



**New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology (CSIT) Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot, Round 2
Notice of Funding Availability**

The New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology (CSIT) continues to review and accept online applications for the Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot, Round 2, on a rolling basis as long as program funds are available. No fees will be charged for this program. Funding from this program is used to support for-profit entities only. Non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply. This Notice of Funding Availability has an effective date of January 15, 2026.

Comprehensive information about the Catalyst R&D Voucher Program Pilot Round 2 is available at [Active CSIT Grant Programs](#). Questions concerning this Program and Notice of Funding Availability should be submitted csitvoucher@njcsit.gov.

Purpose

This grant opportunity is issued by the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology (CSIT) in collaboration with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), which are seeking applications from qualified applicants for Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot, Round 2, (“Program”) to support early-stage companies in the State. The goal of the Program is to support New Jersey based early-stage company efforts to accelerate development and innovation of technologies to transform new discoveries from the research stage into commercially viable technologies, leading to industry and investor interest in the following target areas:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Advanced Transportation and Logistics
- Film and Digital Media
- Life Sciences – Therapeutic Drug Development
- Life Sciences – Other
- Non-Retail Food and Beverage
- Professional and Financial Services
- Technology

Overview

The available budget for this Program as of December 1, 2025, is \$1,987,500 enough to fund approximately 43 awards. Additionally, \$160,000 was approved by the CSIT Board in January 2025 for projects that are focused on Research and Development in the area of Photonics to support the Advancing Photonics Technology NSF Regional Engine.

The Program will be implemented by CSIT and technical support will be provided at core facilities such as participating universities/colleges, federal labs, NJEDA approved strategic innovation centers and non-profit organizations.

The objectives of the Program are to:

- i. improve awareness, access to and utilization of New Jersey's world-leading equipment, facilities, and makerspaces; and
- ii. subsidize access to research and development equipment, facilities and makerspaces for small New Jersey based companies that are developing innovative technologies.

Program Details

The Program will subsidize technological research and development at New Jersey participating core facilities by allowing voucher awardees to access to equipment and facilities. A map listing participating facilities is available on the CSIT webpage using the following link [Voucher Core Facilities](#). Each approved voucher will be valid for a period of twelve months (starting from date of the execution of the agreement). Any unused approved voucher amounts will not be reimbursed after the twelve-month period. At CSIT's sole discretion, an extension may be granted for one three-month period if requested in writing prior to the expiration of the executed grant agreement. Provided that funding is available, all complete applications that meet the eligibility criteria and are in compliance with the required documentation are eligible for funding. The total funding and potential award amount are based upon current information about funding availability. CSIT reserves the right to increase that award amount and number of awards should additional funds become available.

Project work may not commence until the grant agreement has been fully executed by CSIT and the Grantee has received a copy of such agreement.

Eligibility

To be eligible for the Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot, Round 2, the applicant company must:

- Be authorized and in good standing company to conduct business in NJ. Non-profit entities are not eligible
- Have a current NJ Tax Clearance Certificate listing CSIT. All certificates listing another state agency will be rejected.
- Have no more than fifty (50) full-time equivalent (“FTE”) workers (FTE calculated on a 35-hour work week) at time of application.
- Have a minimum of one (1) full-time worker (calculated on a 35-hour work week). A worker may be a founder, consultant or contractor and may be paid or unpaid.
- Have 50% or more of the cumulative hours worked by all workers, founders, and contractors be conducted in NJ (calculated on an FTE of 35 hours per week).
- Have less than or equal to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in prior calendar year sales revenue (excluding grant revenue). Company must submit tax filings or other documentation showing prior-year Gross Receipts or Sales.

Successful Grantees must commit for two years following the execution of the Grant Agreement to the following:

- At least 50% of the total of all employees, contractors and consultants must conduct all

- their work from a New Jersey location; and
- All Voucher recipients must annually report economic impact data to CSIT

The applicant company must obtain a signed letter of support, budget, and scope of work from a core facility to show that it is capable of and willing to provide the services that will be supported by the voucher.

The applicant company must be developing or testing technologies in the following target areas:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Advanced Transportation and Logistics
- Film and Digital Media
- Life Sciences
- Non-Retail Food and Beverage
- Professional and Financial Services
- Technology.

To participate, a core facility must:

- be in a two or four-year college or university (public, state, or non-profit) located in New Jersey, a federal or non-profit organization located in New Jersey or NJEDA approved Strategic Innovation Center;
- allow outside businesses to utilize research and development facilities on a fee-for-service basis; and
- provide a contact person to facilitate requests and participate in Catalyst R&D Voucher Committee meetings.

Eligible Uses of Voucher

Eligible applicants can receive vouchers to defray the costs associated with the following services or use of necessary supplies and activities at participating core facilities:

- Access to core facility labs, equipment, makerspaces and technology centers;
- Use of core facility equipment and technicians for testing and development;
- Training in preparation for independent use of the facility equipment or makerspaces;
- Access to datasets available at participating CSIT core facilities; and
- Supplies and consumables needed in the operation of equipment at the core facility

The vouchers are to be used toward the approved Project. Requests for payment that are unrelated to the Project will be rejected. The following uses are **ineligible** for reimbursement under the Program:

- Manufacturing of products for sale or commercial use;
- Real estate rental expenses; and
- Patient clinical trial expenses.

Grant Amounts

Eligible applicants can receive vouchers of up to \$40,000. Applicants can apply for multiple CSIT

vouchers up to a cap of \$40,000 in the aggregate over any 12-month period. Applications that would exceed that cap will not be reviewed.

Application Submission and Review Process

Applications will continue to be reviewed and accepted on a rolling basis as long as Program funds are available. The Program operates under a 2-step application process. Applicants will be notified whether they are awarded funds as soon as practicable upon completion of approvals and declinations and the completion of all possible appeals.

Step 1: Initial (draft applications) are accepted on a rolling basis and completed using the CSIT on-line application portal. All companies must begin their application by completing the intake portion of the application. This includes questions concerning the applicant; the proposed scope of work; the types of equipment and core facility or facilities need to access in order to complete the project; and if known, the specific location such core facility/facilities; and program eligibility information. In order to be considered for an award, the draft application must fully and clearly describe:

1. The research and development to be performed.
2. The equipment that will be needed to complete the project.

If the initial requested core facility cannot perform the work, CSIT will share the draft applications with representatives from other core facilities. Potential matches, if identified, will be forwarded to the applicant, however, it is the sole responsibility of the applicant to secure the written support of a core facility.

If a core facility is not secured within six (6) months of the draft application submission date, the draft application will be rejected as incomplete.

To complete Step 1, applicants must confirm a commitment from a core facility partner to access equipment and conduct the proposed project. The applicant must then develop and finalize, along with the core facility to submit:

1. Core facility Letter of Support on facility letterhead
2. Agreed upon Statement of Work between applicant and core facility
3. Agreed upon budget between applicant and core facility

Applicants that complete Step 1 will receive a submission code and proceed to Step 2.

Step 2: Full application submission will continue once a match has been made with a participating core facility and CSIT receives the Letter of Support, Statement of Work, and Budget from the applicant and core facility.

In addition to the documents above, applications submitted to the Program **must** include the following:

1. Completed online application via CSIT Portal including the following documents along with the below information included in the application,
 - a. Signed Application Certification;
 - b. Completed CSIT Legal Debarment Questionnaire; and
 - c. Employee Log - listing all current company employees, work address, and number of hours

worked per week and employee verification documentation type.

2. Summary of the most recent internal applicant company payroll (detailing information on each employee of the company, number of hours worked per week and primary work location).
3. Current employee verification information as appropriate for the applicant company's structure and staffing (i.e., most recent Federal 941, NJ WR-30 (W2 employees) or 1099 (contractors), Shareholder Agreement or K-1).
4. Company tax filing: Federal 941 and either an NJ-CBT-100 (Schedule A), Form- 1065 or Form -1040 (Schedule C), or whichever is applicable to the organizational form of your business, showing the total Gross Receipts or Sales for the entire prior year.
5. Current New Jersey tax clearance certificate listing only New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology. Instructions on how to obtain a tax clearance can be found here [New Jersey Department of Taxation](#). Only certificates listing CSIT as the Agency will be accepted. All certificates that do not specifically list CSIT will be rejected.

All submitted applications will be reviewed by CSIT for document completeness and eligibility. Applicants with missing documentation may receive a resubmission letter from CSIT to provide any missing or incomplete documentation within ten (10) business days. For NJ Tax Clearance Certificates only, applicants will have thirty (30) business days to submit.

Successful applicants must execute a voucher agreement with CSIT detailing the terms and conditions of the voucher, and use of the voucher at the respective core facility. At CSIT's sole discretion, a voucher project may be extended for one three-month period if requested by the voucher recipient in writing 30 days prior to the expiration of the voucher agreement.

CSIT's Executive Director has the delegated authority to permit changes to the scope of work and budget of an executed voucher agreement, granted that the overall voucher funding does not increase, there are no material changes to the scope of work and applicants remain compliant with the program eligibility requirements

PLEASE NOTE: The online application will enable applicants to provide an electronic "Application Certification" by uploading a signed PDF. However, if an applicant prefers not to provide an electronic Application Certification, the applicant may:

- i. Mail a hard copy of the signed Application Certification to CSIT at:

Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology
Attn: Judith Sheft (Executive Director)
36 W State Street
PO Box 990
Trenton, NJ 08625

AND

- ii. Email CSIT (csitvoucher@njcsit.gov) with the subject line: "MAILED Application Certification Catalyst Research and Development (R&D) Voucher Program Pilot, Round 2" indicating that the certification document has been mailed. Only the signed CSIT Application Certification may be mailed. The rest of the application must be submitted through the online system.

If an applicant chooses to mail a hard copy of the Application Certification, the application will only be considered complete once the original signed CSIT Application Certification is received by CSIT.

Project Completion and Distribution of Grant Funding

Grantees will have up to 12 months to complete their voucher projects and to submit a detailed, written invoice from the participating core facility. The invoice must align with the budget that was submitted with the application and include details such as: equipment used, dates and hours used, technician hours, etc.

The Grantee is then required to submit the following documents for CSIT review:

1. CSIT Annual Report (submitted via link to MS Forms portal)
2. Invoice Details Report (submitted through NJEDA Portal)
3. Current Tax Clearance Certificate (submitted through NJEDA Portal)
4. Current Employee Log (submitted through NJEDA Portal)
5. Current Employee Documentation (submitted through NJEDA Portal)

Once all the required reports have been accepted, the Grantee must submit a requisition form. The core facility must be reimbursed within 2 weeks of receiving the check. The Grantee is directly responsible to the participating core facility for any unpaid funds, including but not limited to costs that exceed the amount of the approved voucher.

Compliance and Reporting

For two (2) years from the date of the execution of the grant agreement, 50% of all work conducted by Grantee's employees, contractors and consultants must be conducted in a New Jersey location. This will be confirmed by having the Grantee submit an employee log and employee verification documentation annually during the two-year period.

All Grantees must report economic impact data to CSIT for a period of two years from the execution of the Grant Agreement by submitting a CSIT Annual report using an MS Forms link. All other required compliance documents are to be submitted using the NJEDA portal.

Grantees may be asked to participate in future CSIT/NJEDA alumni activities, such as serving as a panel member or participating in interviews about their Program experience.

Fees

No fees will be collected by CSIT for this Program.

Additional Requirements and Information

As part of the review process, CSIT conducts sister agency checks with the New Jersey Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on all completed applications. To be recommended for an award, applicants must be in good standing with both DOL and DEP

Confidentiality

Applications received will be reviewed only by staff of CSIT, NJEDA and participating

universities/colleges, federal labs and non-profit organizations. However, all applications submitted will be subject to requests for disclosure, including but not limited to, requests pursuant to the Open Public Records Act ("OPRA") N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1 et seq. If the applicant believes that information contained in its proposal merits confidential treatment pursuant to OPRA, any such purportedly confidential information submitted to the Authority must be specifically identified and marked as "confidential" by the applicant.

Additional Information

Comprehensive information about the Catalyst R&D Voucher Program Pilot Round 2 is available at [CSIT Active Grant Programs](#) .

Questions concerning this Program and Notice of Funding Availability should be submitted to csitvoucher@njcsit.gov

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.