

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Authority

FROM: Tim Sullivan
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: December 15, 2025

RE: New Jersey Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge Phase 2

Summary

The Members are requested to approve:

- (1) The creation of the New Jersey Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge Phase 2 (“Grant Challenge”), a competitively scored program that will award grants to selected applicants to implement workforce training and skills programs focused on strengthening and diversifying New Jersey’s green economy talent pipeline.
- (2) The utilization of up to \$4 million provided through the Addendum One to the Council on the Green Economy Memorandum of Understanding (“Addendum One”) between New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“NJEDA” or “Authority”) and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“NJDEP”) was approved by the NJEDA Board on October 9, 2025, to fund the Grant Challenge.
- (3) Delegated Authority to the Chief Executive Officer to grant a timeline extension of up to six (6) months, as necessary to support program objectives.

Background

Governor Murphy’s economic development plan, “The State of Innovation: Building a Stronger and Fairer New Jersey Economy”, identifies investment in our talent through apprenticeships, career readiness, and workforce development as one of the administration’s key priorities. The plan asserts a commitment to investing in people to empower New Jersey students and workers to take advantage of high-growth, high-wage jobs. In February 2021, Governor Murphy announced the creation of a Council on the Green Economy that convenes cross-sector leaders in New Jersey’s growing green economy to harness the opportunity created by the state’s robust climate and clean energy policy accomplishments.

The Council is overseen by the Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy (OCAGE), and is comprised of members from State entities, the business community, organized labor, utilities, environmental justice communities and organizations, and workforce development groups. The Council released a “Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future” report in September 2022 which defines the pathways for green job creation, development of workforce capacity, and support for an innovation ecosystem that will be critical to building a nation-leading green economy. The report defines the green economy as comprising the following five sectors: environmental infrastructure, grid infrastructure and storage, renewable generation and fuels, energy efficiency, and alternative vehicles,

which were chosen due to their alignment with New Jersey’s green policy landscape, both currently and into the future. In September 2025, OCAGE released the “Growing Green Jobs: The Opportunities for New Jersey’s Workforce” report, which identifies twelve (12) priority occupations needed to meet New Jersey’s green economy goals ranging from Electricians to Solar Photovoltaic Installers.

In March of 2024, the NJEDA Board approved the first MOU with NJEDA and NJDEP, which enabled the NJDEP to provide \$5 million in funding to NJEDA to support the continued efforts of the Governor’s Council on the Green Economy. NJEDA utilized these funds to conduct research studies and to create the New Jersey Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge to prepare New Jersey residents for jobs in the green economy, for which the Authority approved four applicants for awards totaling \$4,349,987. In September 2025, the NJEDA Board approved Addendum One to continue these efforts. The Grant Challenge, as set forth herein, builds on the initial 2024 Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge.

Program Overview

Upon approval, the Grant Challenge will be up to a \$4 million competitively scored funding opportunity for applicant entities that demonstrate their ability to implement workforce training programs that will position NJ residents for green economy careers, with a particular focus on advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion and serving New Jersey’s Overburdened Communities. The grant program will prioritize support of training programs that connect participants with near-term job opportunities.

All applications must include at least one Community-Based Organization serving a NJ Overburdened Community either as the primary applicant or a collaborator to the primary applicant serving a defined role in the proposed program. Applicants must propose training programs for one of 12 priority occupations identified in the September 2025 [*Growing Green Jobs Report: The Opportunities for New Jersey’s Workforce*](#) (please see Exhibit A: Grant Challenge Specification for more detail) and provide a career pathway that prepares and connects participants to at least one of the following industries:

- Renewable Energy Technologies,
- Green Design and Construction,
- Environmental and Green Infrastructure,
- Grid Resilience,
- Clean Transportation, or
- Energy Efficiency

The Grant Challenge program will be administered pursuant to, and applications will be evaluated and scored in accordance with, the Grant Challenge Specifications attached hereto as “Exhibit A: New Jersey Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge Program Specifications”.

Program Funding

Upon approval by the Authority Board, the Grant Challenge will be funded by the Authority pursuant to Addendum One. Administrative costs are covered as part of Addendum One, and as such, staff requests the Board approve an application fee waiver for this Grant Challenge.

\$4 million is available for awards under this Grant Challenge. Minimum and maximum award amounts for individual awards are set at \$500,000 and \$800,000, respectively. NJEDA is anticipating applications from a broad range of applicants and expects to make multiple awards to applicants of the Grant Challenge.

Upon Board approval of the Grant Challenge award recipients, NJEDA will deposit the funds into NJEDA's Economic Recovery Fund and utilize the grant-making powers as defined in the New Jersey Economic Recovery Fund Act per N.J.S.A. 34:1B-7.13 a(12) to disburse funds to each awardee pursuant to the disbursement schedule included in Exhibit A. The statutory provision permits grant funding for initiative-based activities which stimulate growth in targeted industries as defined by NJEDA's Board or supports increasing diversity and inclusion within the State's entrepreneurial economy.

Delegated Authority

NJEDA staff requests delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to approve timeline extensions for Grantees to complete projects for up to six (6) months, as necessary to support program objectives.

Recommendation

The Members are requested to approve:

- (1) The creation of the New Jersey Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge Phase 2 ("Grant Challenge"), a competitively scored program that will award grants to selected applicants to implement workforce training and skills programs focused on strengthening and diversifying New Jersey's green economy talent pipeline.
- (2) The utilization of up to \$4 million provided through the Addendum One to the Council on the Green Economy Memorandum of Understanding ("Addendum One") between New Jersey Economic Development Authority ("NJEDA" or "Authority") and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP") was approved by the NJEDA Board on October 9, 2025, to fund the Grant Challenge.
- (3) Delegated Authority to the Chief Executive Officer to grant a timeline extension of up to six (6) months, as necessary to support program objectives.



Tim Sullivan, CEO

Prepared by: Cathy Yuhas

Attachments

Exhibit A - New Jersey Green Workforce Training Grant Challenge Phase 2 Specifications