

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE of NEW AMERICANS

Detention and Deportation Defense Initiative

TAKE NOTICE that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, 34.5 and 34.6, the Department of Human Services, Office of New Americans hereby announces the availability of the grant program funds described herein.

Program Name: Detention and Deportation Defense Initiative (DDDI)

Purpose: This Request for Proposals (RFP) is issued by the New Jersey Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of New Americans (ONA) to provide access to legal representation for New Jersey residents facing detention and deportation.

The statewide, publicly funded, Detention and Deportation Defense Initiative (“DDDI”) will be administered through a consortium of providers who provide free and expert legal counsel to individuals with low incomes in detention facing deportation/removal proceedings, which promotes family unification and stability and due process for those who need it.

Available Funding Amount:

ONA anticipates making awards totaling up to \$12 million under three funding options to support a coordinated statewide network of providers. Funding Options A and B will support direct legal representation. Funding Option C will support one organization to serve as the statewide DDDI Coordinating Entity.

- Funding Option A – Experienced Removal Defense Providers: Up to \$5,000,000 per award.
- Funding Option B – Removal Defense Capacity Expansion Providers: Up to \$1,000,000 per award.
- Funding Option C – DDDI Coordinating Entity: One award of up to \$1,000,000.

Applicants may apply for Option A, Option B, or Option C; Option A and C; or Option B and C, provided they demonstrate the qualifications and organizational capacity required for each option.

No funding match is required. Bidders shall identify other funding sources, both in-kind and monetary, that will support the proposed activities.

Who Can Apply/Bidder Qualifications:

To be eligible for consideration under this RFP, the bidder must satisfy the requirements of the funding option for which they are applying. Applicants shall identify their funding option(s) of proposal. Current DDDI provider agencies are eligible to apply for additional funding through this funding opportunity.

Applicants may apply for Option A or Option B or Option C; Option A and C; or Option B and C, provided they demonstrate the qualifications and organizational capacity necessary to fulfill the requirements of each funding option.

- The bidder may be a nonprofit, governmental, or private entity.
- The bidder, or subgrantee for Options A and B, must have licensed attorneys with immigration law expertise on staff who will directly provide or supervise the services described in the RFP.
- The bidder must demonstrate that all professionals (including attorneys, DOJ-accredited representatives, social workers, and other staff providing services under this contract) possess the appropriate credentials, licenses, and certifications and are in good standing.
- The bidder must demonstrate the capacity and commitment to participate in statewide coordination efforts, including meetings, referral management, reporting, and other activities established by ONA and the DDDI Coordinating Entity.
- The bidder must collaborate with ONA, the DDDI Coordinating Entity, EOIR, detention facilities, community-based organizations, and other legal service providers, as appropriate.
- Subgrants and subcontractors are permitted but not required for Options A and B and are subject to ONA approval. Subgrants and subcontractors are not permitted for Option C.
- Commit to a Universal Model of Representation
- Applicants for Options A and B must meet the experience and capacity requirements described in the RFP, including the applicable attorney experience, removal defense experience or capacity-expansion plan, and ability to participate in statewide coordination, training, and technical assistance activities. Option C applicants must demonstrate experience coordinating statewide or multi-provider legal service programs, referral systems, technical assistance, data collection, reporting, and program oversight.

- The bidder must be fiscally viable based upon an assessment of the bidder's audited financial statements. If a bidder is determined, in ONA's sole discretion, to be insolvent or to present insolvency within the twelve (12) months after bid submission, ONA will deem the proposal ineligible for contract award;
- The bidder must not appear on the State of New Jersey Consolidated Debarment Report at <http://www.nj.gov/treasury/revenue/debarment/debarsearch.shtml> or be suspended or debarred by any other State or Federal entity from receiving funds;
- Pursuant to DHS Contract Policy and Information Manual Policy Circular 8.05, the bidder shall not have a conflict, or the appearance of a conflict, between the private interests and the official responsibilities of a person in a position of trust. Persons in a position of trust include Provider Agency staff members, officers and Governing Board Members. A bidder must have written Conflict of Interest policies and procedures that satisfy the requirements of P8.05, thereby ensuring that paid Board members do not participate in transactions except as expressly provided in the P8.05 circular; and
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, a for-profit bidder and each proposed subcontractor must have a valid Business Registration Certificate on file with the Division of Revenue. This statutory requirement does not apply to non-profit organizations, private colleges and universities, or State and municipal agencies.

Proposal Procedure: Effective August 20, 2026 the RFP is available at <https://www.nj.gov/humanservices/notices/grants/proposals>. A proposal must be submitted that comports with the RFP requirements and instructions.

Proposal Receiving Office:

Tanika Harper
Department of Human Services
222 South Warren Street
PO Box 0700
Trenton, NJ 08625

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be received by 4:00 p.m. ET on September 24, 2026

Notification Date: To Be Determined.



08/19/2026

Stephen Cha, MD, MHSR, Commissioner

Date