

Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program

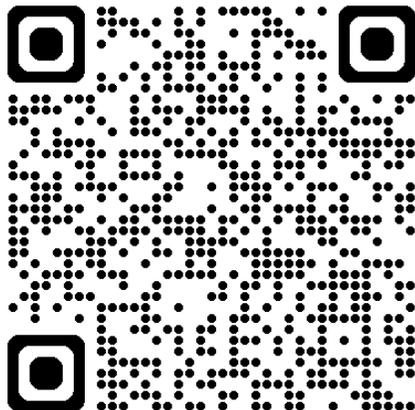
Informational Webinar
July 2, 2025



Website for Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program



: <https://www.njeda.gov/apprenticeship-training-center-construction-grant-program/>



Agenda for Today's Webinar

Topic

About the NJEDA

Overview of the Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program

Key Dates

Question and Answer

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ABOUT THE NJEDA

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) grows the State's economy and increases equitable access to opportunity by supporting high-quality job creation, catalyzing investment, and fostering vibrant, inclusive community development.

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Scope of Work



The Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program is established to provide grants for new construction and/or substantial rehabilitation. The overall goals of the Program will be to:

- Eliminate transportation barriers for residents of Overburdened Communities by locating training centers funded by this grant opportunity in said communities.
- 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.
- Create positive economic and local benefits to the communities in which the training centers are located.

Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant Program

NJEDA approved a new competitive grant opportunity in April 2025

PROGRAM DESIGN



Funding

Total of \$9.7 million in funding with permitted awards ranging from \$500,000 to \$6,500,000



Purpose

To support the development of facilities for use as training centers for United States Department of Labor (USDOL) Registered Apprenticeship programs located within New Jersey Overburdened Communities.



Eligibility

Must be eligible as an applicant, project, and project location (discussed in detail on later slides)



Awards

Expect to make multiple awards

Eligible Applicants

- Applicants will be required to be in and conduct training for the building and construction trades in the facility funded by this grant. Eligible occupations within the building and construction trades registered and approved by USDOL include:
 - 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
 - Truck Driver – Heavy

Eligible Applicants Continued

- Eligible applicants must be the Sponsor of at least one (1) USDOL Registered Apprenticeship Program
 - 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
- Sponsors must possess the registration of an apprenticeship program
- Applicants must agree to maintain their Certificate of Registration for at least five (5) years following completion of the project
 - Applicants may be required to return a proportionate share of their awarded grant if Certificate of Registration is not maintained

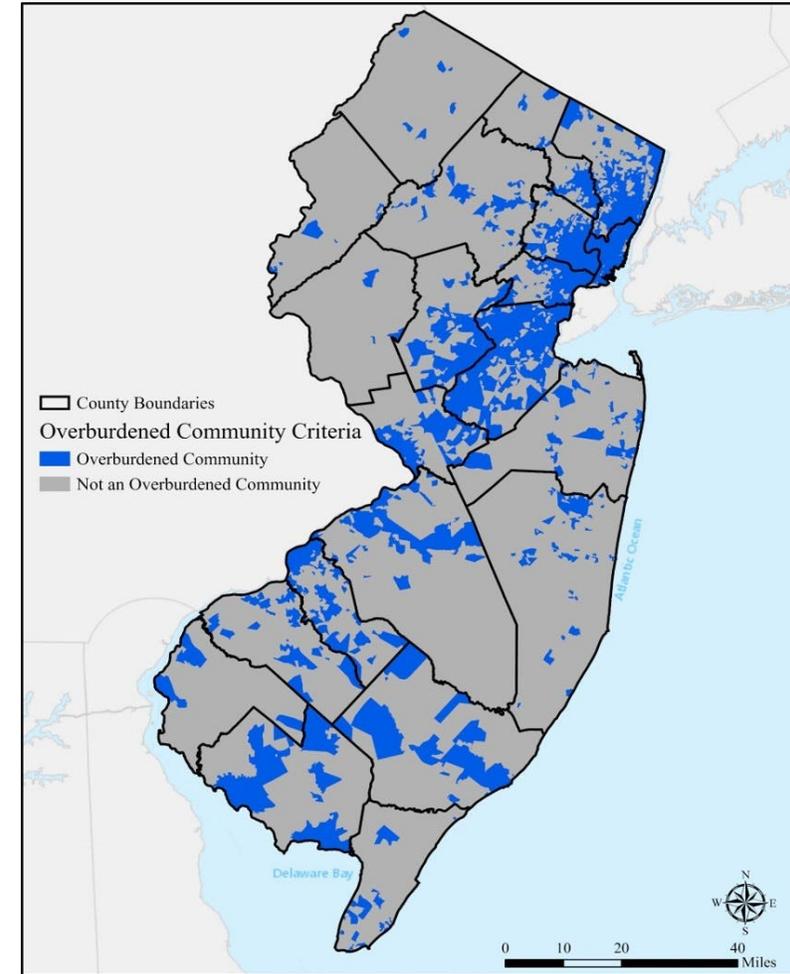
Eligible Projects

- Projects must be primarily used for USDOL Registered Apprenticeship training activities following the completion of construction for a minimum of five (5) years.
- Applicants that own the project site must agree to a deed restriction on the project site and applicants that lease the project site must have a lease term for a minimum of five (5) years post project completion.
- Projects that have started construction are not eligible
- All projects will be subject to compliance with New Jersey prevailing wage law and the Public Works Contractor Registration Act
- 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

Eligible Project Locations

Overburdened Communities (OBCs) by law are census block groups with:

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



Overburdened communities in New Jersey

(NJDEP, 2023; 5 Year American Community Survey - 2017 to 2021)

Application

Application Link can be found on the ATCCG webpage – click “Apply Here”

Applications must be submitted by 5pm on September 29th

Required documents found in the application include:

- Answers to Program Questions, including written responses to narrative questions
- Religious Affiliation (if applicable)
- Program Budget using NJEDA’s template
- Permits and Approvals using NJEDA’s template
- Resumes for each team member using NJEDA’s template
- Legal Questionnaire (required)
- Certificate of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus (required)
- Certification of Application (required)



Evaluation Criteria



Proposals will be scored on four criteria:

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

Highest possible score is **100 points**

Minimum score required to be considered for an award is **65 points**



Evaluation Criteria, Continued



Criterion 1: Project Team (up to 20 points)

- Level of experience and qualifications of the applicant, any co-applicant, and any relevant team members
- Previous project experience and capacity to undertake and complete the Project

Criterion 2: Readiness to Proceed and Anticipated Construction Timeline (up to 25 points)

- Project schedule is realistic, achievable, and indicates readiness to proceed
- Ability to provide evidence of site ownership/executed lease agreement
- Status of requirements needed to proceed with construction
- Viability of the proposed project

Evaluation Criteria, Continued



Criterion 3: Financial Feasibility (up to 20 points)

- Status and evidence of applicant's financing required to complete the development project
- Construction Cost Estimate (CCE)
- CCE was prepared by qualified professionals with experience
- Detailed budget demonstrating how the grant will be used to cover eligible costs related to the proposed project.

Evaluation Criteria, Continued



Criterion 4: Project Concept, Design, and Goals (up to 35 points)

- Description of the overall project, related costs, and the proposed future use
- Description of the proposed training program(s) and operations plan including program management for the first five (5) years of the training centers
- Description of how the applicant will address the need for this project in the community and the benefits of the project to the respective OBC
- Details how the construction project will fulfill a workforce-related need in the building and construction trades and position trainees to attain high-quality employment



Grant Funding

A total of \$9,700,000 will be available through this grant Program. Individual awards can range from a minimum of \$500,000 to a maximum of \$6,500,000

- Grant funding may be used for soft and hard construction costs, including predevelopment project costs
- Grant funding cannot be used for:
 - property acquisition costs/equity and are not considered as part of total project development costs
 - Operating costs for the training itself
- Additional funding requirements are:
 - 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
 - Grant funding cannot exceed 70% (or 80% in Government Restricted Municipalities) of eligible total project development costs (soft and hard construction costs) within the approved application

Grant Funding

- In order to provide grants and support projects by different entities and in various regions of the State, no applicant may receive more than one grant award
- The Authority will seek to make a minimum of one award per State region as described below:
 - **North region:** Bergen, Essex, 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
- Provided that one or more applications are submitted for each region which meet or exceed the minimum score requirement of 65 points, the highest ranked application from each region will be recommended to the Board for award approval within the funding available for the Program

Grant Funding

- Step 1: The highest scored eligible application in the pool will be recommended to the Board for approval (contingent on availability of funds)
- Step 2: The next highest scored eligible application from either of the other remaining regions will be recommended to the Board for approval (contingent on 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 availability of funds)

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.

Awarded Applicants

- At the time of the execution of a grant agreement, a current tax clearance certificate will be required
- 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

Grant Disbursement

- Following the execution of the grant agreement, grant funds will be disbursed incrementally as eligible project expenses are incurred
- Disbursements may be prorated with outside funding sources, if applicable
- Funding disbursement requests must be evidenced by documentation supporting that the expenses were incurred

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Timeline

June 23

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) posted on NJEDA website



July 2

Webinar at 11 AM EDT



September 15

Q&A posted on website



June 30

Application launched at 10 AM EDT



August 29

Final question submissions close at 5 PM EDT



September 29

Application closed at 5 PM EDT



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Questions and Answers



- Written questions can be sent **via email only** to Workforceinnovation@njeda.gov
- **Subject line:** [applicant name] Questions—Apprenticeship Training Centers Construction Grant
- The final due date for questions is **August 29th**, at 5pm
- EDA will post answers on the website **through September 15th**
- Final application due date is **September 29th**, at 5pm

Thank you!



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Workforceinnovation@njeda.gov