

Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO)



STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

UPSKILL: NJ INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

Notice of Grant Opportunity

Fiscal Year 2027

Announcement Date: September 2, 2026

Revised: September 3, 2026

**Kevin D. Jarvis
Acting Commissioner**

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Take Notice that, in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4 et seq., the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (hereinafter “the Department” or “NJDOLE”) 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” by hovering the computer mouse cursor over the hyperlink <https://www.nj.gov/labor/research-info/grants.shtml> and hitting Ctrl+Left Click.

The State of New Jersey is committed to addressing the needs of New Jersey businesses by enhancing the employability of New Jersey residents and building a skilled workforce through work-based learning initiatives.

A. Name of the grant program

The UPSKILL: NJ Incumbent Worker Training Grant Program helps defray the cost of training current employees to retain employment or advance in the company, thereby increasing the competitiveness of the employee and employer.

B. Purpose of the grant

The purpose of the UPSKILL: NJ Incumbent Worker Training Grant program is to provide New Jersey-based employers with up to 50% cost reimbursement assistance to FOCUS on frontline incumbent worker training to meet current and future occupational skill requirements. **Participants must not be charged for any required training-related expenses.** Grant funds are not intended for company-required annual training or new-employee on-boarding or orientation training.

C. Types of Training

The UPSKILL grant program is open to **only New Jersey-based employers and business sectors.** Types of training include Third-Party Classroom Training, On-the-Job Training (OJT) and Company In-House Training. **Individual and Consortium employer grants will require a minimum of 5 trainees per class.** Eligible expenses include tuition fees, textbooks, software, and examination/credentialing fees. Access fees for on-line training/learning are not eligible for reimbursement. OJT and Company In-House Training, available only to single employers, is reimbursed at 50% of the base wages of trainees during training. **All third-party training providers must be physically located in New Jersey and are exempt from the Education Training Provider List (ETPL).** A Unique Employer Identity (UEI) number is not required for the UPSKILL: NJ Incumbent Worker Training Grant Program.

D. Available Funding

The total amount of available funding is **\$7,000,000** and will come from Workforce Development Partnership Funding (Traditional), fiscal year 2027 (FY27). There will be two Rounds with **\$3,500,000** being awarded per Round.

Single Employers and Consortiums may qualify for a maximum of \$250,000 per round, depending on the number of trainees. **No more than one (1) application per Round or a total of two (2) applications per fiscal year will be accepted from the same applicant.**

E. Eligible Applicants

The grant program is open to the following New Jersey applicants:

- Single employers seeking to train their employees in skills needed for jobs in all industry sectors. **Employees are required to have been working full-time with the employer for at least six months.**
- An employer organization, labor organization, community-based organization, or faith-based organization; secondary (middle school and high school), post-secondary school (public and private colleges, universities, technical schools, and vocational schools that offer certificates, diplomas, or degrees) or a training provider seeking to meet the collective training needs of an industry-specific consortium of employers for jobs in all industry sectors. The Industry Sector and any Third-Party Trainer must be identified in the application.
- Government and Public entities.
- *Positions that are seasonal, temporary, part-time, commission-based, classified as 1099, or for new hires are not eligible.*
- No additional participating companies may be added to the consortium after the application deadline or throughout the duration of the contract.
- All training must be completed within the twelve-month contract period.

F. Requirements to Apply

- Complete Pre-Application Preparation as detailed on page 6.
- All employers, including Consortium Participating Companies, will be required to provide tax clearance certificates obtained from the Department of the Treasury at: [Premier Business Services](#). If a business is having an issue obtaining a tax clearance certificate, it should email the Division of Taxation's Business Assistance Tax Clearance Unit at BusinessAssistanceTC.Taxation@treas.nj.gov. They will assist the business in identifying the issue and providing a solution to the problem.
- Plan project-based front-line employee-focused training which will achieve measurable outcomes and grow or stabilize NJ business via the most cost-effective method of delivery.
- Complete Steps One, Two and Three of the Application Process as detailed on page 6.
- Commit to retain trainees for at least six months after training is completed.

Required Documents and Program Invoicing/Reporting Requirements

1. Letter of Intent (LOI) form *Step Two of the Application Process (see page 9 as form is NOT in IGX)*. Although an employer may submit an LOI in advance, and while its receipt will be acknowledged, it will not be processed until the LOI deadline outlined in the Notice of Grant Opportunity for each round.
2. Documents uploaded to IGX as part of *Step Three of the Application Process*, required as described:

REQUIRED FOR ALL APPLICANTS:	REQUIRED ONLY FOR PREVIOUS (3 fiscal years) RECIPIENTS OF CUSTOMIZED TRAINING GRANT FUNDS:
Long-range Human Resource Development Plan*	Non-Duplication Attestation Form (see page 12)
Narrative*	REQUIRED ONLY FOR APPLICANTS REQUESTING ISO TRAINING: (consult NJDOL Business Representative)
Tax Clearance Certificate Premier Business Services	International Organization for Standardization Letter
Training Plan and Trainee List*	REQUIRED ONLY FOR CONSORTIUM APPLICANTS:
FY26 Program Conditions Form (see page 10)	Participating Companies List with FEIN numbers (Excel Format) submitted with LOI.
REQUIRED ONLY FOR FUNDING REQUESTS OF \$25,000 OR MORE:	
Development Subsidy Job Goals Accountability Act Application The Development Subsidy Job Goals Accountability Act	

Required documents are to be in **Word format, not PDF format.*

Program Invoicing Requirements

If a grant is awarded, a *Monthly Payment Invoice/Voucher must be* submitted via IGX, due by the **10th day of each month**. Grantees must invoice at least **30% of the total award** within the first six (6) months of the contract start date. Failure to comply will result in the de-obligation of unexpended funds.

Before submission of the Final Expenditure Report, please contact your NJDOL Business Representative for important closeout instructions.

Program Activity Reporting Requirements

Grantees must submit Monthly Activity Reports by the **end of each month**. Reports are required even in months when no expenses are incurred. Each Activity Report must include detailed status updates and progress comments.

Provide clear and concise responses to the following questions:

1. What specific skills or competencies have participants been developing this month, and are they progressing as expected?
2. How are employees responding to the training content? Please share any feedback received from participants regarding the relevance, quality, and satisfaction of the training.
3. Have you observed any early indicators of improvement in employee performance or workplace practices as a result of the training to date?
4. Is the training progressing within the approved budget and timeline? If not, please explain any variances and corrective actions.

Final Close-Out Reports

Grantees must submit a Final Expenditure and Activity Report within thirty (30) days of contract completion. The Final Activity Report must include, at minimum:

- Training outcomes and achievements.
- Credentials or certifications obtained by participants.
- Customer satisfaction results and feedback.
- The Final Activity Report must be completed by the grantee, not a third party, within 30 business days of the contract's end date.

G. The Development Subsidy Job Goals Accountability Act

[Development Subsidy Job Goals Accountability Act](#): Public Law 2007, c.200 requires that all applicants awarded a grant in excess of \$25,000 complete the Development Subsidy Job Goals Accountability form: [The Development Subsidy Job Goals Accountability Act](#). This form must be completed within 30 days after the State's fiscal year for a period of five years after the grant is awarded.

H. Standard Assurances, Certifications and General Provisions

The Standard Assurances and Certifications and General Provision may be obtained https://nj.gov/labor/forms_pdfs/Programs/NGO/FY26/Standards_General_provisions_02_18_26_verOIA.pdf

I. Application Process

Pre-Application Preparation

- Name an Authorized Official for the grant application. This person is a company representative located at a New Jersey-based facility who has signature authority on behalf of the company.
- Ensure you provide the correct FEIN - some businesses have more than one. The correct FEIN number is needed to properly invoice for the employees receiving the training.
- If the company is not currently paying state unemployment and disability insurance taxes, contact the Division of Employer Accounts at 609-633-6400 for information.
- 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 unpaid liabilities to NJDOL, including but not limited to, for unpaid contributions to the unemployment compensation fund or the State disability benefits fund or any other worker wage tax collection; to any individual on whose behalf the Department has issued a final order for 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 crosschecking applicants against NJDOL records for any of these issues as part of the evaluation process. If applicants are aware of any outstanding liabilities they may owe NJDOL, or of any of the above issues that could impact ability to do business with NJDOL, they are advised to reach out to NJDOL or relevant Division thereof to resolve such issues promptly prior to submitting their application to avoid delay.
- If the company's employees (and payroll taxes) are paid through another company, be prepared to provide the name, address, and contact information of that company as well as your account number. *If the company has an existing tax liability greater than \$1,000, contact the Department of the Treasury at <https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/busasst.shtml> by hovering the computer mouse cursor over the hyperlink and select Open Hyperlink.*
- *If the company has an existing worker wage tax collection liability to NJDOL greater than \$5.00, contact the Division of Employer Accounts at 609-633-6400 for information and payment options.*
- In order to conduct business with and receive reimbursement payments from the State of New Jersey, online registration of the W-9 is required either by calling the NJSTART help desk at 609-341-3500 or accessing [NJSTART](#) by hovering the computer mouse cursor over the hyperlink and select Open Hyperlink.

J. Submitting the Application

1. Step One: Letter of Intent (LOI) Process:

Applicants are required to notify NJDOL of the intent to apply for the grant program. For each application round, there is a firm due date and time for this notification which is emailed to upskill@dol.nj.gov. The LOI form (see page 9) must be completed (completion of all fields is required) and submitted by a company representative or third-party authorized by the AO. A **Participating Companies List in Microsoft Excel format** with the FEIN, contact person and contact information for each company must be submitted with the Letter of Intent form.

Additionally, the **Industry Sector and any Third-Party Trainer must be identified on the form**. After the LOI form is processed by NJDOL, the Authorized Official will receive email confirmation of approval of the IGX registration (*Step One*), completion of the Letter of Intent Process (*Step Two*), availability of the application in IGX (*Step Three*), and assignment of an NJDOL Business Representative for application assistance and technical service needs.

Make note of the EXACT spelling of the username and the EXACT spelling of the business' name in IGX; they will both be needed for Step Two.

2. Step Two: IGX Registration/Update

Applications and grants are administered via the online IGX system. The Authorized Official (AO) must personally register (create an account) or ensure an existing account's information is current in IGX. After the registration is approved by NJDOL, the AO may add others (such as a grant manager) to his/her/their organization in IGX. The AO will be notified of the IGX registration approval in Step Two. To Access IGX to register or update an account, hover the computer mouse cursor over the hyperlink <https://njdol.intelligrants.com/> and select Open Hyperlink.

3. Step Three: Submission of the online IGX Application

As soon as the AO receives the confirmation email described in Step Two, the application may be accessed in IGX. The application consists of detailed information about the requested training, trainees, budget and plan, as well as the uploading of all Required Forms, which include the Long Range Human Resource Development Plan and answers to the Narrative questions, on which the application will be scored. *All information entered/uploaded in IGX MUST BE SAVED. After receipt of the confirmation email, access the online IGX application by hovering the computer mouse cursor over the hyperlink <https://njdol.intelligrants.com/> and hit Ctrl+Left Click.*

K. APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATES

Schedule of Submission Dates and Times							
	STEP ONE: Online Letter of Intent (LOI) form submitted by the applicant and accepted by NJDOL.		STEP TWO: IGX registration completed and updated by the Authorized Official.		STEP THREE: Online application with all Required Documents uploaded, completed and submitted in IGX.		Panel Review Expected to begin
	Date	Time	Date	Time	Date	Time	Week of:
1	9/23/26	12:00 noon	10/2/26	12:00 noon	10/28/26	12:00 noon	11/09/26
2	01/08/27	12:00 noon	01/22/27	12:00 noon	02/24/27	12:00 noon	03/08/27

L. PANEL REVIEW AND RATING CRITERIA

Panel Review:
UPSKILL: NJ Incumbent Worker Training Grants are competitive. All completed applications submitted by the due date and time for each round will be reviewed and rated by a diverse panel comprised of NJDOL representatives who will make funding recommendations to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development. All awards are subject to final approval by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
Rating Criteria:
Applications will be scored as follows: A maximum of 20 points may be awarded for the Long-Range Human Resource Development Plan ; a maximum of 80 points may be awarded for responses to Narrative Questions 1 – 4 , for a total of 100 possible points .

Long-Range Human Resource Development Plan – A Required Document (MS Word format) uploaded to IGX:

A long-range plan to ensure the availability of an adequate number of employees with the skills and training needed to perform the jobs required to meet current and future business goals (single employer) or industry goals (participating companies) as determined by strategic planning, which is developed through:

1. Preparation of a human resource inventory of employees and preparation of a job analysis.
2. Assessment of future demand and assessment of future supply.
3. Establishment of a plan for recruiting, hiring, educating, appraising, and compensating employees.

The Plan includes:

- A. Identification of short-term hiring/workforce needs and the training required for those jobs
- B. Details of how the requested training builds on previous training (NJDOL sponsored or not) and/or will be built upon with future training.
- C. Strategies for the advancement of current employees and creating new positions for unemployed jobseekers.
- D. **If applicable:** If the business was awarded a Skills Partnership or UPSKILL Grant in the past three fiscal years (FY2024, FY2025, FY2026), how did the previous grant funds impact the business and what measurable outcomes were achieved?

Desired Measurable outcomes – Expected results of training. Examples include skill attainment that advances the employee’s career pathway, pay increases for the employee, industry-valued credentials for the business or employee and job retention rates of employees resulting from the training provided.

Narrative – Required Document (MS Word format) uploaded to IGX with **clear** and **concise** answers to these questions:

For Single Employer Applicants:

1. What is (are) your specific business issue(s)/need(s) that the training will address?
2. How will the proposed training address the issue(s)/need(s)?
3. How will this training contribute to the growth and/or stabilization of the business in the state of New Jersey?
4. What measurable outcome(s) will the requested training achieve for the trainees, such as a nationally recognized portable credential or professional license?

For Consortium Applicants:

1. What is (are) the collective business issue(s)/need(s) of this industry sector that the training will address?
2. How will the proposed training address the issue(s)/need(s)?
3. How will this training contribute to the growth and/or stability of the participating businesses in the state of New Jersey?
5. What measurable outcome(s) will the requested training achieve for the trainees, such as a nationally recognized portable credential or professional license?

M. Panel Review Results Notification

Applicants will be notified of the panel review outcome after the panel review has concluded. Those not passing Panel Review will be advised to address identified issues and reapply again in subsequent rounds.

LETTER OF INTENT

FY27 UPSKILL: NJ Incumbent Worker Training Grant Round: #1 ☐ #2 ☐

I intend to apply for the UPSKILL: NJ Incumbent Worker Training Grant. I have completed registration or updated my existing account in the IGX Grant/Contract/ETPL Management System. I did read and do understand the Notice of Grant Opportunity for the 2027 (FY27) fiscal year and am aware of my responsibilities as the Authorized Official (AO). **I am authorized to sign a contract on behalf of the company.**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL APPLICANTS:

Email this completed form to upskill@dol.nj.gov before the deadline specified in the Schedule of Submission Dates and Times in the FY27 Notice of Grant Opportunity. **If this form is not submitted from the email address of the Authorized Official, the Authorized Official MUST be copied on the submission email.** Incorrect or incomplete information **will delay** access to the online grant application.

Full legal business name:	FEIN:	Vendor Number:
NJ business address:	County of NJ business:	Business web address:
	Industry Sector:	
Name of Training Provider:		
Name/Title of Authorized Official (AO):		AO Direct Phone #
Consortium Applicant <u>ONLY</u> (Must Also Complete Information Above):		
Industry:	Describe requested training & certification goals:	
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CONSORTIUM APPLICANTS: The consortium information must be completed at the time of submitting the Letter of Intent. All participating companies must be identified and approved by NJDOL prior to submitting an application. A Participating Companies List in Microsoft Excel format with the FEIN, contact person and contact information for each company must be submitted with the Letter of Intent form. No additional participating companies may be added to the consortium after the application deadline or throughout the duration of the contract. Reimbursement is contingent upon participation of the companies identified and approved.		

FY 2027 UPSKILL: NJ INCUMBENT WORKER TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM

PROGRAM CONDITIONS FORM

- The applicant assumes all costs related to the preparation of the Training Grant application - Costs incurred by an applicant prior to the execution of a formal training contract are not reimbursable. This includes assessment of need.
- The submittal of an application does not in any way obligate or imply approval of financial assistance by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.
- All training plans submitted as part of the application must be carefully developed to be completed within a 12-month period of time from date of award.
- All training plans submitted as part of the application must be based on employer(s) need (need defined as a specific business problem whereby requested training will result in a business solution).
- Grantees must provide matching funds toward total program costs. NJDOL up to 50% & Grantee (minimum match) 50%. Wages paid to employees while attending training go toward employer match.
- Grant funds are distributed on a reimbursable basis. Request for reimbursement is submitted on-line via IGX once each training program is completed and must be supported by documentation of completion (sign-in sheets).
- Union concurrence with any submitted training plan is required if a union represents workers at the location for which training is being requested.
- Program participation must not cause any displacement of current workers or result in any reduction in their hours of employment. Training must not replace or compete with an approved apprenticeship program.
- Participating businesses must provide workers' compensation coverage for any worker enrolled in the UPSKILL: NJ Incumbent Worker training grant program.
- Trainees are expected to receive their normal wages while involved in training supported by the UPSKILL: NJ Incumbent Worker training grant.
- Grant agreements begin after contracts are signed by the NJDOL Commissioner.
- **All third-party training providers must be located in New Jersey.** Training providers must provide written notification of any subcontracted providers utilized under the grant agreement and receive NJDOL approval before commencement of any training.
- Participating businesses must agree to post all available jobs with the Local One-Stop Career Center. Your assigned Business Representative can help facilitate this process.
- Participating business must notify the assigned BR (NJDOL Business Representative) of any anticipated changes to a grant agreement prior to submitting a request for changes online and must maintain ongoing contact with the assigned NJDOL BR throughout the grant contract period.

- Grantees **must invoice at least 30%** of the award amount **within first 6 months** of the contract start date. Failure to comply will result in the de-obligation of the unexpended funds.
- Grantee must submit a closeout FINAL Activity report **within 30 days** of contract completion. The closeout FINAL Activity report will contain at a minimum; training outcomes, credentials obtained, and customer satisfaction.
- If a participating business leaves New Jersey within 3 years of the conclusion of the contract, all monies received under the contract agreement must be refunded to the state.
- Grant Applicant confirms by signature that they have fully reviewed **BOTH** the NGO (Notice of Grant Opportunity) and the General Provisions, which govern the contract, and understand the obligations of an applicant.

Grant Applicant Authorized Official:

(Print Name and Title)

X

(Signature & Date)



MIKIE SHERRILL
Governor

State of New Jersey

KEVIN D. JARVIS
Acting Commissioner

DR. DALE G. CALDWELL
Lieutenant Governor

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

FY2027 NON-DUPLICATION ATTESTATION

New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Workforce Grant and Program Management
Office of Apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning

Upskill Training Application No. _____

Date: _____

No course in this application will duplicate training provided to the same trainees in a prior grant.

Applicant Company Name

Name – Applicant Company Official (Print)

Signature – Applicant Company Official