



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

[Predoctoral Fellowship Grants \(PDF\)](#)
[Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants \(PRF\)](#)
[Research Bridge Grant \(RBG\)](#)
[Pilot Research Grant \(PRG\)](#)

Important Dates

RFA Release	November 7, 2025
Mandatory Technical Assistance meeting (9:00 AM-11:00 AM)	December 9, 2025
Mandatory Letter of Intent *	December 19, 2025
Application Due in SAGE * 4:00 PM	March 4, 2026
Notice of Grant Award	June 30, 2026
Project Start Date	July 1, 2026

* A Letter of Intent (LOI) is required for all grant applications. A LOI form is provided in **Appendix 8** and must be submitted online or via email to NJCCR at: njccr@doh.nj.gov no later than December 19, 2025.

** All grant applicants that plan to submit a LOI (December 19, 2025) are required to attend the [Virtual Technical Assistance \(TA\)](#) session to be held on December 9, 2025, from 9:00 AM – to 11:00 AM. This session will provide an opportunity for applicants to review, clarify and ask questions about the RFA and the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE).*

NJCCR Contact:

[Lisa H. Cummings, RN, MS](#)
[Executive Director, NJCCR](#)
[Office of Research Initiatives](#)
[New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research](#)
[25 S. Stockton Street](#)
[Trenton, NJ 08625](#)
[\(609\) 913-5008](#)
[Email: njccr@doh.nj.gov](mailto:njccr@doh.nj.gov)

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION.....	1
OVERVIEW OF CURRENT FUNDING	1
PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES	2
ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS	2
PURPOSE.....	3
AWARD MECHANISMS.....	3
1. Predoctoral Fellowships	3
2. Postdoctoral Fellowships.....	5
3. Research Bridge Grant.....	6
4. Pilot Research Grant.....	6
OTHER MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS	7
1. Mandatory Technical Assistance Session	7
2. Applications Submission Requirements	8
3. Grant Applications Resubmission Requirements	8
GRANT REVIEW AND FUNDING DECISIONS	8
1. Review Process	8
2. Funding Decision	9
3. Results Notification	9
COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS.....	9
FUNDING RESTRICTIONS	10
OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	10
1. Acknowledgment of Support	10
2. Patents	10
3. Closeout of Grants	11
4. Indemnification	11
Appendix 1. Qualifying Research Institutions.....	12
Appendix 2. Sponsor Requirements (Predoctoral & Postdoctoral Fellowships)	13
Appendix 3. Protection of Human Subjects and Genomics Information	14
Appendix 4. System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) Registration	15
Appendix 5. Guidelines on Generative Artificial Intelligence and Grant Confidentiality ..	16
Appendix 6. Grant Application Instructions.....	17
Appendix 7: Grant Submission Checklist and Format Requirements.....	22
Appendix 8: Letter of Intent 2027	25

INTRODUCTION

The New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research (NJCCR), also known as the Cancer Research Act was established 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.

The NJCCR is the only state commission exclusively dedicated to funding research projects that address the genetic, biochemical, viral, microbiological, environmental, behavioral, socioeconomic, demographic, and psychosocial aspects of cancer prevention, causes, development, and treatment. Research studies may include, but are not limited to, biologic systems, such as tissues, cells, human subjects and/or other materials that have a direct relationship to cancer, health disparities, palliative care, as well as the impact of medical marijuana on cancer.

What are biologic systems in cancer?

Molecules: DNA, proteins and genes

Cells: health or cancerous

Tissues & Organs: e.g., lung, breast, blood

The Whole Body: overall effects of cancer

Studying these systems helps researchers understand how cancer begins, grows, spreads, and how it can be prevented or treated.

OVERVIEW OF CURRENT FUNDING

In Fiscal Year 2026, the NJCCR received a record-breaking 130 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 the bill 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 for cancer research.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION AND GUIDELINES

This grant opportunity provides support for Predoctoral Fellowships, Postdoctoral Fellowships, Research Bridge Grants, and Pilot Research Grants. Each award covers a two-year period, with funding of up to \$200,000, inclusive of a Salary or Stipend, Research Expenses (Animal Care, Facility Costs, Professional Service Agreements, Training, and Travel) in addition to 15% of Indirect Costs.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

This RFA announces an open and competitive cancer research grant application from Institutions with the following requirements.

Institutional 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 or by mail at: New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research, Office of Research Initiatives, 25 S. Stockton Street, 2nd Floor Rear, Trenton, New Jersey 08625.

Individual Requirements:

- Applicants must be affiliated with a QRI that has a demonstrated capability to conduct grant-funded research. NJCCR will not consider applications from unaffiliated individuals.
- Individuals with the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research as the Principal Investigator (PI) are invited to apply.
- Applicants must hold a Ph.D., M.D., D.O., or equivalent graduate degree for all grant applications except for Predoctoral Fellowship and Pilot grants.
- Multiple PIs for a single application are not permitted under this RFA.
- The applicant should comply with the NIH, the Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Human Research Protections, and institutional guidelines defined for the protection of human subjects in research. Please refer to Appendix 3 for more information.
- Applicants must be able to complete the research objectives within the designated project period and MUST attend the NJCCR Annual Cancer Research Symposium to be held in November 2026. Grant funds may be used to purchase tools necessary for the presentation. Additional symposium details will be provided to awarded applicants.
- Postdoctoral Fellows must complete the NJCCR Return on Investment (ROI) survey as part of the NJCCR grant reporting requirements.
- Applicants are required to review the general requirements surrounding the use of Artificial Intelligence (See Appendix 5).
- NJCCR grant recipients whose grant period is ongoing and will overlap with the RFA 2027 grant period are not eligible to apply.

Sponsor Requirements (for predoctoral and postdoctoral applicants):

- Predoctoral and Postdoctoral applicants must identify a Sponsor prior to submission. The Sponsor must provide active supervision and oversight of the proposed training experience.
- Sponsors must demonstrate a track record of mentorship and be committed to the research process.
- Applicants are encouraged to identify additional Co-Sponsors if beneficial to the training plan.

Note: See *Appendix 2 for Additional Sponsor Requirements*.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this grant opportunity is to announce the availability of Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 funds to support scientists and scholars and to assure an applicant's success as a researcher in the field of cancer research.

The NJCCR grants are designed to promote cancer research in New Jersey and are not intended to serve as a long-term funding mechanism. The research and data generated through NJCCR support are expected to strengthen investigators' future proposals to the various funding agencies such as National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense, National Science Foundation, and the American Cancer Society. Applicants should acknowledge that both initial funding and continued support under this program are subject to the availability of funds appropriated to the NJCCR by the New Jersey State Legislature and the Governor. Accordingly, the NJCCR reserves the right to withhold awards pending fiscal and programmatic review, and the satisfactory completion of all grant requirements.

Applicants who have already accepted another Predoctoral and Postdoctoral award are ineligible for NJCCR Fellowship grant. Due to the competitive nature of these grants, each applicant shall submit only one well-developed application rather than multiple submissions. The NJCCR will consider multiple Fellows with the same Sponsor in the same funding cycle, provided that the Sponsor submits a justification. However, Fellows may seek additional Co-sponsors to contribute to their research productivity and overall experience. If funding is accepted from another institution, it shall be the responsibility of the Applicant and Sponsor to immediately notify the NJCCR.

AWARD MECHANISMS

To advance its mission, the NJCCR is offering four (4) types of awards:

1. Predoctoral Fellowships

Predoectoral Fellowship candidates must be a full-time graduate student in a proposed course of study directly related to cancer. Applicants must apply for the Fellowship under the direction of a Sponsor, a scientist (tenured, tenure-track, or equivalent position) who can serve as a mentor to the Fellow (See Appendix 2 for sponsor requirements).

The NJCCR Predoctoral Fellowship Grant is designed to attract and retain talented scientists pursuing a career in cancer research in New Jersey. The NJCCR Predoctoral Fellowship Grant funding will support research projects total of up to \$100,000 for two (2) years. Awards are made to a QRI for support of the Fellow, who must work under the direct supervision of the designated Sponsor.

Funding Details

Stipend: Up to \$40,000 per year, inclusive of fringe benefits.

Fringe Benefit Rate: Should not exceed 12% for those directly working on the project.

Supplies and Equipment: Allows purchase of supplies and equipment with a justification and quote.

Travel Budget: Up to \$1500 per year if needed. Notification and approval by the NJCCR shall be required prior to any travel spending. International travel is not allowed.

Indirect Costs: Up to 15% (inclusive) of the total budget.

Institutions may supplement stipends; however, supplements may **not** come from other full-time fellowship awards or from NJCCR funding.

Applicants may serve as teaching assistants while holding an NJCCR Fellowship. However, teaching duties and other non-research commitments must not exceed 20% of an applicant's total professional effort during the fellowship period, unless prior approval is obtained from the NJCCR.

- Applicants for this opportunity must be candidates for the PhD, DrPH, EdD, MD, or equivalent graduate degree and have identified a dissertation research project.
- Applicants must be a citizen of the United States or permanent resident at the time of application submission. Proof of status may be required upon request.
- NJCCR prefers to support predoctoral applicants who have completed most of their coursework and are dedicating at least 80% of their effort to cancer-related research. At the time of application, applicants are expected to be no less than two years from the anticipated completion of their dissertation or thesis work.
- Predoctoral Fellowships are two-year awards of \$50,000.
- Teaching and other non-research responsibilities should not exceed 20% of an applicant's time without permission from the NJCCR.
- NJCCR acknowledgment shall be required on all materials or information relating to the grant.

NOTE: Predoctoral fellows who meet the eligibility criteria may elect to apply for a Pilot Grant if it is the more suitable option. Applicants pursuing a second fellowship will not be supported under this award. Applicants currently holding or who have accepted another

predoctoral fellowship – whether simultaneous or overlapping with any other entity are not eligible to apply. If funding is obtained from another agency, it is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator (PI) and Sponsor to promptly notify the NJCCR.

2. Postdoctoral Fellowships

The NJCCR Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant provides fellowship awards, to retain scientists who have devoted their careers to cancer research in New Jersey. The NJCCR Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant funding will support research projects up to \$200,000 for two (2) years. Applicants who have already accepted another Postdoctoral Fellowship award are not eligible.

Funding Details

Stipend: Up to \$65,000 per year, inclusive of fringe benefits.

Fringe Benefit Rate: Up to 12% for those directly working on the project.

Supplies and Equipment: Allows purchase of supplies and equipment with a justification and quote.

Travel Budget: Up to \$1500 per year if needed. Notification and approval by the NJCCR shall be made prior to any travel spending. International travel is not allowed.

Indirect Costs: Up to 15% (inclusive) of the total budget.

- Institutions may supplement stipends; however, such supplements may not come from other full-time fellowship awards or from NJCCR funds.
- Applicants of outstanding quality must hold a PhD, MD, DrPH, DO, or equivalent graduate degree before activation of a grant award and must be accepted for Postdoctoral training directly related to cancer under the guidance of a Sponsor – a scientist (tenure, tenure-track, or equivalent position) at a QRI in New Jersey.
- Applicants are ineligible if more than five years have passed since the completion of their doctoral degree (Ph.D., M.D., D.O., or the equivalent) at the commencement of the NJCCR fellowship grant.
- Applicants for the Postdoctoral Fellowship must dedicate at least 80% of their time on a specific cancer research project. Applicants must also be able to pursue the next step toward independence under the guidance of a Sponsor.
- Applicants may serve as a teaching assistant while holding a Postdoctoral Fellowship without special permission.
- Applicants pursuing second fellowship will NOT be supported under this award.

NOTE: Postdoctoral Fellows who meet the eligibility criteria may elect to apply for a Pilot Grant if it is the more suitable option. Applicants currently holding or who have accepted another postdoctoral fellowship – whether simultaneous or overlapping with any other entity are not eligible to apply. If funding is obtained from another agency, it is the responsibility of the PI and Sponsor to promptly notify the NJCCR.

3. Research Bridge Grant

NJCCR Research Bridge Grant Award will support two-year research projects up to a maximum of \$200,000. This award is designed to enhance cancer-related research at New Jersey institutions by providing funding to motivated and productive investigators who anticipate a short-term interruption in funding for research projects focused on cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship. Applicants **MUST** have a full-time faculty appointment (Tenure Track or Non-Tenure-Track Faculty). Postdoctoral associates, teaching and research assistants, co-adjutant appointees, clinical, and adjunct faculty defined as part-time positions, and visiting faculty members are not eligible to apply.

The goal of the program is to strengthen the competitive position of a faculty member whose extramural grant application was scored highly and funded a major federal grant (over \$150K per year in direct costs) within the 18 months preceding this application but anticipates a short-term funding interruption. It is anticipated that this funding will position New Jersey investigators to continue current research and enhance their competitiveness for future NIH grant awards and/or other federal grants opportunities.

Funding details:

Salary/Stipend: Salary for the Principal Investigator (PI) is not allowed under this grant; however, funding can be used for necessary research support staff.

Fringe Benefit Rate: Up to 12% for those directly working on the project.

Supplies and Equipment: Allows purchase of supplies and equipment with a justification and quote.

Travel Budget: Up to \$1500 per year if needed. Notification and approval by the NJCCR must be made prior to any travel spending. International travel is not allowed.

Indirect Costs: Up to 15% (inclusive) of the total budget.

Note: If the submitted project has been funded by another organization after submission to this program, the PI must promptly notify the NJCCR who may require the PI to relinquish all unobligated funds.

4. Pilot Research Grant

The NJCCR Pilot Program Research Grant funding will support research projects up to \$100,000 for two (2) years. Applicants must be U.S. citizen or legal resident of the USA (green card holder). Proof of status may be required upon request. Applicants must be highly qualified and either currently pursuing or already hold a graduate degree such as a PhD, MD, DrPH, EdD, DO, or a similar degree, and be affiliated with the QRI in New Jersey.

The NJCCR Pilot Program Research Grants are designed to support cancer research projects that address current priority areas related to:

- Cancer Health Disparities (No Clinical Trials) (e.g., the disparity in adult cancer rates among ethnic minorities).
- Palliative Care, Pain Management (e.g., medical marijuana).
- Survivorship (e.g., long-term effects of treatment, quality of life, and continuity of care for cancer survivors).
- Psychosocial effects of cancer (e.g., social determinants of health, effects on caregivers, mental health).
- Immunotherapy/biologics for cancer.
- Advancing artificial intelligence (AI) for cancer research (e.g., Cancer treatments, Cancer prediction, Cancer diagnosis).

Funding Details

Salary/Stipend: Salary and stipend is allowed for the PI and research support staff as applicable

Fringe Benefit Rate: Up to 12% for those directly working on the project.

Supplies and Equipment: Allows purchase of supplies and equipment with a justification and quote.

Travel Budget: Up to \$1500 per year if needed. Notification and approval by the NJCCR must be made prior to any travel spending. International travel is not allowed.

Indirect Costs: Up to 15% (inclusive) of the total budget.

OTHER MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS

1. Mandatory Technical Assistance Session

A mandatory Pre-award Technical Assistance Session (TA) will be held on December 9, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Failure to attend the TA will result in disqualification, and the application will not be considered for funding. This session will provide applicants with an overview of SAGE and an opportunity to ask questions about the RFA. You do not need to register for the TA. The session details are below.

Title: COCR27 NJCCR Mandatory Pre-award TA session
Date: December 9, 2025 (Tuesday)
Time: 9:00 AM-11:00 AM (ET)
Microsoft team meeting Info:
Meeting Link: Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 251 327 970 048
Passcode: GR3Mc7wK
Dial in by phone
+1 856-338-7074 , 177250580# United States, Camden
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: 177 250 580#

2. Applications Submission Requirements

Applications must be completed and submitted electronically through the Department's online grant system, the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE), which may be accessed at <https://njdohsage.nj.gov>. Please refer to Appendix 4 for further information on SAGE registration. The detail **Grant Application Instructions** for Request for Applications (RFA) 2027 is provided in the Appendix 6.

3. Grant Applications Resubmission Requirements

Applicants may submit one resubmission following an unfunded original application. Unfunded applicants are eligible to resubmit in a future grant cycle; however, only one resubmission per original application is permitted. Resubmitted applications must clearly address all reviewer feedback if provided and will be reviewed as a new, competing proposal. Failure to adequately address previous critiques may negatively impact the overall impact score, even if other review criteria were strong.

GRANT REVIEW AND FUNDING DECISIONS

The NJCCR acknowledges that all submitted proposals and supporting materials must represent original ideas/language proposed by the applicant and their affiliated institution. The NJCCR recognizes that NIH notice number: NOT-OD-23-149 June 23, 2023, (The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Technologies is Prohibited for the NIH Peer Review Process) and therefore restrict the NJCCR's contracted Peer Reviewers to the same standard. Similarly, while AI is not banned in the grant writing process itself, the NJCCR strongly cautions that Principal Investigators (PIs) use AI tools at their own risk. The PI must be aware of the potential for plagiarism, fabricated citations, and falsified information that may be embedded through the use of generative AI (See Appendix 5). Such actions constitute research misconduct and will prompt NJCCR to take appropriate measures to address both the non-compliance and the misconduct.

1. Review Process

The determination of grant awards will be made through two (2) levels of review:

- a. Upon receipt, all grant applications will undergo an administrative review by the NJCCR office staff. This review ensures compliance with all applicable New Jersey State statutes and regulations, as well as the completeness and accuracy of submitted applications.
- b. Once administrative review is completed, the grant application is assigned to a scientific peer review panel consisting of research experts from outside of New Jersey. The review is conducted to ensure objectivity and integrity of the research proposal. Using NIH scoring guidelines, the panel assesses each application based on:

Significance of the Research: Whether the proposed study addresses critical challenges in cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment, or survivorship, with potential to improve outcomes for New Jersey's diverse populations.

Rigor and Feasibility of the Approach: The clarity and scientific soundness of the

research plan, including methodology, data analysis, and likelihood of producing actionable results.

Expertise and Resources: The qualifications of the research team, strength of institutional support, and access to relevant facilities and patient populations within New Jersey.

Training Potential (Fellowship only): Assesses how the proposed training will advance the candidate's development as an independent cancer researcher, with emphasis on mentorship, research experience, and career trajectory.

2. Funding Decision

Upon completion of the scientific peer review process, the NJCCR will convene to review the final scores and make funding decisions. The NJCCR reserves the right to consider other contributing factors such as, programmatic, geographic diversity and relevancy factors in making decisions among applications that have comparable scientific merit based upon the review panel recommendations. 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 Progress Reports.

3. Results Notification

At the conclusion of this selection process, all applicants, including PIs and institutions will receive formal notification of the outcome. Notifications will be issued no later than June 28, 2026, through the SAGE system. Applicants will receive one of the following: A Letter of Intent to Fund, or A Letter of Denial. For awarded proposals, contracts will be initiated shortly after notifications by the NJCCR.

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, 2025 along with Grant Submission Checklist and format requirements (See Appendix 7) before submitting a research proposal. Compliance with all terms is required, with particular emphasis on the following sections:

- Subpart E. Standards for Grantee and Subgrantee (page 12)
- Subpart F. Cash Management (page 13)
- Subpart H. Allowable cost (page 16)

- Subpart M. Program Changes and Budget Revisions (page 24)
- Subpart N. Real Property, Equipment, Supplies, and Copyrights (page 27)
- Subpart O. Procurement (page 30)
- Subpart P. Subgrants (page 36)
- Subpart Q. Monitoring and Reporting Program Performance (page 37)
- Subpart T. Enforcement (page 43)
- Subpart U. After the grant (page 44)

Grant administration must align with the program objectives and be carried out in an efficient, results-oriented manner. Considering rising costs and limited NJDOH funds, applicants are required to maintain effective management systems to ensure proper stewardship of resources. NJDOH expects grantees to exercise the same prudence and accountability in spending grant funds as they would with their own organizational funds.

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.
- Foreign Travel
- Tuition Reimbursement for Students
- Publications
- Construction
- Professional Memberships

OTHER ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. 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 research 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.

2. Patents

The NJCCR must be notified of any patents or other intellectual property resulting from NJCCR funded research. If a Principal Investigator (PI) obtains such a patent or other intellectual property, the NJCCR shall receive (10%) of any royalties, licensing fees, or other income derived from commercialization.

3. Closeout of Grants

Upon grant closure, the Principal Investigator (PI) is required to complete an online Return on Investment (ROI) survey as requested by NJCCR, which may include follow-up evaluations to assess the long-term impact of funded cancer research. The ROI survey helps the NJCCR to: 1) demonstrate the impact of funded cancer research, 2) justify requests for increased future funding from state and federal sources and 3) showcase the outcomes that support the advancement of cancer research in New Jersey.

4. 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 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 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
22. Vitruviae (applicable only for pediatric cancer research grants)

Appendix 2. Sponsor Requirements (Predoctoral & Postdoctoral Fellowships)

Sponsor Guidelines

The Sponsor plays a critical role in the development of the Fellow's overall knowledge, technical and analytical skills, and the capacity for scientific inquiry. The Sponsor is responsible for guiding the Fellow in expanding their scientific expertise and skillset for collaborating with the Fellow to develop a comprehensive training plan, such as an Individual Development Plan (IDP).

- While an IDP is not required, the NJCCR strongly encourages institutions to incorporate one as part of their fellowship training plan.
- The training plan must be tailored to the individual Fellow and should clearly document:
 1. The need for mentored research and training.
 2. The anticipated value of the experience in advancing the Fellow's research goals.
 3. How the training will support the Fellow's transition to the next stage of research or career development.
- The NJCCR may consider funding multiple Fellows with the same Sponsor in the same funding cycle, provided the Sponsor submits a justification.

For additional guidance and examples, Sponsors are encouraged to consult the [NIH Sourcebook](#).

Expected Outcomes of the Sponsor's Mentorship

- Receive strong mentorship to maintain research focus, including regular meetings to identify areas for improvement and ensure timely progression of the research.
- Conduct research using state-of-the-art methods, and present and publish findings as a first author.
- Develop a strong foundation in rigorous research design, experimental methods, and analytic techniques appropriate to the cancer research project.
- Enhance the applicant's ability to conceptualize and think through research problems with increasing independence.
- Engage with broader scientific community through networking opportunities at meetings, conferences, and workshops.
- Identify additional Sponsors or Co-Sponsors if advantageous for providing direction in all aspects of the research training process.

Appendix 3. Protection of Human Subjects and Genomics Information

The NJCCR requires mandatory compliance with the NIH, the Health and Human Services (HHS) [Office for Human Research Protections](#), and institutional guidelines defined for the protection of human subjects in research. Compliance with NIH regulations for the protection of human subjects and the inclusion of women, children, and minorities in clinical studies is required for all grants.

Violations of these regulations and guidelines must be reported and reviewed by the appropriate institutions and the NJCCR, including but not limited to the Institutional Review Board (IRB) overseeing the research, the associated institution, and the laboratory's senior scientist. The NJCCR shall have the right without notice to observe and/or audit funded research activities.

Applicants are responsible for protecting the rights and welfare of all human subjects and ensuring the proper care and treatment of laboratory animals involved in any NJCCR sponsored research. Any research projects involving human subjects must be reviewed and approved by an IRB. Similarly, any applications involving laboratory animals must be reviewed and approved by the appropriate Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

Grantees are strongly encouraged to share data with the National Health Data Archive (NDA) if it is compatible with the design of the research project. The NDA provides sample language for informed consent and additional resources to facilitate compliant data sharing.

Appendix 4. System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) Registration

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. 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 receive funding decisions on or around **June 28, 2026**, with final notifications available in SAGE.

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 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.

NOTE: General questions about the grant application may be directed to: NJCCR@doh.nj.gov. Please note that the inquiry period will close on February 27, 2026, after which questions may no longer be addressed.

Appendix 5. Guidelines on Generative Artificial Intelligence and Grant Confidentiality

Although generative AI is not banned in the grant writing process itself, the NJCCR strongly cautions that Principal Investigators (PIs) who use AI tools operate at their own risk. Principal Investigators (PI) who elect to use AI tools must be aware of the potential for plagiarism, fabricated citations, and falsified information that may be embedded with using generative AI. Such actions constitute research misconduct and will prompt NJCCR to take appropriate measures to address both the non-compliance and the misconduct.

All proposals and supporting materials must represent the original ideas and language of the applicant and their affiliated institution. The NJCCR recognizes the National Institutes of Health (NIH) notice number: [NOT-OD-23-149](#) June 23, 2023 (The Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence Technologies is Prohibited for the NIH Peer Review Process) and therefore restrict the NJCCR's contracted Peer Reviewer to the same standard. To paraphrase that ruling, "reviewers must be accountable and aware that uploading or sharing content or original concepts from a grant application, contract proposal, or critique to online generative AI tools violate the peer review confidentiality and integrity requirements." Essentially, to use generative AI to analyze or critique grant applications in Peer Review will be considered a breach of confidentiality.¹

¹ McKlveen, Jessica (2023, June 29). Think Again Before Using Generative AI During Peer Review or As you Prepare an Application. <https://www.nccih.nih.gov/research/blog/think-again-before-using-generative-ai-during-peer-review-or-as-you-prepare-an-application>

Appendix 6. Grant Application Instructions

Application Instructions: Applications must be completed and submitted electronically through the Department's online grant system, the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE), which may be accessed at <https://njdohsage.nj.gov>.

All applicants must complete the grant application in accordance with the Grant Application Instructions listed below and submitted by March 4, 2026 (4:00 PM).

Form Instructions

1. **Research Project Type:** Please carefully review the available project types and select the one that best aligns with your specific needs and eligibility requirements. Also if application is resubmission, please select yes.
2. **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. Similarly, applicants may find instructions for requesting a tax clearance certificate from the New Jersey Division of Taxation at www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/busasst.shtml.
3. **Project Contacts:** Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE.
4. **Grant Period & Payment:** Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE, supplemented as follows. For the purposes of this program, the Budget Period and Project Period will align with the State Fiscal Year: July 1, 2026- June 30, 2028. Enter these dates in the applicable fields. The payment method for these awards will be cost reimbursement. Make the appropriate radio selection.
5. **Researcher Profile:** Provide a biographical sketch using the standard NIH format including current and relevant past research funding of the Principal Investigator (PI). Bio-sketches and CVs must be submitted for all key personnel involved in the project. Use of the NIH standard bio-sketch template is required for all grant applications submitted to NJCCR. The current template can be found at: [biosketch-blank-fellowship-format-rev-10-2021.docx](#).

In addition, for the predoc and postdoc applicants, three (3) Letters of Reference from individuals other than the Sponsor is required. These letters must be attached to the application and uploaded to the "References" section in the Researcher Profile. Each file should be labeled accordingly, starting with the grant number followed by the name of the document (e.g., COCR27PDF###_Reference form).

6. **Description of Research Project:**

- a. **Lay Abstract:** Provide a description of your research in simple, non-technical language that can be easily understood by someone without a background in science or cancer. This abstract must present a layperson's overview of the proposed cancer research. If the award is granted, this summary will be used in press releases, public announcements, and various NJCCR publications.

b. Abstract and Proposal Narrative:

- **Project Summary/Abstract:** A succinct and accurate description of the proposed work, including the hypothesis, goals, and significance of the research on cancer.
- **Specific Aims:** Broad statements outlining the focus and desired outcomes of the research, providing a concise overview of the project's objectives.
- **Research Strategy:**
 - **Significance:** This section describes the rationale for conducting the research by addressing questions such as: Why is this work important to the field of cancer? What are the implications of doing this work and translational opportunities? How does this work connect to existing research?
 - **Preliminary Studies/Data:** Describe any preliminary studies that form the basis for the proposed research. While preliminary studies can strengthen the proposal, it is not a mandatory requirement.
 - **Research Design:** Outline the approach and methods that will be used to direct the research and achieve the specific aims.

7. Written Response to Reviewer Critiques (If applicable): Provide a statement outlining how you incorporated and responded to the feedback and suggestions provided by the reviewers in the original proposal.

8. Comments of Sponsor (for Predoctoral and Postdoctoral Fellowship Grants only):

- a. **NIH Biographical Sketch:** The NJCCR encourages applicants to use the NIH's standard bio-sketch template for Fellowship grant applications. The current template form can be downloaded at: [Biosketch Format Pages, Instructions, and Samples | Grants & Funding](#)
- b. **Training Plans:** The Sponsor must provide a personalized training plan (1 to 2 pages) outlining how they will support and assist the Principal Investigator (Predoctoral or Postdoctoral Fellow). The development of a personalized training plan should be a collaborative effort between the Sponsor and the Fellow. Submission of identical or substantially similar training plans by a Sponsor is strictly prohibited and may result in removal from funding consideration.

In the training plans the Sponsor must demonstrate the ability to advance the applicant's career and project, supported by evidence of a strong mentorship relationship. The Sponsor must ensure the Fellow completes a two-year research period. If PI is leaving or funding is obtained from another agency for the fellowship, it is the responsibility of the PI as well as the Sponsor to promptly notify the NJCCR.

Sponsors are encouraged to use the National Institutes of Health, "Guidelines and Policies for the Conduct of Research in the Intramural Research Program at NIH" as a reference for fellows and trainees. Sponsors are not required but highly encouraged to participate in the NJCCR Annual Cancer Research Symposium, scheduled for November 2026.

- c. Researcher Qualifications: Provide a brief summary of the researcher's academic background, relevant experience, and expertise in the proposed field of study. Highlight achievements or credentials that demonstrate their capacity to successfully carry out the project.
 - d. Institutional commitment: Explain how the institution supports the researcher through resources, mentorship, protected time, or infrastructure relevant to the proposed project. Include any formal assurances or ongoing commitments that demonstrate the institution's investment in the researcher's success.
 - e. Career Development: Describe the anticipated career development of the researcher, including how the proposed project will enhance their skills, experience, and professional growth. Emphasize how these opportunities will support their transition toward becoming an independent investigator in their field.
 - f. Mentoring Process: Indicate the number of students the sponsor will supervise during the proposed fellowship period. Describe the structured mentoring plan for the researcher over the next 2–3 years, including scheduled meetings, professional development activities, and progress assessments. Emphasize how this mentorship will support the researcher's growth toward becoming an independent investigator.
 - g. Research Funding Support of Sponsor: List all current and pending sources of support
9. **Schedule A – Personnel Costs**: If applicable, complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE. Include both salary and fringe in this budget form.
 10. **Schedule B – Other Direct Costs**: If applicable, please complete this form following the instructions provided in SAGE. Ensure that the budget is allocated to the appropriate category. The "Other" category should be used only if none of the predefined categories adequately reflect the requested budget item.
 11. **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 may not be requested.
 12. **Disclosures and Certifications**: Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE.

13. **FFATA Certification:** Complete this form in accordance with the instructions displayed in SAGE.
14. **Attachments:** Applicants are required to submit following documents, in accordance with the program requirements. Failure to provide the required documentation by the due date of the application will result in the application being deemed non-responsive. Please attach the requested documents as a PDF file:
- a. Valid Internal Revenue Services (IRS) 501(c) (3) tax exempt status.
 - b. Audit Engagement Letter if most current Audit report is not available.
 - c. Tax Clearance Certificate. The application for Tax Clearance can be obtained at: <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/busasst.shtml> (fee of \$75.00 or \$200.00)
 - d. NJ Charities Registration – If your organization is registered with the NJ Charities Registration then each year a “Letter of Compliance” from the Division of Consumer Affairs must be obtained. All registered charities must renew their registration yearly. For more contact information and forms can be found at: www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/charity/charfrm.htm.
 - e. Organizational Letter of Support
 - f. Board of Directors/Trustees
 - g. Salary Policy
 - h. Statement of Total Gross Revenue and/or Annual Report (if applicable). If the grant is less than \$100,000 and the agency does not receive any other funds from the state or federal government an audit report is not required. Agency should submit the Statement of Total Gross Revenue to determine if an audit report is required.
 - i. For Bridge Grant only: Provide a copy of the grant application that was scored but not funded for which bridge support is requested as an ATTACHMENT. In addition to grant application please provide following information.
 - The Summary statement or review sheet.
 - One (1) page description of how reviewer comments have been addressed in the application and how the funding will be used to enhance competitiveness at resubmission.
 - Other Support – List all external and internal research support regardless of relevance to this application, including pending applications. The following must be provided as listed:
 - i. Grant numbers
 - ii. Title
 - iii. Duration
 - iv. Amount for the current year
 - v. Total value of the award
 - vi. Source of support

The following supplemental forms are required only if your proposal includes the corresponding elements:

- i. Travel Policy
- ii. Telephone/Mobile Communication Policy
- iii. Computer Security Policy
- iv. Human Subjects and Genomics Policy
- v. IRB Policy/Animal Care and Use Policy

Appendix 7: Grant Submission Checklist and Format Requirements

Please refer to the checklist below of the required document(s) for each type of grant and the word/page limits. Applications may be administratively withdrawn by NJCCR if the proposal does not comply with the format requirements (type size/ character per inch, lines per page and page limitations). Only Portable Document Format (pdf) files are accepted. The attached file must be labeled properly with an appropriate Prefix file description. For example, the submission of a resume for Pilot grant (COCR27PPR001) would be COCR27PPR001_resume or Table 1 for Predoc (COCR27PRF002) would be COCR27PRF002_Table1.

Grant Submission Checklist (Page Limits & Requirements)

Section of Application (Page Limits)	Postdoc	Predoc	Pilot	Bridge
Research Project Type	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organization Profile	✓	✓	✓	✓
Project Contacts	✓	✓	✓	✓
Grant Period and Payment	✓	✓	✓	✓
Researcher Profile	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Name of Researcher	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Bio sketch or CV	✓	✓	✓	✓
• Research Experience	✓	✓	✓	
• References (3 letters)	✓	✓		
• Scored and funded Application				✓
Description of Research Project • Project Title • Project Description (1 sentence) • Lay Abstract (250 words) • Proposal Narrative ▪ Abstract (30 lines of text) ▪ Specific Aims (1 page) • Research Strategy < 6 pages ▪ Significance ▪ Preliminary Studies/Data ▪ Research Design ▪ References • Facilities • Major Equipment • Equipment Needs • Additional Information	✓	✓	✓	✓
Written Response to Reviewer Critiques (if applicable)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Comments of Sponsor ▪ Name of Sponsor	✓	✓		

▪ Sponsor's Bio sketch ▪ Training Plan ▪ Researcher Qualifications ▪ Institutional Commitment ▪ Career Development ▪ Independent Research ▪ Mentoring Process ▪ Research Funding Support of Sponsor				
Schedule A– Personnel Costs Budget Year 1	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schedule A– Personnel Costs Budget Year 2	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schedule B – Other Direct Costs Budget Year 1	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schedule B – Other Direct Costs Budget Year 2	✓	✓	✓	✓
Costs Summary	✓	✓	✓	✓
Disclosures and Certifications	✓	✓	✓	✓
Additional Certifications for Research Applicants	✓	✓	✓	✓
Suggested Reviewers	✓	✓	✓	✓
FFATA Certification	✓	✓	✓	✓
Attachments • Letter of Interest (LOI) • Budget Justification • Tax Exempt Status • Annual Audit Report • Audit Engagement Letter • Tax Clearance Certificate • NJ Charities Registration • Organization Letter of Support • Board of Directors/Trustees • Proof of Nonprofit Status • Salary Policy • Copy of early funded grant application (for Bridge Grant only) Other (as applicable) • Travel Policy • Computer Policy • Telephone/Mobile Communication Policy • Human Subjects and Genomics Policy • IRB policy/Animal Care and Use Policy	✓	✓	✓	✓

Format Requirements

All applications and attachments must adhere to the following minimum formatting standards to be considered for review:

- Text Color: No restriction; however, black or other high-contrast text colors are recommended for readability and printing purposes.
- Minimum 11-point font required. Exception, smaller text may be used in figures, graphs, diagrams, and charts, as long as it is legible at 100% zoom.
- Font Type (choose one): Arial, Calibri, Helvetica
- Minimum of ½ inch on all sides (top, bottom, left and right).
- Format: All files must be formatted in Adobe PDF format and **concatenated**.
- Information relevant to the application e.g., tables or graphs must be concatenated and embedded in the body of the application. Any additional document uploaded as the “Attachment” section in the SAGE system must be labeled using the grant number as a Prefix, followed by a descriptive label. For example, Resume for Predoc Application: COCR27PRF-Resume_JohnDoe.pdf and Table 1 for Predoc Application: COCR27PRF_Table1.pdf.

Appendix 8: Letter of Intent 2027

NJCCR Letter of Intent 2027

Instructions for Submitting the Letter of Intent for NJCCR 2027 Grant Proposal

Please complete the Letter of Intent form using one of the following methods:



- **Online Form:** Access and complete the form directly by clicking on the NJCCR LOI Form 2027 [link](#) or scan the QR code.
- **Email:** Alternatively, you can fill out the following form and send it via email to njccr@doh.nj.gov.

Type of Grant:

Bridge (COCR27RBG)	☐
Pediatric (COCR27PRG)	☐
Pilot (COCR27PPR)	☐

Post-doc (COCR27PDF)	☐
Pre-doc (COCR27PRF)	☐

Types of Research:

Basic Research	☐
Clinical Research	☐
Epidemiological (Population) Research	☐

Psychosocial and Behavioral	☐
Translational Research	☐

Type(s) of cancer targeted by the research grant:

Breast	☐
Lung & Bronchus	☐
Prostate	☐
Blood (Hematologic)	☐
Colon & Rectum	☐
Esophagus	☐
Brain & Other Nervous System	☐
Bone (Osteosarcoma)	☐
Thyroid	☐

Corpus & Uterus, Not Otherwise Specified (NOS)	☐
Ovary	☐
Melanoma of the Skin	☐
Pancreas	☐
Urinary Bladder	☐
Kidney & Renal Pelvis	☐
Liver	☐
Other (Please specify):	

- Name of the Principal Investigator (PI): _____
[Please make sure this is the PI not the Sponsor/Mentor]
- Principal Investigator's Email Address: _____
- If applicable, please list the names of all Co-Principal Investigators (Co-PIs): _____
- Grant Management Officer/Fiscal Contact Name: _____
- Grant Management Officer's/ Fiscal Contact Email Address: _____
- Title of the Research Project: _____
- Name of the Institution/Organization: _____
- Institution Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN): _____
- Unique Entity ID (If applicable): _____
- Brief description of the research approach (One to two paragraphs): _____