



**New Jersey Economic Development Authority
Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant**

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“NJEDA” or “Authority”) will begin accepting applications for the competitive Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program (“ATCCG” or “Program”) on **Monday, June 30, 2025 at 10:00am EST**. Applications must be submitted by **Monday, September 29, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. EST**.

The Program will make available up to \$9.7 million in grant funding, as approved by the Board on [April 9, 2025](#), through a competitive application process to support the development of facilities for use as training centers for United States Department of Labor (“USDOL”) Registered Apprenticeship programs (“Projects”) located within New Jersey Overburdened Communities (“OBC”) for new construction and/or substantial rehabilitation of a training center.

No application fees will be charged for this program. The application can be accessed on the Program’s website: [Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program – NJEDA](#).

Potential applicants may register for the upcoming information session on **July 2, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. EST** on the Program’s website.

Purpose and Overview

The Program will support the development of training centers for Registered Apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades to enable greater participation of local residents, with a particular focus on increasing access for residents of Overburdened Communities, in training programs that lead to quality careers. Grants will be provided for new construction, and/or substantial rehabilitation of a training center that will be dedicated to USDOL Registered Apprenticeship programs.

Funding Source

The total funding available for the program is up to \$9.7 million from the Workforce Development Partnership Fund allocated from the current Memorandum of Understanding between NJEDA and New Jersey Department of Labor dated February 23, 2024.

The total funding and award amount are based upon current information about funding availability. NJEDA reserves the right to increase that amount and number of awards should additional funds become available.

Program Details

The ATCCG will provide grants for new construction and/or substantial rehabilitation of facilities in OBCs dedicated to training apprentices in USDOL Registered Apprenticeship programs. The overall goals of the program are to:

1. Eliminate transportation barriers for residents of Overburdened Communities by locating training centers funded by this grant opportunity in said communities.

2. Enable access to low- or no-cost training to participants that fulfill a workforce-related need in the building and construction trades and position trainees to attain high-quality employment.
3. Create positive economic and local benefits to the communities in which the training centers are located.

Eligible Projects

Eligible Projects are new construction, and/or substantial rehabilitation¹, (hereinafter collectively referred to as “construction”) projects located in Overburdened Communities for use as a training center for a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program.

- Projects must be primarily used for USDOL Registered Apprenticeship training activities following construction for *a minimum of five (5) years*.
- Applicants that own the Project site must agree to a deed restriction on the Project site ensuring no change in the proposed project use for five (5) years after Project completion. Applicants that lease the Project site must have a lease term that extends at least five (5) years beyond Project completion.
- All projects will be subject to compliance with New Jersey prevailing wage law and the Public Works Contractor Registration Act (N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq.) which require all contractors, subcontractors, or lower tier subcontractors (including subcontractors listed in the bid proposal) who bid on or engage in the performance of any public work in New Jersey to register with the NJ Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- Evidence of site control or a pathway to site control within 180 days of Board approval is required at time of application. However, in order to execute a grant agreement, the Authority would require evidence of site ownership (a deed) or an executed lease agreement with a term that extends at least five (5) years beyond project completion.
- Development of projects must be completed within two (2) years of grant agreement execution, which may be extended up to two (2) times by one (1) year each, at the sole discretion of the Authority.

Ineligible Projects

- Projects that have started construction are **not** eligible.
- Projects comprised only of floor finish replacement, painting or wallpapering, or the replacement of equipment or furnishings are not eligible.
- Asbestos hazard abatement and lead hazard abatement projects shall not be classified as reconstruction.

Eligible Project Locations

¹ Substantial rehabilitation shall have the same meaning as “reconstruction” in N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.3 which means: any project where the extent and nature of the work is such that the work area cannot be occupied while the work is in progress and where a new certificate of occupancy is required before the work area can be reoccupied. Reconstruction may include repair, renovation, alteration or any combination thereof. Reconstruction shall not include projects comprised only of floor finish replacement, painting or wallpapering, or the replacement of equipment or furnishings. Asbestos hazard abatement and lead hazard abatement projects shall not be classified as reconstruction solely because occupancy of the work area is not permitted.

The project location must be within an **OBC** as defined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”) which include block groups with:

- At least 35 percent low-income households; **or**
- At least 40 percent of the residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; **or**
- At least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency.

Priority will be given to ensuring funding to at least **one** (1) project per state region (North, Central, and South regions which are detailed below).

NOTE: NJDEP provides the public a list and visualizations of OBC locations throughout the state, which can be utilized to confirm the project location. The list can be viewed at: <https://dep.nj.gov/ej/communities/>.

Eligible Uses of Funding

Grant funding may cover up to 70% percent of eligible project development costs (soft and hard construction costs) with the applicant covering the remaining 30%. For Projects located in **Government Restricted Municipalities** (Atlantic City, Camden, East Orange, New Brunswick, Paterson and Trenton as defined in Sections 55 and 69 of the Economic Recovery Act of 2020), grant funds may cover up to 80% percent of eligible project development costs (soft and hard construction costs²) with the applicant covering the remaining 20%.

Applicants must provide a detailed budget using the budget template included within the grant application materials. The budget should demonstrate how the grant will be used to cover eligible costs related to the proposed project.

Funding Restrictions

All soft and hard construction costs (no operating costs) can be included and may include predevelopment projects costs associated to the Project. Property acquisition costs may not be included.

- Eligible soft costs may not exceed 20% of the total project development costs.

² "Soft costs" means costs not directly related to construction, including capitalized interest paid to third parties, real estate taxes, utility connection fees, accounting, title/bond insurance, fixtures/equipment with a useful life of five years or less, affordable housing fees, and all costs associated with financing, design, engineering, legal, or real estate commissions, including, but not limited to, architect fees, permit fees, loan origination and closing costs, construction management, and freight and shipping delivery. The term does not include early lease termination costs, air fare, mileage, tolls, gas, meals, packing material, marketing and advertising, temporary signage, incentive consultant fees, Authority fees, loan interest payments on permanent financing, escrows, reserves, pre-opening costs, commissions and fees to the developer not included in the definition of project cost, project management, or other similar costs. Soft costs shall include costs for benefits and services provided under the community benefits agreement that are not directly related to construction of the project, subject to the limitations at N.J.A.C. 19:31-23A.8(e)8

Hard Costs are directly related to the “construction” of the building, demolition, etc.

- The developer fee **cannot exceed** 8% of total project development costs.
- Contingencies of total project development costs **cannot exceed** 10% of hard project costs and 5% of soft project costs.
- Any costs incurred prior to a grant award **are not eligible**. Construction, including demolition and remediation, cannot start until grant execution.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants (“applicant” or “Sponsor”) must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must be the Sponsor of at least one (1) Registered Apprenticeship Program as defined by the USDOL Office of Apprenticeship. Sponsors must possess the registration of an apprenticeship program meaning the acceptance and recording of such program by the Office of Apprenticeship, or registration and/or approval by a recognized State Apprenticeship Agency, as meeting the basic standards and requirements of the Department for approval of such program for Federal purposes.
 - A Sponsor may include any, person, association, committee, or organization that operates a Registered Apprenticeship program and assumes the full responsibility for administration and operation of the apprenticeship program.
- Applicants must have been in continuous operation as a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship training program for a minimum of ten (10) years **at the time of application**.
- Applicants must have a Certificate of Registration and agree to maintain it for at least five (5) years following completion of the project.
 - If applicants do not maintain their Certificate of Registration and /or do not use the training center for its proposed use for the term of the grant, they may be required to return a proportionate share of their awarded grant. The grant term includes the construction period, and a minimum of five (5) years post project completion dedicated to training implementation.
- Applicants must be in substantial good standing with the NJDOL, NJDEP, and NJEDA **prior to approval**.
- Applicants must provide a current tax clearance certificate **at the time of execution of the grant agreement** to demonstrate the applicant is in good standing with the New Jersey Division of Taxation, unless the applicant is not required to register with the Division of Taxation.
- Applicants will be required to conduct training for the building and construction trade(s) in the facility funded by this grant. Eligible occupations within the building and construction trades registered and approved by USDOL include:
 - Electrician, Electrician – Maintenance, Telecommunications Technician, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Maintenance, Heating and Air Conditioning Mechanic and Installer, Stationary Engineer, Structural Steel Worker, Sheet Metal Worker, Boilermaker, Plumber, Pipe Fitter (Construction), Millwright, Cement

Mason, Bricklayer – Construction, Roofer, Operating Engineer, Elevator Constructor, Carpenter, Carpenter – Mold, Pile Driver, Cabinetmaker, Floor Layer, Floor Cover Layer, Construction Craft Laborer, Pipe Coverer and Insulator, Bricklayer, Painter, Painter – Decorator, Painter – Industrial Coating and Lining Application Specialist, Taper, Glazier, Plasterer, Drywall Finisher, Pavement Striper, and Truck Driver – Heavy.

Application Submission and Review Process

Applications will be accepted through a competitive application process via the program's online application portal, which will be open from **June 30, 2025** at 10 a.m. through **September 29, 2025** at 5:00 p.m.

Applicants must complete all required portions of the application questions fully and upload all required PDF documents and attachments by the deadline to be considered for the Program award.

The application will request information about:

1. Project description and overview
2. Description of the need for this Project in the OBC and benefits of the Project to the respective OBC as a whole
3. Project financial information including development budget, sources and uses, grant amount request, project feasibility, and evidence or status of financing
4. Project development timeline/implementation schedule indicating readiness to proceed, status of funding, permit and other approvals, and ability to complete the project within the program timelines
5. Ability to secure site control within 180 days of award, including documentation of consent to use restriction for five (5) years post-Project completion
6. Applicant's formation and organizational documentation and/or authorizing documentation
7. Applicant's experience and capacity to undertake and complete the proposed project

The Authority will perform a review of applications after the closing of the application period. Applications will first be reviewed for application completeness to ensure that all necessary application information and documents are submitted and complete. Applicants with missing or incomplete documentation, will receive an email notification from NJEDA to cure deficiencies or provide any needed clarifications. Applicants will be given ten (10) business days from the date of the notification to cure any deficiencies and/or clarify any submitted documentation by submitting the requested information electronically to **workforceinnovation@njeda.gov** with the email subject line *"Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant – Missing Documentation Submission for [APPLICANT NAME]"*.

If at the end of the cure period the application is still incomplete, the application will be deemed incomplete and will not be scored.

All complete applications will be evaluated, scored and ranked by an Evaluation Committee comprised of NJEDA staff based on four primary criteria:

1. Project Team (Up to 20 points)
2. Readiness to Proceed and Anticipated Construction Timeline (Up to 25 points)
3. Financial Feasibility (Up to 20 points)
4. Project Concept, Design, and Goals (Up to 35 points)

Further details on the scoring criteria can be found at: [Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program - NJEDA](#) under the heading “Board Memo and Specifications”.

The minimum score of 65 points out of 100 maximum points is required to be considered for an award. All Applicants scoring 65 points or higher will be ranked according to score Steps below:

Step 1: The highest scored eligible application in the pool will be recommended to the Board for approval irrespective of region.

Step 2: The next highest scored eligible application from *either of the two remaining regions* will be recommended to the Board for approval (contingent on the availability of funds).

Step 3: The next highest scored eligible application from the *remaining region* will be recommended to the Board for approval (contingent on the availability of funds).

Priority will be given to ensuring funding of at least **one** (1) project per state region. **Only one award will be granted per EIN** and a minimum of one award per state region (contingent on the availability of funds), as described below:

- **North region:** Essex, Bergen, Hudson, Morris, Passaic Sussex, Union, and Warren counties
- **Central region:** Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, and Somerset counties
- **South region:** Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem counties

All remaining applications will be merged into a single group and scored. The highest scoring applications from the merged group will be recommended to the Board for award approval until all Program funding is awarded.

Once the highest scoring applicants have been fully funded, if the next highest scoring applicant has a budget request that would exceed the total maximum program funding available, NJEDA may request that this applicant decrease their budget and/or project scope. The applicant has the right to decline or accept the budget revision option. Any applicant that accepts the offer to revise its budget will have the revised application evaluated by NJEDA to determine if the revision would lower their proposal’s ranking to an extent that they are no longer the next highest ranked proposal. NJEDA may continue this process until Program funds are fully allocated.

All recommendations for award approvals and declinations based on discretionary reasons will be brought to the NJEDA Board for consideration and approval.

Grant Amounts

The Program provides grants ranging from a minimum award amount of \$500,000 and maximum award amount of \$6.5 million per project.

Grant Agreement

Following Board approval, the Authority will enter into a grant agreement with the applicant (i.e., “awardee”) detailing the project to be funded, eligible project costs, the amount of grant funding, and all financial programmatic requirements including all other sources of project funding. In order to execute the grant agreement, the awardee must provide evidence of site control within six (6) months of Board approval, which may be extended up to one (1) six (6) month extension, at the sole discretion of the Authority.

The grant agreement will detail timelines for the project based on the project schedule included in the application and the project approval. At the Authority’s sole discretion, the Authority may grant timeline extensions for project completion of up to two (2) times by one (1) year each, as deemed necessary to support program objectives. The grant agreement will ensure that the funding shall be subject to compliance with New Jersey prevailing wage law and labor requirements, as well as other State requirements which may be applicable depending on Project details and funding amounts, including possibly New Jersey Executive Order 215 of 1989 regarding the requirement for environmental assessments.

To ensure the grant funds are used properly and the community receives the benefit, the grant agreement will also include a provision that the proposed project use must be maintained for at least five (5) years after the project is completed. If the applicant owns the property, NJEDA will require that the applicant file a 5-year deed restriction on the property utilizing the NJEDA’s required restriction language. The deed restriction will be released by the Authority after five (5) years from final project closeout. If the applicant does not own the project site, their lease must demonstrate site control for five (5) years beyond project completion (including any renewal options). Awardees are also not able to sell all or a part of the Project, or terminate or reduce their lease, for up to five (5) years after project closeout or the Authority may require repayment of all the grant.

Applicant must acknowledge in the application they are aware and agree that the construction project can be completed within **two (2) years** of grant execution or they may be held liable for the recapture of the grant funds they drawdown or have received. The grant term may be extended up to two (2) times by one (1) year each upon at the sole discretion of the Authority approval.

Disbursement of Grant Funds

The Authority will disburse grants only to the applicant. The applicant shall be responsible for assuring the compliance of the project with all terms and conditions of the application and the Program funding requirements.

The Authority will disburse Grants after the execution of the grant agreement based on applicant requested drawdowns as eligible Project expenses are incurred but no more frequently than once a quarter. Funding disbursement requests must be evidenced by documentation supporting that

the expenses were incurred, work has been performed in accordance with prevailing wage and labor standards compliance requirements, and work was done consistent with Grant approval and eligible uses of Program funding. Authority staff will perform random site visits and will hold the final disbursement of 10% of the total award until the Project closeout is completed. Staff may also request any other supporting documentation as needed for drawdowns.

Prior to the last disbursement of 10% of the Grant, the awardee must submit a Project close out request, which will include, but not be limited to, all necessary information to evidence completion of the project and, when applicable, a Temporary Certificate of Occupancy. Once received, Authority staff will perform a site visit to confirm and document the completed Project (including through photographs).

Post-Closing Requirements

- The awardee shall be responsible for assuring the compliance of the project with all terms and conditions of the application, grant agreement, and the Program funding requirements.
- Applicants must agree to maintain their Certificate of Registration for at least five (5) years following completion of the project. If applicants do not maintain their Certificate of Registration and /or do not use the training center for its proposed use for the term of the grant, they may be required to return a proportionate share of their awarded grant.
- The grant term includes the construction period, and a minimum of five (5) years post project completion dedicated to training implementation.
- Applicant must also maintain a current tax clearance certificate **throughout the remaining 5 years following completion of the project** to demonstrate the applicant is in good standing with the New Jersey Division of Taxation, unless the applicant is not required to register with the Division of Taxation.

Fees

No application fees will be charged for this Program.

Additional Information

Questions regarding the Program and Notice of Funding Availability may be submitted via email to workforceinnovation@njeda.gov by **August 29, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. EDT** with the subject line “Questions – Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program”. EDA will post answers on the Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program website on a rolling basis until **September 15, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. EDT**.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to check the Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program website prior to submission of the application. Applicants are also encouraged to register for the upcoming information session on July 2, 2025 at 11 a.m. EDT on the Program website.

Comprehensive information about the Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program is available at [Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program – NJEDA](#).

State and Federal Requirements

Funding for this grant is subject to State and Federal statutes including, but not limited to, the following, which may impact affiliates: N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq., which prevents the New Jersey government entities from certain dealings with businesses engaged in prohibited activities in Belarus or Russia; Compliance with the list of “Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons” promulgated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), <https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov>; N.J.S.A. 24:6I-49 which provides that the following are not eligible for most State or local economic incentives (a) a person or entity issued a license to operate as a cannabis cultivator, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or delivery service, or that employs a certified personal use cannabis handler to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service; and (b) a property owner, developer, or operator of a project to be used, in whole or in part, by or to benefit a cannabis cultivator, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or delivery service, or to employ a certified personal use cannabis handler to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service; and N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12, et seq., which prohibits a member of the Legislature or a State officer or employee or their partners or a corporation in which they owns or controls more than 1% of the stock to undertake or execute any contract, agreement, sale, or purchase of \$25.00 or more, made, entered into, awarded or granted by any State agency, with certain limited exceptions including grant awards by the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology.