



**New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR)**  
**New Jersey Department of Health**  
**Request for Applications (RFA) 2027**

**Fellowship Training Programs**

**Important Dates**

RFA Release	January 26, 2026
Mandatory Email of Intent * 4:00 PM	February 16, 2026
Application Due in SAGE * 4:00 PM	May 15, 2026
Notice of Grant Award	June 30, 2026
Project Start Date	July 1, 2026

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## Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	1
OVERVIEW OF CURRENT FUNDING .....	1
APPLICATIONS AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS .....	3
FUNDING RESTRICTIONS .....	3
COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.....	4
ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUPPORT .....	4
INDEMNIFICATION .....	4
Appendix 1. Qualifying Research Institutions .....	5
Appendix 2. Guide to SAGE Grant Applications.....	6
Appendix 3: Grant Application Instruction for Fellowship Training program .....	7

## INTRODUCTION

The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR), also known as the Cancer Research Act was created by Public Law in 1983, (Ch.6, 52:9U et al.). The law stipulates that the NJCCR receives no less than \$1 million annually for research into the causes, prevention, and treatment of cancer. In recent years, the NJCCR state appropriation increased to \$4 million annually.

## HISTORY

For 40 years, the NJCCR has funded promising cancer research in New Jersey. Throughout its history, the NJCCR has awarded over \$52 million for 915 peer-reviewed cancer research grants and student fellowships. The NJCCR remains the only statewide commission that funds dedicated cancer research projects in New Jersey.

## OVERVIEW OF CURRENT FUNDING

In Fiscal Year 2026, the NJCCR received a record-breaking 105 cancer research grant applications – an unprecedented demonstration of scientific promise and interest within the state. However, with a limited budget appropriation of just \$4 million, only 25 grant applications could be funded. Notably, in FY 2021, NJCCR received a one-time \$5 million, state appropriation specifically for pediatric cancer research. However, this funding level was never sustained in subsequent years. In response to the overwhelming demand and unmet need for research funding, [Senate Bill S664](#) was introduced in the New Jersey Senate in fiscal year 2023. This legislation proposes the creation of a dedicated, non-lapsing \$10 million fund to support cancer research across the state. Currently, the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee is currently reviewing the bill to determine whether it will advance for further consideration.

Passage of legislation is challenging without broad public awareness and support. Historically, initiatives of this nature have seen greater success when stakeholders and the public engage thoughtfully with policymakers. The NJCCR values the continued efforts of researchers, scientists, health professionals and advocates in highlighting the importance of cancer research. For those interested, information about [Senate Bill S664](#) and its consideration by the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee is available on the [New Jersey Legislature website](#), along with committee member contact information. With sustained commitment and strategic investment in cancer research, greater advancements become possible with increased funding.

## FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

This open and competitive grant opportunity by the NJCCR provides support to Qualifying Research Institutions that offer structured Fellowship Training Programs (FTP) to first and second-year medical students, promoting early exposure to oncology disciplines and cultivating interest in diverse career pathways across the cancer research continuum

through 4-8 weeks training programs. Contingent upon the availability of funding, this initiative seeks to strengthen the pipeline of talented researchers and ensure a robust, well-trained cancer research workforce for the future.

The Fellowship Training Program's goals are to:

- Spark interest in oncology and cancer research.
- Build foundational knowledge.
- Provide exposure to the career pathways across various cancer-related related disciplines including research, medical, surgical, radiation oncology, palliative care, survivorship, pathology and other areas within the ORI setting.

Programs should deliver structured educational experiences, mentorship, and hands-on research opportunities to encourage long-term participation in oncology and related fields.

## **ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

This opportunity is available only to New Jersey Qualifying Research Institutions (QRI) listed in Appendix 1. Institutions not listed must contact the NJCCR at [NJCCR@doh.nj.gov](mailto:NJCCR@doh.nj.gov) or by mail at:

New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research  
Office of Research Initiatives, 25 S. Stockton Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Rear  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

## **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

The following requirements outline the expectations from the QRI programs to ensure consistency and alignment with purpose of this RFA:

- QRI must recruit full-time first-and second-year medical students. Training participants should be accepted by the ORI to be eligible for admission to a FTP.
- QRI should prioritize potential training participants with limited prior research training or experience.
- QRI must be able to demonstrate that their program offers educational opportunities that create or support pathways to careers in cancer research and other oncology-related disciplines.

## **FUNDING LEVEL AND PERIOD:**

- Funds shall range from \$5,000 up to \$100,000 total over two years. Multi-year awards are made through one-year contracts. Each funding award within the funded period will be contingent upon the availability of funds and program updates.
- Funds may support training-related expenses, including student stipends and travel to scientific meetings and conferences.

## **BUDGET AND ALLOWABLE COSTS**

Applicants may request a budget not to exceed \$100,000. QRIs may allocate funds at their discretion, in allocating funds which may include the following:

- Trainee Stipend: Up to \$5,000/per training participant may be allocated during the grant period.
- Program Training Coordinator fringe benefits not to exceed 12%
- Travel Support: Up to \$1,500 per year per student may be allocated for travel-related and registration expenses, such as attendance at scientific meetings, conferences, or relevant educational experiences if needed. Notification and approval by the NJCCR must be obtained prior to attendance.

**Note:** These awards do not support the purchase of research equipment or instrumentation. Indirect costs should not exceed 15% (inclusive) of the total budget.

## APPLICATIONS AND SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must submit all required documents in the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE). No exceptions will be made to this requirement. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that all components of the application are accurate, complete and properly formatted. Any attached documents in the SAGE should be submitted in Adobe pdf format. **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.** Please refer to Appendix 2 for the guide to grant applications in SAGE and Appendix 3 for Grant Application sections and detailed instructions.

**Note:** First time applicants that have never registered their QRI in SAGE must contact the SAGE Help Desk at [NJDOH.Grants@doh.nj.gov](mailto:NJDOH.Grants@doh.nj.gov) and request the SAGE Registration Request Form for new applicants and return a completed and signed form back to the SAGE Help Desk. For additional question, please call (609) 376-8508.

## EMAIL OF INTENT (EOI)

Applicants are required to send an email expressing their interest in responding to this RFA. The EOI shall include the following:

1. Name of Organization
2. FEIN number
3. Address
4. Name and email of Training Program Coordinator
5. Statement indicating if applicant agency is/is not registered in SAGE
6. Brief overview of the Fellowship Training Program

EOI must be sent to: [njccr@doh.nj.gov](mailto:njccr@doh.nj.gov) no later than February 16, 2026.

## FUNDING RESTRICTIONS

Recipients may **NOT** use funds for the following:

- Purchasing vehicles
- Food or refreshments
- Interest on loans for the acquisition and/or modernization of an existing building.
- Travel outside of the U.S.A.
- Tuition reimbursement for students
- Publications
- Construction
- Professional Memberships

## COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

Successful applicants MUST abide by all programmatic and fiscal requirements of the NJDOH, including:

1. General and specific grant compliance requirements issued by the granting agency.
2. Applicable Federal Cost Principles – State and Local Governments, Hospitals, and Educational Institutions – (copy available from the NJCCR office upon request)
3. Return of unspent grant funds within 30 days of cancellation or termination.
4. Immediate notification if the grant award is not accepted or if it is canceled before the expenditure of funds.

Importantly, all applicants must read and agree to the [Terms and Conditions for Administration of Grants](#): Effective for Project Periods Beginning on or After July 1, 2026.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF SUPPORT

All print, video, website, and audio materials related to an NJCCR funded research grant must clearly acknowledge NJCCR support. Required citation:

*“This Fellowship Training Program has been funded by a grant (#XXXXX) from the NJCCR.”*

This applies to 1) publications, 2) conference presentations, 3) patents filed and 4) any public dissemination of project outcomes. Copies or clear descriptions of all such materials must be submitted to the NJCCR. Notify and share materials with the NJCCR by emailing: [njccr@doh.nj.gov](mailto:njccr@doh.nj.gov).

## INDEMNIFICATION

The applicant institution is solely responsible to keep, save and hold the state of New Jersey and the NJCCR harmless from all claims, losses, liabilities, expenses, or damages.

## **Appendix 1. Qualifying Research Institutions**

A Qualifying Research Institution (QRI) is an organization located in New Jersey that can demonstrate the capacity to conduct grant-funded cancer research.

Eligible institutions include:

- Medical institutions
- Hospitals
- Academic institutions
- Research organizations
- Public or Private institutions
- State or local government agencies and other eligible entities.

The QRI must have established procedures to receive and administer Federal and State grants and adhere to procedures for the protection of human subjects as regulated by the NIH.

Before submitting a grant application an applicant's organization must be approved as a QRI. If not listed below, please contact [NJCCR@doh.nj.gov](mailto:NJCCR@doh.nj.gov) or by mail to The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research, Office of Research Initiatives, 25 S. Stockton St. 2nd Floor Rear, Trenton, NJ 08625.

### **Current List of Qualified Research Institutions**

1. CentraState Medical Center
2. Cooper University Hospital/Health System
3. Coriell Institute
4. Hackensack
5. Hackensack University Medical Center
6. Kean University
7. Montclair State University
8. Morristown Medical Hospital and Medical Center (Atlantic Health)
9. New Jersey Goals of Care Coalition
10. New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)
11. Princeton University
12. Rider University
13. Rowan University
14. Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey
15. Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
16. Saint Barnabas Medical Center
17. Seton Hall University School of Health Medical Science
18. Stevens Institute for Technology
19. The College of New Jersey
20. VA NJ Health Care System and Veterans Biomedical Research Institute
21. William Paterson University of New Jersey

## Appendix 2. Guide to SAGE Grant Applications

The New Jersey Department of Health uses SAGE (online System for Administering Grants Electronically) to receive and process grant applications, issue grant awards, and receive reports and payment requests. If your organization already uses SAGE, contact a designated administrator within your organization to request a new user account. If your organization has never used SAGE contact the NJDOH SAGE Help Desk at [njdoh.grants@doh.nj.gov](mailto:njdoh.grants@doh.nj.gov) to register. User setup instructions can be found in the [SAGE Applicant/Grantee User Manual](#). If you have questions or encounter any problems completing your SAGE application, please contact NJDOH SAGE Help Desk Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM; (609) 376-8508 or [njdoh.grants@doh.nj.gov](mailto:njdoh.grants@doh.nj.gov).

**NOTE:** General questions about the grant application may be directed to: [NJCCR@doh.nj.gov](mailto:NJCCR@doh.nj.gov). All inquiries and responses will end on May 13, 2026.

NJCCR will ONLY accept applications submitted electronically through SAGE, which can be found at: <https://dohsage.intelligrants.com>. Paper submissions will **not** be accepted. Applicants will be notified of funding decisions on or before June 30, 2026. Please check your SAGE for the final notification.

### **Appendix 3: Grant Application Instruction for Fellowship Training program**

- Organization Profile: Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE. Non-profit applicants may request a “Letter of Compliance” from the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, Charities Registration Section.
- Project Contacts: Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE supplemented as follows.
  - A. Project Director: Provide name and contact information of the Training Program Coordinator who will be responsible for the Fellowship Training Program.
  - B. Principal Fiscal Contact: Provide name and contract information of the Grant Administrator who will be responsible for the fiscal management of the Fellowship Training Program.
- Grant Period & Payment: Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE. For this program the Project Period and Budget Period will align with the State Fiscal Year. Enter these dates in the applicable fields. Provide Payee information, including NJ Vendor ID Number. The payment method for these fellowship awards will be cost reimbursement not advance payment.
- Service Area: You do not need to complete this form. It may be left blank.
- Needs and Objectives: Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE, no more than 1500 words, supplemented as follows.
  - A. Assessment of Need(s): Applicants must provide a brief overview of the Fellowship Training Program that outlines its purpose, structure, and focus. The section should highlight the educational gap, institutional need, and workforce demand in New Jersey. Explain briefly how oncology-focused career pathways supported by the Fellowship Training Program will address these gaps and promote career development
  - B. Objective(s) of Project: Please list objectives that are specific, measurable, realistic, and attainable, aligned with the goals of the project. Estimated completion dates should correspond to a short-term timeline, if applicable, while allowing flexibility for renewal if the program is extended or repeated.
- Method(s) and Evaluation: Complete this section in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE, supplemented as follows. In the “Method(s)” field, please provide a brief description addressing the following elements if applicable: .
  - Grand rounds
  - Seminars
  - Journal clubs
  - Lecture series relevant to cancer research
  - skill-building workshops such as: Grant writing; Data analysis

- A. Curriculum and Training Components: Applicants should highlight opportunities for interdisciplinary engagement across scientific and clinical fields to ensure a comprehensive training experience.
- B. Institutional Environment: Describe briefly how training participants will be integrated into research laboratories and interdisciplinary projects. If applicable, narrative should highlight:
  - Access to specialized resources (e.g., core facilities, biorepositories, advanced technologies). Opportunities to observe and participate in oncology, disciplines, including: Medical oncology, Surgical oncology, Radiation Oncology, Palliative Care, Survivorship, Pathology and Preventive Medicine. The description must demonstrate how the institutional environment and resources provide a strong foundation for the training program and align with its objectives.
- C. Selection Process: Applicants must indicate the expected number of training participants to be enrolled in each program cycle.

In the “Evaluation” field, applicants must provide an evaluation narrative (maximum 500 words) specifying: How the evaluation data will be used to assess program effectiveness. .

- Schedule A – Personnel Costs: If applicable, complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE.
- Schedule B – Other Direct Costs: If applicable, complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE.
- Cost Summary: Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE, supplemented as follows. Your total funding request should equal the total amount appropriated for your project and include only direct costs. Indirect costs are limited to a maximum of 15% of the direct costs for each project year, rather than 15% of the overall budget.
- Disclosures and Certifications: Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE.
- FFATA Certification: Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE.
- Attachments: Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE, supplemented as follows. In addition to the completed forms, please upload the following supporting attachments, as applicable:
  - a. Bio-sketches of Training program coordinator.
  - b. Budget Justification: Total project budget and listing of other funding sources.
  - c. New Jersey Charities Registration
  - d. Proof of Non-Profit Status (501c3)
  - e. Tax Clearance Certificate

f. Most recent Annual Audit Report/Annual Audit Engagement Letter