



New Jersey Cannabis Equity Grant Program – *Cannabis Business Development (CBD) Grant* Frequently Asked Questions

1. *When and where can I apply for the Cannabis Business Development (CBD) Grant?*

The application will be located on the [NJEDA Application Center](#). We expect to open the program in the late summer or early fall of 2025.

2. *Who is eligible for this grant?*

Recreational cannabis retailers, cultivators, manufacturers, and testing laboratories license holders in New Jersey that have received their annual license digital card from the NJ Cannabis Regulatory Commission (CRC). All eligible applicants must be able to upload their digital card and provide their license number at the time of application or the application will be declined. This requirement cannot be provided and will not be accepted after the application is submitted. All eligible applicants must be one of the following classes of license holders:

- Class 1 – Cultivator
- Class 2 - Manufacturer
- Class 5 – Retailer
- Testing Lab License (Medicinal-Only Labs are Ineligible)

3. *Are previous recipients of NJEDA funding for Cannabis Equity Grant Programs (Joint Ventures and Seed Equity) eligible for the CBD grant?*

No, if you have received funding from a NJEDA Cannabis program, you are not eligible for this grant.

4. *Am I eligible if I only have a conditional license?*

No. This grant program is only for cannabis businesses that have their annual license digital card (as per the final recommendation issued by NJCRC's Office of Licensing) at the time of application. **There are no exceptions for this requirement.**

5. *Can I open a cannabis business in another state before my grant agreement expiration?*

No, awardees are not permitted to apply for a license or open a cannabis business in another state until their CBD grant agreement expires. Opening a cannabis business in another state will constitute a default of your grant agreement and will result in a recapture of all or a portion of grant funds.

6. *How much funding can I receive from the CBD Grant Program?*

Each grant award is for \$75,000 and will not be adjusted. Funds will be disbursed as a one-time payment following an approval email from NJEDA and the execution of the grant agreement. Applicants are eligible for one grant per EIN. Any applicants holding multiple licenses in the state of

New Jersey may receive only one grant per location.

7. How can I get my NJ Tax Clearance Certificate?

You can get your NJ Tax Clearance Certificate through the State of New Jersey Premier Business Services. If you are not registered with Premier Business Services, visit the Premier Business Services portal https://www16.state.nj.us/NJ_PREMIER_EBIZ/jsp/home.jsp, select New Users Only – Create an Account, and follow the instructions for new account creation.

If you are already registered with Premier Business Services, log in by visiting https://www16.state.nj.us/NJ_PREMIER_EBIZ/jsp/home.jsp, navigate to the Tax & Revenue Center, and select Business Incentive Tax Clearance. If your account is compliant with its tax obligations and no liabilities exist, the Business Incentive Tax Clearance can be printed directly from the portal.

Questions regarding your account may be directed to NJ Treasury at 609-292-9292 or via email at Integrated-Registration.Admin@treas.nj.gov.

8. Can Multi-State Operators (MSOs) apply for the CBD grant?

No. MSOs, defined as cannabis companies with operations or pursuing licenses in multiple states, are not eligible for the CBD grant.

9. Can Alternative Treatment Centers (ATCs) apply for the CBD grant?

No. Alternative Treatment Centers are not eligible for the CBD grant.

10. Will I be required to repay the grant funding?

No. Grants provided under the CBD Grant Program are not loans and are not required to be repaid. However, the grant is subject to recapture in the event of default on your grant agreement.

11. Are there any set-asides for the CBD grant program?

5% of funding will be set-aside for applicants whose businesses are located in a NJ CRC designated Impact Zone. For more information regarding Impact Zones click here: <https://www.nj.gov/cannabis/businesses/priority-applications/impact-zones/>.

12. Is there a deadline to submit the application?

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until the total funding pool is exhausted. **Completed** applications will be processed “first come, first served” in order of submission. **Incomplete applications will not be processed until all documentation is received by NJEDA.**

13. Will language assistance be available?

Applicants can contact languagehelp@njeda.com to receive a call within one business day from a representative who can communicate with them in their primary language.

14. What type of documentation will be required to be uploaded to verify eligible expenses?

Applicants must provide documentation verifying \$75,000 of paid eligible expenses, such as paid invoices with proof of payment. Proof of payment includes: cancelled checks, credit card statements, or bank statements for cash payments. Applicants are required to upload as much detail as possible regarding all requested eligible expenses at time of application. All expenses and associated supporting documentation are subject to NJEDA review and discretion to ensure a minimum of \$75,000 was spent.

15. What expenses are eligible for reimbursement under this program?

Eligible Expenses for the program may include:

- Rental expenses - (including common area maintenance (CAM) charges), as evidenced by a fully executed lease signed by both the landlord and the tenant (the named tenant must be the applicant) that has commenced. Sub-leases are ineligible. Applicant must provide a landlord certification demonstrating they are in good standing and current on their lease payments.
- Payroll Expenses - may be evidenced by a WR30 or equivalent payroll documentation (including 1099 contractors).
- Employee training expenses related to the applicant – cost to train employees or independent contractors for any function of their business operations.
- Professional Services - (must be invoiced and/or addressed to the applicant) including but not limited to; legal services, legal services related to the NJ CRC license and regulatory process, accounting services, human resources services, business planning, transportation services, security, marketing or branding services, website development, lab services and any other outside services that may be needed to operate an eligible cannabis business in NJ or obtain/maintain any license or authorization to operate from the NJCRC.

All documentation is subject to NJEDA approval. **All expenses must be dated within the 36-months prior to their application submission date to be deemed eligible.**

16. What are ineligible expenses?

The ineligible expenses that are not able to be reimbursed are:

1. Business supplies
2. Controlled inventory
3. Construction
4. Equipment and/or installation totaling greater than \$2,000.00
5. Violations, fines or penalties

If applicants provide ineligible expenses their application can't be fully reviewed. NJEDA will send an email to the applicants so they will have a chance to provide additional eligible expenses. This process may delay the approval of your application, please ensure you provide only eligible expenses at time of application.

17. How will NJEDA contact you after you have applied?

NJEDA will reach out to you via the email or phone number you provide in your application. **Please check your spam or junk emails prior to contacting NJEDA. NJEDA is not responsible for emails that are flagged as junk or spam, so please check your email regularly.**

18. If NJEDA has questions about the documentation submitted with my application, will I be contacted for additional information?

Yes. At the sole discretion of the Authority, staff may ask for additional information about your grant application at any time prior to the award. NJEDA recommends all applicants provide the most current contact information in the event NJEDA needs to contact you for additional information.

During this time period, **it is important that you check your spam email as NJEDA emails can often be flagged as spam.** Cure notice emails sent by NJEDA are time sensitive.

19. How will I know if my application was complete or not? If any eligibility documents are missing or incomplete after the application is submitted, will I have the opportunity to correct the documentation?

If any of the eligibility documents are missing after an application is submitted applicants will be given a cure period. NJEDA staff will send an email to applicants requesting the missing. Applicants will have 10 business days from the date the cure email was sent to the applicant. Applicants will not be permitted to provide additional documents to cure the application after the 10-day cure period expires. **There are no exceptions. NJEDA will proceed to the next applicant so providing documents during a cure period does not mean you will be approved.**

21. Do I have to pay a fee to apply for the CBD grant?

CBD grant program applicants must pay a non-refundable \$750 application fee via credit card that is **due at the time of application.**

22. Will NJEDA hold any informational sessions or webinars to learn more about this program and application process?

Yes. NJEDA will provide webinars on the CBD grant application. Please continue to check the CBD grant website for updates.

23. How will I be notified that I have been approved for a grant award?

Applicants will receive an electronic approval letter from NJEDA, along with the next steps in the process. **Applicants should check their emails regularly. NJEDA is not responsible for emails that are received via spam or junk.**

24. If I haven't spent \$75,000 in eligible expenses yet, am I eligible?

No. This is a **reimbursement only** grant. NJEDA will not release any funds until the grantee provides \$75,000 of eligible expenses that were incurred within the 36 months prior to the date you applied, and all applicants must provide acceptable documentation that satisfies NJEDA's requirements.

25. How will grant funds be disbursed for the CBD grant program?

NJEDA will disburse a one-time grant award via check, after the execution of the grant agreement.

26. How can I reach out to NJEDA if I have more questions?

Potential applicants may reach out to cannabis@njeda.gov, call (844) 965-1125, or use the Customer Care chat feature found on the NJEDA website at njeda.gov.