

**New Jersey Economic Development Authority
COVID-19 Outbreak
Government Restricted Municipality Planning Grants Phase I
Notice of Funding Availability**

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (“NJEDA” or “Authority”) will begin accepting applications for the Government Restricted Municipalities-Phase I grant beginning Wednesday July 14, 2021, at 9:00 AM. Applications will be accepted no later than Monday, September 13, 2021, at 5:00 PM. Applicants should read the application instructions posted to the Authority’s webpage at <https://www.njeda.com> for more information.

Overview

This funding opportunity is issued by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) as part of Governor Murphy’s campaign to build a stronger and fairer New Jersey and to facilitate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic with substantive investments in New Jersey’s people, communities, Main Streets, and businesses. The Government Restricted Municipality Planning Grants Program-Phase I will provide grants to qualified applicants to create long-term strategic action plans to assist New Jersey’s Government Restricted Municipalities (GRM), identified by statute as Atlantic City, Paterson and Trenton, to maximize their growth potential and implement new or stalled community-focused economic growth projects

Purpose

In Phase I of the Government Restricted Municipality Planning Grants Program, applicants will be tasked with the design and submission of a detailed, long-term, and action-oriented strategic plan that incorporates existing plans of the GRM and stakeholders and identifies technical capacity needs that have held these projects back from completion. The strategic action plans developed through this grant program will better position GRMs to implement and execute on these stalled projects.

Eligible Uses

The Government Restricted Municipality Planning Grants Program’s sole use is funding for the design and submission of an action-oriented strategic plan that uses existing plans of the GRM and stakeholders in multiple disciplines to identify both projects in existing planning documents and the technical capacity needs that have held those projects back from completion. The plan(s) need be focused on economic revitalization and development of long-term strategic action plans comprising an in-depth analysis of community planning activities that will lead to actionable project plans focused on community goals for economic development. The use of grant funds must be focused on long-term economic development planning efforts in the government restricted municipalities identified in the Economic Recovery Act with the ultimate goal of actualizing community-focused economic growth projects.

Applicants must apply to work with one of the designated government restricted municipalities, defined by statute as Atlantic City, Paterson and Trenton.

Grant Amounts

Three (3) grants of \$250,000 will be made totaling \$750,000. Each GRM will be the focus of at least one grant.

Funding Disbursement

Disbursements to grantees will be made pursuant to the following disbursement schedule: 50 percent of the grant amount (\$125,000) upon execution of the grant agreement; 25 percent of the grant amount (\$62,500) on or around the halfway point of the grant term (3 months), upon EDA's receipt and approval of a progress report; and 25 percent of the grant amount (\$62,500) upon completion and submission of the final plan.

Eligible Applicants

Qualified applicants are defined as New Jersey municipalities, New Jersey counties, New Jersey authorities, accredited higher education institutions, public interest research groups and/or professional services providers who have completed at least one municipal, county or New Jersey state government plan focused on economic revitalization. Vested interest in close co-operation must be shown by a letter of support from the chief executive of the eligible government restricted municipality.

Each applicant must provide a letter of support from the Chief Executive of the GRM which will be the subject of the applicant's proposed plan. A GRM municipality may propose to author a plan. This will not preclude the Chief Executive of the GRM from issuing additional letters of support to other applicants.

Applicants will be required to submit additional documentation pending the award of the grant. This will include Tax Clearance Certificates and Business Registration Certificates for non-governmental entities. All entities will be required pass additional compliance reviews with related New Jersey state government agencies. Examples include reviews by Department of Labor and Department of Environmental Protection.

Application Process

Applications will be accepted up and until sixty days after the opening of applications. Applications will then be reviewed for completeness and scored by an evaluation committee based on the criteria set forth in below. Proposals with scores equal to or greater than 50 will be presented to the Board for review and award. The Committee will make award recommendations to the Board of the highest ranked application for each GRM

Fees

Due to financial hardship, no fees will be collected by the Authority for this program.

Additional Information

Additional information on the Government Restricted Municipality Planning Grants Phase I may be found on the NJEDA website at <https://www.njeda.com/grmpgp/>

Questions & Answers

The Authority will electronically accept written questions and inquiries from all potential Applicant(s) via the web at NJEDAGRM@njeda.com. Phone calls/faxes shall not be accepted.

The subject line of the e-mail should state:

“Questions – GRM Phase 1”

All Questions received, and Answers given in response to this Application will be answered in the form of a Frequently Asked Questions document to be posted and continually updated on the Authority’s website, <https://www.njeda.com/grmpgp/> up until the total program allotment has been exhausted, or 90 days after publication of notice and release of application (whichever is sooner). The Authority will also post any addenda on the same website. It is the responsibility of any potential applicant to review the website on a frequent basis to become aware of any answers and addenda.