures

- 07438,07801,07803,07834,07842,07847,07849,07850,07852,
- 07856,07866, 07869, 07876,07885,07950 07873 07874

### 3. Will language assistance be available?

- Applicants can contact [languagehelp@njeda.com](mailto:languagehelp@njeda.com) to receive a call within one business day from a representative who can communicate with them in their primary language.

### 4. The following questions will determine your initial eligibility for the Route 80 Business Assistance Grant Program. Please review them in detail. After reviewing these questions please attest that you can answer "Yes" to all of the threshold eligibility questions.

If you cannot answer "Yes" to the below, please do not proceed with the application because you will be denied.

#### Eligibility Questions:

- Does your Business have a physical commercial business location in New Jersey?
- Did your Business's physical commercial business location suffer negative financial impacts as a result of the Route 80 closures due to sinkholes?
- Was your business in operation on December 1, 2024?
- You are a commercial business operation and not a landlord, real estate holding company, cannabis related, or a home-based business?
- I have reviewed the above questions and attest that my business is eligible because I can answer "Yes" to ALL of the above questions. If during the application/review process, it is determined any of the above questions are a "No" your application will be denied. By answering this acknowledgement, you understand this statement and would like to proceed.

## 5. How is the size of my business's grant award determined?

- The minimum grant amount is \$1,000 with a maximum award of \$15,000, capped at the lesser of applicant's unmet need and Full Time Employee count as determined by their Q4 2024 WR-30.
- 0-5 Full-Time Employees (FTEs): \$5,000 maximum
- 6-20 FTEs: \$10,000 maximum
- 21-50 FTEs: \$15,000 maximum
- [Full Time Equivalent Employee Estimator](#)

## 6. What documentation will be required for the program?

- Applicants will not be asked to upload any documentation during the application process. The NJEDA will be performing sister agency checks to verify all applicant information. Should we need additional documentation, that will be addressed as part of a post submission application review.

## 7. Additional eligibility requirements for the Program.

- To be eligible for Route 80 Business Assistance Grant Program, the applying entity must:
- Have been in existence and operational on December 1, 2024.
- Applicants must have an unmet need (revenue loss) that is greater than \$1,000.
- Have suffered negative financial impacts at their commercial location as a result of the Route 80 Closures due to sinkholes.
- Be registered to do business in the State of New Jersey at the time of application, as evidenced by a valid Business Registration Certificate, if required.
- Entities can verify their registrations here: [https://www1.state.nj.us/TYTR\\_BRC/jsp/BRCLoginJsp.jsp](https://www1.state.nj.us/TYTR_BRC/jsp/BRCLoginJsp.jsp)
- Be in good standing with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD)
- Have no more than 50 Full-Time Equivalent Employees (FTE) in the businesses' most recent WR 30 filing.
- Have a physical location in New Jersey (e.g., an office, a physical point of sales, a warehouse, manufacturing facility, etc.). Home-based businesses are NOT eligible for this Program. Landlords are also NOT eligible for this Program.
- Not be actively excluded or debarred by the State of New Jersey or the Federal Government
- Not on the SAM.gov exclusion list

## 8. What is a Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employee?

- A FTE employee should not be confused with and is separate from the State's guidance on a full-time employee. Whether or not an employee qualifies as an FTE depends on the number of weeks worked and wages earned. For the purposes of this grant program, the NJEDA is determining the number of FTE employees based on the entity's most recent (Q4 2024) WR 30 filing.
- FTE employees do not include 1099 independent contractors
- [Full Time Equivalent Employee Estimator](#)

**9. My business is not required to file a WR-30 (Sole Proprietorship, Partnership, Single-Member LLC, 1099 Contractor, etc.). Is my business eligible?**

- If the entity was in business and operational on December 1, 2024, the same entity is fully and properly registered to do business in the State, and it meets all other eligibility requirements, it would be eligible for up to a \$5,000 award.

**10. A payroll company or Professional Employer Organization (PEO) files my business's WR-30; is my business eligible?**

- Yes - the NJEDA understands businesses use PEOs or similar payroll providers to file their WR-30s on their behalf. In these situations, payroll companies or PEOs must provide to the NJEDA the Employee ID or name, weeks worked and wages documented similar to the format of a WR-30, which they file on behalf of your business.
- Your business may provide this documentation during the verification process.

**11. Are religious entities (churches, temples, synagogues, et al) eligible to apply?**

- Yes, however, such entities will be required to answer specific questions about the different uses of the building (churches, temples, synagogues, et al) that grant funds are being used to pay the rent or mortgage of. Grant funds cannot be used for inherently religious activities.

**12. My business is a not-for-profit organization; is my organization eligible?**

- If your organization is registered with the IRS as a 501(c) non-profit, your organization may be eligible, provided your organization meets all other program eligibility requirements.

**13. My business has multiple locations; can I submit a separate application for each location?**

- There is an application limit of 1 application per Federal Employment Identification Number (FEIN). If your businesses have 5 separate FEINs, then you would be eligible to apply 5 times, but would have to apply separately for each business (with its own FEIN).
- If your business has 1 FEIN and 5 locations, your business is only eligible for 1 grant and can only apply once under the sole FEIN.
- My business has 5 locations. All are reported under 1 FEIN with 60 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) employees; can I allocate my employees among the different locations?
  - o The location of the employees does not affect the eligibility of an application. Therefore, a business cannot allocate employees to different locations to meet the size requirement of the Program.
  - o As stated above, an application is based on a FEIN. In this example the applicant would not be eligible because it exceeds the Program maximum of 50 FTEs.

**14. What defines negative financial impact?**

- Negative financial impact is the loss of revenue compared to Q1 2024. If the entity was not open in Q1 2024 then the estimated revenue loss will be used. The Authority may require additional documentation to support the reported loss during the review process.

**15. My business received Business Interruption Insurance, am I eligible?**

- If your negative financial impact is greater than your insurance proceeds, then you would be eligible.