Aspire Program



Program Overview

The Aspire Program is a gap financing tool to support commercial, mixed use, and residential real estate development projects.

Award Amounts

- 85% of eligible costs up to \$120 million for projects located in Atlantic City, Trenton, and Paterson (designated "Government Restricted Municipalities, or "GRMs")
- 80% of eligible costs up to \$120 million for projects located in Camden, East Orange, and New Brunswick
- 60% of eligible costs up to \$90 million for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) projects, or projects located in a qualified incentive tract or enhanced area
 - Enhanced areas include: Jersey City, Newark,
 Elizabeth, Passaic, Hoboken, Paulsboro, and
 Salem
- Transformative caps are the same percentages of eligible cost noted above but up to \$400 million
- Tax Credits are disbursed over a ten-year period.
 Certain projects located in GRMs can also elect for a five-year eligibility period
- Baseline tax credits available: Tax credits equal to 50% of project costs up to \$60 million in Aspireeligible areas

Eligibility Requirements

- Demonstrate through New Jersey
 Economic Development Authority
 (NJEDA) analysis that without the incentive award, the redevelopment project is not economically feasible.
- Demonstrate that a project financing gap exists and/or the redevelopment project will generate a below market rate of return.
- Meet specific cost thresholds for residential projects and size thresholds for commercial projects, depending on where the project is located.
- The project must be located in a designated "Incentive Area," Designated Center, or Planning Area 2.
- Project must have a developer who has an equity participation of at least 20% of the total development cost (or 10% for projects in GRMs).
- <u>Demonstrate that a warehouse</u> <u>distribution or fulfillment center has at</u> <u>least \$10 million in environmental</u> remediation costs.
- Commercial projects will result in a net positive benefit to the State.



Scan here to use the

Aspire Program

Mapping Assistant Tool



For more information, scan here or visit njeda.gov/aspire

Successful Applicants

Since 2023, 27 projects have been approved for support under the Aspire Program by the NJEDA's Board. These projects have been commercial, residential, and mixed-use projects and vary in size and scope. The following projects showcase the range of project types and locations that the Aspire Program has financed:

Bayfront Partners 32 Urban Renewal, L.P.

- Location: Jersey City
- Project Type: Residential; New Construction Mixed Income
- Total Development Cost: \$133.3 million
- <u>Award</u>: \$64.2 milion
- Board Approval: January 2025
- <u>Description</u>: Bayfront in Jersey City will include 210 mixed-income residential units (268,960 sq ft) with an additional 10,670 sq ft of commercial/retail within a six-story mid-rise building consisting of studios, one, two and three-bedroom apartment units.

Netflix, Inc.

- Location: Fort Monmouth
- <u>Project Type</u>: Commercial; New Construction/Adaptive Reuse Film Studio
- Total Development Cost: \$1.2 billion
- Award: \$387.1 million
- Board Approval: December 2024
- <u>Description</u>: Netflix will create 12 soundstages, production office buildings, mill space, and production support buildings and amenities for Netflix original content at its new Fort Monmouth location.

West Deptford Apartments, LLC

- Location: West Deptford
- <u>Project Type</u>: Residential; New Construction Fully affordable for Seniors
- Total Development Cost: \$46.6 million
- Award: \$25.3 million
- Board Approval: November 2024
- <u>Description</u>: West Deptford Apartments will include 84 age-restricted, fully affordable units, with 21 units reserved for persons with disabilities.



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