



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

**NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY
Fiscal Year 2026**

**PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY
Developing Training, Employment, and Retention for the Opioid Impacted Population**

Announcement Date: 01/22/2026

Application Due Date: 04/02/2026

**Michael B. Marich
Acting Commissioner**

PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY
Notice of Grant Opportunity – FY 2026

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PATHWAYS TO RECOVERY

Notice of Grant Opportunity – FY 2026

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development Notice of Availability of Grant Program Fund

Take Notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4 et seq., the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (hereinafter “the Department” or “NJDOL”) regularly publishes on its website all notices of fund availability pertaining to federal or state grant funds, which may be awarded by the Department. The notices of fund availability may be found on the Department’s website under the heading “Research & Information” and the subheading “Grant Opportunities”- <https://www.nj.gov/labor/research-info/grants.shtml>.

A. NAME OF GRANT PROGRAM

The Pathways to Recovery Initiative is a competitive grant offered by the New Jersey Department of Labor.

B. PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE FUNDS WILL BE USED

Grant funds will be awarded to selected applicants responding to this competitive Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO). The purpose of Pathways to Recovery is to provide training opportunities, career services, supportive services (for example, transportation, childcare, clothing) and employment to participants impacted by the opioid epidemic.

This grant aims to deepen the network of employment support for those affected by the opioid epidemic. It strives to improve opportunities and incentives for opioid-impacted individuals by providing basic skills instruction, workforce readiness (employability skills) instruction and work experience. The program is designed to facilitate effective transitions by the targeted population into employment and retention.

The grant seeks to award a total of five recipients statewide.

For purposes of this grant, *impacted by the opioid epidemic* is defined as an individual who has a friend, family member, or personal history of opioid use.

Mission of Pathways to Recovery

NJDOL is proposing partnerships and workforce development activities statewide due to increases in overdose deaths, demand for treatment, opioid admissions, and naloxone administrations.

Pathways to Recovery will provide opioid-impacted populations with the opportunity to learn and practice the skills necessary to successfully enter the workforce. These efforts will assist communities across New Jersey to strengthen services and promote recovery through employment and retention of opioid-impacted individuals.

Goals of Pathways to Recovery

Pathways to Recovery is an Employment and Training grant. **The main goal of this NGO is to place opioid-impacted individuals into unsubsidized employment.** This competitive NGO is being made available to accomplish the following goals:

- Facilitate community partnerships that are central to overcoming the employment effects of the opioid crisis.
- Ensure, per participant's Individual Employment Plan (IEP), the timely delivery of appropriate and necessary career-training, and supportive services to individuals temporarily or permanently laid off due to the opioid crisis, long-term unemployed individuals, and self-employed individuals who are unemployed or significantly underemployed as a result of the opioid crisis including individuals in these populations who have been impacted by opioid use, to promote successful reemployment.
- Design and provide employment and training activities for the targeted population to increase unsubsidized employment opportunities and retention.
- Design career pathways to in demand professions, as well as develop ties to employers, that directly impact or help combat the opioid crisis, such as addiction treatment and mental health counselors.

C. AVAILABLE FUNDING

The amount of funding available for this program in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) is estimated to be \$5 million and is contingent upon the availability of the Governor's Discretionary Opioid funding. Each grantee is estimated to receive up to \$1,000,000 the 24-month grant period is estimated to begin June 1, 2026, and end May 31, 2028.

The chart below details the amount grantees can expend to service participants.

GRANT FUNDING ALLOCATIONS	MAXIMUM FUNDING
Administrative Costs @ 10%	\$ 90,909
Outreach	\$ 10,000
Participant Training	\$ 360,000
Participant Supportive Services	\$ 179,091
Participant Career Services	\$ 360,000
TOTAL	\$ 1,000,000

The applicant's budget must be well considered and necessary for the implementation of the program. Final amounts will be determined at the time of pre-contract revisions. Ineligible, inappropriate, or undocumented costs will be removed from the funding request.

Please be advised that this grant follows a monthly cost reimbursement framework.

Funds may only be used to support services that are specific to this award; hence, this funding may not be used to supplant or duplicate existing funding streams. Actual funding levels will depend on the availability of funds and prior satisfactory performance.

Budget

When submitting the program budget to NJDOL, it's **not** mandatory for the budget to align precisely with the designated grant funding allocations per the chart above.

- a. Categories **allowed** to be increased or decreased:
 - Participant Training
 - Participant Career Services
 - Internships
- b. Categories **NOT allowed** to be increased but can be decreased:
 - Administrative Cost
 - Supportive Services
 - Outreach

Please note: Current grantees for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 are eligible to apply. However, if awarded, Fiscal Year 2025 grantees must fully expend the funds and meet all performance measures from their current grant before accessing the Fiscal Year 2026 funds. Failure to meet performance goals and expend funds will impact future grant opportunities.

NJDOL reserves the right to rescind any unspent funds or terminate awarded contracts if necessary. NJDOL also reserves the right to use this solicitation and competition to extend contracts of successful applicants, contingent upon available funding.

D. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

This competitive grant awards funding to lead agencies that provide training and employment placement services to opioid-impacted individuals that reside in the State of New Jersey.

Applicants must demonstrate relationship, connection to or partnership with mental health, opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment and/or recovery center providers. Applicants must have the capacity to operate this program for the full duration of the grant period and must be in good standing with NJDOL's Division of Employer Accounts.

To be eligible for this NGO, the applicant must satisfy the following requirements:

- Must be a non-profit, for-profit entity, governmental entity (including state or municipal agencies) or institution of higher education.
- Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44, a for-profit applicant 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.
- Required to comply with the Affirmative Action Requirements of Public Law 1975, c. 124 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) and the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1991 (P.L. 101-336)

In addition, as a precondition to any award of grant funds under this NGO, the applicant must be

in full compliance with all laws enforced by NJDOL. Specifically, the applicant must not have any outstanding liabilities to NJDOL, including but not limited to, for unpaid contributions to the unemployment compensation fund or the State disability benefits fund; to any individual on whose behalf the Department has issued a final order for the payment of wages or benefits; or for any penalties, fees or interest due to the Department pursuant to a final order issued under any of the statutes or rules that NJDOL enforces. Further, the applicant must not be on a debarment list, or any other list that prohibits them from public contracting, administered by NJDOL and the applicant must not be serving a suspension or revocation of their license, certificate, or registration issued by the NJDOL. Please be aware that under N.J.S.A. 34:15-34D and N.J.A.C. 12:9-1.3., NJDOL will be cross-checking applicants against NJDOL records for any of these issues as part of the evaluation process. To avoid delay in the processing of applications, if applicants are aware of any outstanding liabilities they may owe NJDOL, or of any of the above issues that could impact their ability to do business with NJDOL, they are advised to reach out to NJDOL or the relevant Division thereof to resolve such issues promptly prior to submitting their application.

E. TARGETED POPULATION

Participants of the program must reside in the appropriate regions throughout the State of New Jersey (See chart below).

Regions	Counties
North	Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren
Central	Hunterdon, Middlesex, Monmouth, Mercer, Ocean, Somerset, and Union
South	Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem

In accordance with program requirements, each grantee is expected to serve a minimum of 200 participants that meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Directly or indirectly impacted by the opioid crisis.
- Age 18 or older.
- Grantees may only ask the following question to determine that an applicant or eligible participant has been impacted by the opioid crisis:
The answer to this question is voluntary. ***Do you, a friend, or any member of your family have a history of opioid use? Please answer “Yes” or “No”.***
- In need of workforce services, training, or retraining to secure unsubsidized employment, and committed to completing the necessary training, career services, and internships to achieve employment.
- Resident of region where program services will be provided by the grantee.

F. CO-ENROLLMENT - NJDOL is mandating co-enrollment across state and federal programs for Program Year 2026 (PY26). These mandatory co-enrollment requirements will increase the number of participants that have access to and connect to WIOA career and training services and ultimately, the number of customers being reported through federal reporting systems to USDOL as WIOA participants. Title III programs provide labor exchange services, such as job search assistance and placement support, as part of the American Job Center

network, supporting the individual needs of jobseekers. Title III programs are responsible for combined planning, shared performance indicators, and aligned service delivery with other core and One Stop partner programs.

G. GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The grantee will be the lead agency and overall coordinator of the grant. Specific duties include, but are not limited to:

- Establish a physical location where applicants and participants meet with the grantee for assistance/services.
- Ensure effective communication is established with their local One-Stop Career Center.
- Provide an Individual Employment Plan (IEP) template for approval to NJDOL prior to the start of program services.
- Recruit and enroll participants into the Pathways to Recovery program.
- Conduct an orientation for all participants to ensure program requirements are met, training requirements are clearly understood, and participant rights and responsibilities are reviewed.
- Complete IEPs during the first 30 days of enrollment in the program and update regularly.
- Ensure no services are provided prior to IEP completion.
- Enroll participants as WIOA Adult eligible within 60 days and ensure documentation is obtained and placed in participant files.
- Ensure all participants are registered as Pathways to Recovery in AOSOS with their local One-Stop Career Center.
- Provide and track supportive services based on individuals' needs identified in IEP.
- Supportive Services provided must be reasonable and necessary.
- Enroll all participants in career readiness and soft-skills training.
- Ensure all training vendors are approved and published on the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL) and listed as in-demand.
- Ensure all components of Peer Recovery Specialist training are completed through the Pathways to Recovery program.
- Confirm Peer Recovery Specialist/Recovery Support Specialist internships are reimbursed at a maximum of 500 hours per participant (**highly recommended**).
- Provide marketable job skill training for participants that leads to long-term career paths.
- Administer mentorship and/or job coaching services for all participants.
- Maintain and update participant files with IEPs, case notes, employment verification, follow-ups, training start/end dates, credentials/certifications, signed supportive service forms, and exit forms.
- Participant files must be secured in a locked case if being transported to other sites.

H. PROCEDURES TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS

The grantee serves as the applicant agency of record, the legally recognized fiscal agent for the grant project, and the single point of contact for NJDOL. The grantee will be expected to coordinate all aspects of the grant, i.e., project and spending plan; grant project monitoring and reporting; outreach and recruitment; and fiscal management.

It is essential that the applicant carefully construct result-oriented goals and objectives, together with the program description and budget, providing a comprehensive plan for the successful accomplishment of the program.

All applicants are considered new applicants for this funding cycle, and will be evaluated on the

basis of quality, comprehensiveness, completeness, accuracy, and appropriateness of response to the NGO.

The standard evaluation criteria will be used to review and select applications. Applicants under this grant program must provide a narrative describing their organizational capacity, resources, commitment, and any demonstrated employment, retention, and employer relationship successes in working with the targeted population of this grant. Such information is to be included as part of the applicant's "Narrative" section of the application.

I. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Successful proposals must be responsive to the NGO and meet all technical capacity and fiscal viability requirements as described. Applications are submitted and awards are managed through NJDOL's online grant system, the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) IGX. Applications are submitted online via IGX at [Njdol.intelligrants.com](https://njdol.intelligrants.com).

Applicants must determine who will serve as the Authorized Official (AO) for this grant application. The AO must:

- Be authorized to enter into a contractual agreement on behalf of the company.
- Read and understand the FY2026 Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO).
- Register (create an account) in the System to Administer Grants Electronically (SAGE) IGX and submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for FY2026 Pathways to Recovery grant.

The AO may delegate completion of the application to others by giving access in IGX but should be aware that responsibility for the contract remains with the AO for the life of the grant.

Applicants interested in applying for the Pathways to Recovery grant **must** submit a LOI to express interest in the grant opportunity. This notification allows NJDOL to have sufficient resources in place to carefully review each proposal and to obtain access to the application in IGX. Applicants **must** complete, sign, and submit a LOI as soon as the applicant is interested in applying for the grant opportunity. A sample LOI can be found below. The completed and signed LOI **must** be emailed as an attachment to Pathways2Recovery@dol.nj.gov

Incorrect or missing information or failure to register in IGX will delay the processing of the LOI, which will delay access to the online application. Once the Authorized Official is registered and approved in IGX, applicants can then proceed to enter the required information and documentation in the IGX system.

Mandatory Technical Assistance Session

NJDOL will provide a mandatory technical assistance (TA) session via Microsoft Teams to potential applicants. General guidance on completing the required documents, budget forms and an overview of IGX will be provided. It is important that both the Program Director and Fiscal Officer attend this session. **To register for the mandatory technical assistance session, submit your LOI to Pathways2Recovery@dol.nj.gov.**

Proposal Deadline

Please adhere to deadline dates noted below.

Letter of Intent Due	Technical Assistance Session	Application Due	Panel Review
March 5, 2026 @ 4 PM	March 6, 2026 @ 10 AM	April 2, 2026 @ 4 PM	April 6, 2026

J. AWARD PROCESS

To be eligible for funding, the applicant must have satisfactorily completed the required elements of the NGO. NJDOL reserves the right to reject any and all applications when circumstances indicate that it is in its best interest to do so. NJDOL's best interests in this context include, but are not limited to, loss of funding; inability of the applicant to provide adequate services; indication of misrepresentation of information and/or non-compliance with State and Federal laws and regulations; and/or any existing NJDOL contracts and procedures.

Panel Review Process - All applications are subject to a department panel review and final approval by the Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Labor. The panel review date is expected to occur per chart above. Within 10 business days following the panel review date, applicants will be notified of the status of their application and any requested revisions. Upon completion of all requested revisions and re-submission of completed applications with the required timelines, applicants will be notified of the final determination of their application.

K. REPORTING AND ON-SITE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE VISITS

To receive timely reimbursement, grant recipients must maintain progress data and submit monthly program and fiscal reports documenting their grant-related activities by the 15th of each month. These reports will be carefully reviewed to assess the grantee's progress within the defined scope of work and ensure compliance with program regulations and legislation.

The format of the monthly reports is determined by NJDOL, and the report form will be provided with the contract in dashboard format. Monthly financial reports must be submitted as required in the contract and are due no later than the 15th of each month unless prior approval is provided. In addition, they must contain the following:

- Status of all expenditures listed in the budget detail and the amount expended each month along with supporting documents; and
- A State of New Jersey payment voucher submission for expenditures incurred during the month.

All programs will receive multiple on-site technical assistance visits on a performance basis need. The purpose of the visit will be to assess progress toward the program goals and objectives, and integrity of the program model. Grantees may be required to submit additional reports as requested by NJDOL.

L. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Grantees are expected to attain the following outcomes during the funding period:

- A minimum of **200** participants enrolled in the program who must be provided:
 - Assessments/Registration
 - IEP
 - Career Services
 - Training Services
 - Supportive Services
- At least 80% of 200 (160) participants placed into unsubsidized employment; and
- At least 60% (96) of those placed in employment will be retained for at least 90 days.








M. PROPOSAL CONTENT AND CHECKLIST

To ensure consistency and fairness of evaluation, NJDOL requires that each applicant seeking funding under this grant program submit an application on IGX that includes, at a minimum, the components listed below. It is important to note that failure to upload the required documentation may result in the application being removed from consideration for funding. Standard Assurances and Certification and General Provisions – By submitting the application, the applicant implicitly agrees to the terms and conditions as outlined in the “Standard Assurances and Certification and General Provisions”.

A description of each component is listed in this section, after the checklist.

The Program Narrative must be produced using the following formatting requirements:

- Font – Times New Roman, 12 point;
- Spacing – double spaced;
- Margins – 1” top and bottom and 1” side margins;
- Pages must be numbered – X of X pages centered at the bottom of the page;
- Charts and graphs are allowed but must be clearly labeled and described;
- Applicant/Organization’s name must be listed on each page; and
- Proposals including attachments should not exceed 20 pages.

<i>Required</i>	<i>Form</i>
	Letter(s) of Commitment from Partner(s) (WIB, Partner Agencies)
	Statement of Need
	Narrative
	Participant Flow Chart
	Organizational Commitment and Capacity
	Training Curriculum and Schedule
	Budget

Explanation of Proposal Components

1. Letter(s) of Commitment from Partner(s) – A letter of commitment from the applicant's local Workforce Development Board is required. Letters of commitment from other partners such as training providers, treatment providers, supportive service providers, and employers are encouraged. The letter(s) should indicate the specific activities in which the partner(s) will be involved.
2. Statement of Need – Demonstrate the need for the project in relation to the NGO. A need is defined as the difference between the current status and the outcomes that the applicant would like to achieve. Documentation may include a demographic description of your targeted area, including employers, jobs, and research specifically relating to the opioid crisis.
3. Narrative – Provide an overview of how the services detailed in the scope of work will be implemented and the timeframes involved, specifically addressing the following:
 - a. How the applicant's approach satisfies the requirements as stated in the NGO.
 - b. The applicant's understanding of the program expectations and outcomes as stated in the NGO.
 - c. All anticipated collaboration with other entities while fulfilling the requirements of the contract resulting from this NGO.
 - d. Resolutions to anticipated barriers and potential problems the applicant foresees itself and/or the State encountering in the successful realization of the initiative described herein.
 - e. Use disorders and/or mental illness with legitimately prescribed medication/s; and policies on the protection of applicant personal identification information (PII) and medical information per the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), a US law designed to provide privacy standards to protect patients' medical records and other health information provided to health plans, doctors, hospitals, and other health-care providers confidentiality.
4. Participant Flow Chart – Your application must include a detailed participant flow chart that visually outlines the journey of participants through your program, from initial assessment to successful exit. It should cover the initial assessment, detailing the steps and tools used to evaluate participants' needs and eligibility. It must also describe the creation of an Individualized Employment Plan (IEP), highlighting how participant input is integrated. The chart should include the range of services offered, such as education, vocational training, counseling, and mentorship, specifying the roles of your organization and partners. Additionally, it should outline mechanisms for securing employment, including partnerships with local businesses. It must illustrate collaboration with partners, detailing each partner's role in the participant journey. The flow chart must be clear, concise, and visually accessible, demonstrating how your program and partnerships facilitate participants' transition into the workforce.
5. Organizational Commitment and Capacity – Applicants need to describe their commitment to addressing the conditions and/or needs identified in this NGO, including the organizational support that exists for implementing the proposed project. Please

include charts of staff names, titles, duties/responsibilities, and allocation of time related to this grant. The applicant must also state they have the management information system (MIS), equipment and capacity needed to properly track and report participant demographic and performance data to NJDOL and demonstrate the ability to complete all required monthly reports and requests for information in accordance with protocol and timelines established by NJDOL. The applicant should also describe what experience they have had in conducting training which supports opioid effected persons. Additionally, the applicant should focus on how previous experience will be applied to ensure successful implementation of the proposed project. The applicant should describe how they will establish networking, mentoring, and leadership opportunities during and after the project particularly, creating a workforce development infrastructure and possible continued employment for recipients.

6. Training Curriculum and Schedule – It is required that each applicant submit with this proposal a curriculum outlining the components within this section of the NGO and the associated hours for completion of each component. The training curriculum should be focused on basic skills instruction, workforce readiness instruction and occupation-specific training. Proposals that include training which leads to industry-recognized credentials will be given special consideration. Training might be for job coaches who are peers to provide necessary support to either the worker or employers to support employees who are affected by the opioid crisis. The training might also enhance the capacity or tools of certified peer recovery specialists, community health workers, and certified recovery support practitioners working with the specified population. The curriculum must list the specific occupation(s) individuals will enter once they complete the training.
7. Budget – This section must be completed, and Narrative must also include all monetary and non-monetary funding sources or resources within the budget. Reimbursement for career services salaries is specifically designated for staff members who provide one-on-one assistance to participants. Amounts reported in the budget must be fully supported by information provided on the budget narrative. Budgets will be reviewed using the State of New Jersey policies and regulations as a guideline.

Note: The following are not allowable

- Participant Stipends
- Fee for Service

Miscellaneous Attachments – The miscellaneous attachment is optional and not required to be completed. In this section, you can submit any additional information or documents that will support your grant application.

Standard Assurances and Certification and General Provisions – By submitting the application, the applicant implicitly agrees to the terms and conditions as outlined in the “Standard Assurances and Certification and General Provisions”.

Evaluation Criteria

This NGO is competitive and will be reviewed by a selection committee using a pre-established set of requirements, which will include, but not be limited to the following:

<i>Evaluation Criteria</i>	<i>Total Points</i>
Program Narrative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addresses all narrative summary items.• Compelling statement of need.• Summary of training curriculum and alignment with the NGO.• Participant Flow Chart: Strategy to ensure participant program completion, placement, and attendance tracking procedure/policy.	50
Applicant Requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organizational commitment and capacity describe past experience and includes information about their MIS system.• Letters of support.	20
Budget and Budget Narrative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget is completed.• Budget is reasonable.• Budget is within the cost guidelines of the NGO.• Budget aligns with Budget Narrative.• No calculation errors	30

Letter of Intent (On organization's letterhead)

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce
Development Office of Transitional Workforce
Services Pathways2Recovery@dol.nj.gov

RE: FY26 Pathways to Recovery

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to apply for the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development Fiscal Year 2026 Pathways to Recovery Initiative. I have completed registration (created an account) in the Intelligrants System (IGX) and did read and do understand the FY26 Pathways to Recovery Notice of Grant Opportunity and am aware of my responsibilities as the Authorized Official.

(Organization's Name) proposes to request funding to service opioid impacted individuals in (county/area).

Legal business name:

Federal Employee Identification # (FEIN):

System for Award Management (SAM)/Unique Entity Identifier (UEI): NJ

Business Address:

County of NJ Business:

Business Web Address:

Name of Authorized Official:

Title of Authorized Official:

Direct phone # and email address of Authorized Official:

Main point of contract for the Pathways to Recovery application:

Direct phone # and email address of main point of contact:

Signature of Authorized Official

Date

Email this completed form as an attachment to: Pathways2Recovery@dol.nj.gov