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The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), in partnership with and on behalf of the New Jersey Governor's Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy (OCAGE), issues this Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA) seeking proposals for innovative pilot programs to support and build a diverse, inclusive green workforce (Eligible Projects) for all New Jerseyans.

This NOFA makes a total of \$5 million available to fund one or more Eligible Projects to be completed in no more than twenty-four (24) months.

Respondents are invited to submit proposals in response to this solicitation. The OCAGE/NJDEP may select proposals from one or multiple respondents and reserves the right to select no proposals from this solicitation.

### [How to Apply](#)

All application requirements must be completed and submitted consistent with the Application Submission requirements below. Prospective applicants must also register with [NJSTART](#) to be eligible to receive an award.

### [Questions about Application](#)

Any questions about the application process should be submitted in writing via email to [green.economy@dep.nj.dep](mailto:green.economy@dep.nj.dep) by **5:00 P.M. EST on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>** to be eligible to receive a response. Staff are not able to answer any questions about the grant application process over the phone or email.

Applicants seeking assistance are advised to submit questions well in advance of the deadline.

Prior to submitting questions, applicants should read the application requirements thoroughly.

Responses will be posted to [OCAGE](#) and [NJDEP](#) websites.

## Proposal Submission

Proposals shall be submitted electronically to OCAGE/NJDEP at [green.economy@dep.nj.dep](mailto:green.economy@dep.nj.dep) by **5:00 P.M. EST on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>** to be eligible for funding.

A notification of receipt will be provided to the applicant by email. An applicant that submits an incomplete proposal shall be deemed ineligible.

## Award and Funding

The announcement and notification of all grant recipients is expected to occur by **4 weeks after the proposal submission deadline.**

Prior to final approval and the award of funding, all participating entities must provide a final statement of work and budget agreed to by the applicant and OCAGE/NJDEP and shall be subject to NJDEP's [standard terms and conditions](#) for all grant funding opportunities.

## Background

In February 2021, Governor Phil Murphy announced the creation of a Council on the Green Economy, convening cross-sector leaders in New Jersey's growing green economy, to harness the opportunity created by our state's robust climate and clean energy policy accomplishments. The Council was tasked with informing the effort to define the pathways for green job creation, development of workforce capacity, and support for an innovation ecosystem that will be critical a nation-leading green economy, which are detailed through [Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future](#). The release of the [Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future](#) report is accompanied by a [One Year Plan](#), which includes specific commitments by State Agencies to advance key elements of the report, by planning, initiating and implementing and expanding programs, pilot projects and funding opportunities that will increase access to green jobs and address gaps in the development of our green workforce statewide.

Responses to this NOFA should utilize innovative strategies to address one or more recommendations in the [Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future](#).

#### Available Funding & Period of Performance

Available pilot funding (\$5 million) will support one or more Eligible Projects to be completed in no more than twenty-four (24) months.

#### Pilot Goals and Eligible Projects

OCAGE/NJDEP seek proposals of Eligible Projects that are **scalable** and include **direct services and supports** to residents in or seeking to enter the green workforce as defined within the [Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future](#) report, and prioritize partnerships with community-based organizations, green economy employers, jobs skills training providers, and/or labor organizations, with particular focus on **engagement within [overburdened communities](#)**. Applicants can align the geographic area of focus of Eligible Projects with the overburdened communities identified in New Jersey DEP's Environmental Justice mapping tool, [EJMAP](#). [EJMAP](#) is an interactive mapping tool allowing users to view overburdened communities geographically.

Eligible Projects may include, but shall not be limited to:

- Innovative partnerships that provide solutions to the barriers for entry into the green workforce, including partnerships involving organized labor, secondary and higher education institutions, community-based and faith-based organizations, childcare providers, transportation service providers, skills-based trainers and others;
- Strategies to connect the current energy workforce with opportunities in the green economy, including education and skills-based training targeted to transitioning legacy energy workers;

- Skills-based job training, pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships that enhance opportunities in the green workforce, including partnerships that increase the diversity in the pipeline for labor union apprenticeships and/or build skills for residents of overburdened communities to enter into the green jobs workforce and move up the green career ladder;
- Effective, focused recruitment to increase participation in the green workforce, specifically for residents of overburdened communities and those transitioning from the current energy workforce, including partnerships with high schools, vocational technical schools, colleges and universities;
- Direct services to address barriers to entry into the green workforce, including transportation, childcare, and other wraparound and social services that support workers in areas of life that may affect their ability to access training or job opportunities;
- Direct connections to organizations active in the green workforce such as community-based organizations, green economy employers and labor organizations;
- Other similar innovative projects determined by OCAGE/NJDEP to be consistent with the recommendations of the [Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future](#) report and pilot goals as set forth herein.

Proposals shall include defined metrics by which an applicant will measure the progress and success of the proposed project.

### [Applicant Eligibility Requirements](#)

Applicants eligible to apply for funding under this NOFA shall include:

- A local government unit, including boards, commissions, redevelopment authorities, municipalities and counties;
- A nonprofit organization recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code incorporated and in good standing in the State of New Jersey;
- A college or university;
- Private entities skills-based training in the green economy, including labor unions<sup>1</sup>;
- Private entities that provide supportive and wrap-around services; and
- Private sector employers in the green economy.

#### Proposal Requirements & Evaluation Criteria

In accordance with the provisions of this NOFA, proposals shall address all requirements of this solicitation including, but not limited to, the evaluation criteria, as set forth below:

##### Background/Experience – 2.0 points

1. Describe the experience of your organization in training, supporting, and facilitating access to well-paid career paths for New Jersey residents as it relates to the goals of this NOFA.

##### Project Design – 4.0 points

1. Describe your proposed project and how it qualifies as an Eligible Project under this NOFA.
2. Describe the specific gaps or needs in New Jersey and how the proposed project will support the goals of this NOFA.

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<sup>1</sup> The green economy as defined in the [Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future](#) report.

3. Describe how your proposed project utilizes innovative strategies in the [Green Jobs for a Sustainable Future](#) report.
4. Specific relevant aspects of the proposed project such as:
  - a. Population served (specific geographic area and population of focus).
  - b. Strategies to reach and recruit participants.
  - c. Services delivered.
  - d. Staffing plan
    - i. Describe the project-specific roles and relevant experience of the key staff on this project.
  - e. Partnerships – describe formal and informal partners in your proposed project. Detail the roles of each. **Applications must contain at least one strategic partner in addition to the lead applicant.**
  - f. Timeline – describe the sequencing and timing of the phases of your project (planning, implementation, and evaluation), delineate critical milestones, and detail your overall proposed project period (12-24 months).

#### Evaluation Plan – 2.0 points

1. Describe the specific metrics for success, methods of data collection, and plan for analysis of the proposed project.

#### Budget – 2.0 points

1. Provide a breakdown of your proposed costs for the pilot, identifying staff costs for each phase of the project (for example: outreach, training, etc.).

Proposals shall be evaluated based on their compliance with and responsiveness to the requirements set forth herein including, but not limited to, the eligibility and application requirements.

The evaluation shall also consider and may make awards under this solicitation to ensure that the program reaches a broad and diverse range of communities and populations across the State.

Responses should be no more than 10 pages in length, 12-point font, double-spaced.

Proposals will be evaluated based on the scoring metric set forth above.