



Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to apply for this grant program?

- Applicants must be the Sponsor of at least one (1) Registered Apprenticeship Program as defined by the USDOL Office of Apprenticeship.
- 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 Registration¹ and agree to maintain it for at least five (5) years following completion of the project.
- 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.

For further information and full details on eligibility, please see the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), which can be found here [Public Information - NJEDA](#) and the Board Memo creating the program, which can be found here [Apprenticeship-Training-Ctr-Construction-Grant-FINAL.pdf](#).

¹ Certificate of Registration refers to the document demonstrating acceptance and recording of such program by the US DOL 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.

2. What are the eligible occupations for this Grant Program within the building and construction trades?

- 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 Stripper, and Truck Driver – Heavy.

3. What projects are eligible for this Grant Program?

- Eligible Projects are new construction, and/or substantial rehabilitation² 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.
- Evidence of site control or a pathway to site control within 180 days of Board approval is required at time of application.
- 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.

² 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.

- 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.
- The project location must be within an OBC as defined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”). See FAQ # 6 and #7 below, as well as the NOFA and Board Memo, for more information.

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4. What projects are ineligible for this Grant Program?

- 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.

5. What costs are eligible and ineligible for this Grant Program?

- 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.
- 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.

6. Does the project have to be located in New Jersey to be considered eligible?

Yes, the project location must be within a New Jersey **OBC** as defined by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”). Specifically, OBCs are 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.

7. How do I know if my project is located in an Overburdened Community?

NJDEP provides the public a list and visualizations of OBC locations throughout the state at <https://dep.nj.gov/ei/communities/>. You can also utilize the mapping tool linked [here](#) to determine if your project is located in

If you need help navigating the mapping tool, please utilize the directions on the webpage linked [here](#).

8. How will my application be scored?

The Evaluation Committee will review and score proposals based on four (4) criteria (see Exhibit A of the board memo [linked here](#) for more detail):

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

The maximum score is 100 and a minimum of 65 points is required to be considered for an award. All evaluated applications will be ranked according to score, with recommended awards made according to the highest score, with priority given to funding at least one project per each region as described in the Board Memo and NOFA.

9. How much funding is available through the Grant Program?

A total of \$9.7 million in funding will be available through this Grant Program. The minimum grant award is \$500,000 and the maximum grant award is \$6,500,000, per project.

10. How much of my project may be covered by grant funding?

Grant funds 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 (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 costs) with the applicant covering the remaining 20%.

11. Which municipalities are considered Government Restricted Municipalities?

The Government Restricted Municipalities, also known as GRMs, are. Atlantic City, Camden, East Orange, New Brunswick, Paterson, or Trenton.

12. How will funding be disbursed?

Following the execution of the grant agreement, grant funds will be disbursed incrementally 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.

13. Where do I apply for the Grant Program?

Please click “Apply Here” on the Program’s webpage available here [Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program - NJEDA](#). The application period opens on June 30th at 10:00 am EDT. The deadline for application submission is September 29th at 5:00 pm EDT.

14. How do I submit questions?

Potential applicants can submit questions to workforceinnovation@njeda.gov with the subject line “[Applicant Name] Questions—Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant.” The last day to submit questions will be August 29th at 5 pm. Answers to questions will be posted on a rolling basis through September 15th.