



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

NEW JERSEY BUILDERS UTILIZATION FOR LABOR DIVERSITY (NJBUILD)

WOMEN AND MINORITY GROUPS IN CONSTRUCTION TRADES

**NOTICE OF GRANT OPPORTUNITY
Fiscal Year 2022**

Announcement Date: January 31, 2022

Application Due Date: March 2, 2022

**Robert Asaro-Angelo
Commissioner**

Women and Minority Groups in Construction Trades
Notice of Grant Opportunity – FY 2022

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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 “NJDOL”) regularly publishes on its website, at <https://nj.gov/labor/>, 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 “Public Notices” and the subheading “Notice of Availability of Grant Program Funds”.

A. NAME OF GRANT PROGRAM

Women and Minority Groups in Construction Trades

B. PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE FUNDS WILL BE USED

The New Jersey Builders Utilization Initiative for Labor Diversity (NJBUILD) is one of several state programs for training women and minorities in the construction trades administered by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (NJDOL). Unlike other training programs, NJBUILD funds are specifically limited to construction trades training and cannot be used for other industry-related training, such as management and engineering occupations. Funding for NJBUILD is provided through the annual Appropriations Act and P.L. 2009, c. 335. These laws ensure that all members of the public are afforded the opportunity to benefit from the economic recovery funds and associated State spending, and that every public contract, whether for construction services, goods, or other services provides equal employment opportunity for women and minorities. This grant will assist in providing greater opportunities and incentives for individuals by providing pre-apprenticeship training, basic skills instruction, workforce readiness (employability skills) instruction and a structured work experience which will emphasize vocational-based training for entry-level skills in the construction trades. The program will seek to facilitate effective transitions by women and minorities to high-skill, high-wage employment in labor demand occupations that are apprenticeable. In order to meet the employment needs of existing trade unions and private contractors, this funding will only support partnerships with trade unions and private contractors in the development and provision of pre-apprenticeship training and the placement of individuals with labor unions to meet their workforce needs.

The Women and Minority Groups in Construction Trades grant will assist in providing greater employment opportunities for females and minorities, residing in New Jersey, by providing pre-apprenticeship training, workforce readiness/employability, and a structured work experience which will emphasize vocational-based training for entry-level skills in the construction trades.

In order to meet the employment needs of existing trade unions and private contractors, this funding will only support partnerships with trade unions and private contractors in the development and provision of pre-apprenticeship training and the placement of individuals with labor unions and private contractors to meet their workforce needs.

Past Performance: Applicants who received prior state funding, or operated a similar program, must submit description of their performance, including outcome data for the most

recent year documenting the program's effectiveness and success in meeting the goals and objectives of the previous state grant that was received. Additionally, in cases where the goals and objectives of the grant were not met, the applicant must submit a narrative describing why those goals were not met and address any future corrective action that would need to be taken in order to insure future success of a new grant. Applicants who had prior unsatisfactory performance may not be funded with FY2022 NJBUILD funding.

Goals

The mission of the NJBUILD program is to promote outreach and pre-apprenticeship training in the construction trades industry for female and minority residents of New Jersey to prepare them for entry in a union apprenticeship or employment in a construction-related job.

This competitive Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO) is being made available to achieve two primary goals:

1. Increase opportunities for women and minorities to acquire skills, increase employment opportunities and benefit economically from construction projects within New Jersey.
2. Assist contractors and trade unions in meeting their workforce needs through the recruiting and training of women.

Objectives

As established by NJDOL, each applicant must include a plan on how they will meet each of the following three objectives:

- Engage USDOL Registered Apprenticeship programs and construction contractors in the development and provision of construction-related pre-apprenticeship training.
- Provide training in the following areas:
 - Workforce readiness /employability skills instruction; and,
 - Occupation-specific construction-related trades training.
- Assist participants with job placement services targeting employment in a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program or construction related jobs. These jobs are defined as construction jobs with a pay rate no less than \$15 per hour. Participants are to earn a minimum of one industry-valued credential.

C. AVAILABLE FUNDING

The Women and Minorities in Construction Trades grant will be funded by The New Jersey Builders Utilization Initiative for Labor Diversity (NJBUILD), through the annual Appropriations Act and P.L. 2009, c. 313.

The total amount of funding available for this program in Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) is \$2,000,000. Grant awards are contingent upon the available funding. The grant is expected to be for up to 18 months with the option for two (2) one-year renewals, contingent on the availability of funding and performance.

The applicant's budget must be well considered, necessary for the implementation of the program, and within the funding parameters. Final amounts will be determined at the time of pre-contract revisions. Unallowable costs (ineligible, inappropriate or unsubstantiated) will be removed from the funding request.

D. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

This Notice of Grant Opportunity is designed to provide training and placement services to participants in occupations as outlined in this NGO. The following organizations are eligible to apply as the lead applicant:

1. County or municipal governments;
2. Public training providers or trade schools;
3. Community-based organizations;
4. Labor organizations;
5. Employers and/or contractors;
6. Public vocational schools;
7. Institutions of higher education;
8. Public or private, non-profit agencies; or
9. Trade organizations which represent a particular trade, group of trades, contractors or employers.

PLEASE NOTE: All applicants must demonstrate a relationship with employers/contractors and/or a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program enabling program participants to transition into employment within the construction trades.

***All training providers utilized as part of a grant must be registered/approved on the State's Eligible Training Provider list (ETPL) <http://www.njtopps.org/>.**

E. TARGETED POPULATION

This funding opportunity seeks proposals that strengthen access to registered apprenticeships for women and minority individuals seeking career development leading to registered apprenticeship opportunities, including low-income and under-served individuals, 18 years of age or older, and not currently in full-time employment.

The FY22 Women and Minority Groups in Construction Trades program is part of a broader effort by NJDOL to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and applications that include pre-apprenticeship training and placement into employment in accordance with the NGO for women and minority residents impacted by COVID-19 will be given higher priority.

Greater weight will be given to applicants who demonstrate a viable strategy to recruit women and minority participants who are also included -in one of the following targeted populations: youth; individuals currently unemployed; county vocational school students; post-secondary students; ex-offenders; veterans; persons with disabilities; Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) eligible individuals; or other under-represented populations.

Applicants should, where possible, coordinate their programs with the local Workforce Development Board (WDB) and their corresponding One-Stop Career Center. A list of One-Stop Career Centers and their contact information can be found [here](#). Applicants are encouraged to have program participants register for One-Stop Career Center (OSCC) services by registering at <https://jobsource.nj.gov/jz/views/jobzone/guest.jsf>. Unemployed applicants must receive a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) eligibility determination at a One-Stop Career Center.

In addition, possible outreach and recruitment sources should include vocational/technical institutions, community and faith-based organizations, successful graduates from the New Jersey Youth Corps and Youth Transitions to Work (YTTW) programs, and community college graduates.

In accordance with program requirements, applicants must meet the following program participant eligibility requirements:

- Be a female or minority residing in New Jersey;
- Be at least 18 years of age at the time of program completion;
- Possess a high school diploma or High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma;
- Be drug-free throughout the training and placement.
- Encouraged to be registered with a OSCC and, if eligible, must be WIOA co-enrolled and offered appropriate services such as interviewing skills resume writing, career exploration.

F. PROGRAM OUTCOMES

All programs are expected to attain the following outcomes during the funding period:

- All participants will engage in all components of the program.
- Participants must be screened for WIOA eligibility.
- Graduate a minimum of 80 percent of participants from the training program.
- A minimum of 25% of program graduates will be placed into a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program; the remaining participants placed in a construction job in an affiliated trade earning no less than \$15 per hour.
- A minimum of one industry valued credential will be earned.
- Participants acquire valuable documents such as a driver's license, state identification, birth certificate, etc.
- If applicable, attainment of a GED or high school equivalency.

- Conduct participant follow up 3-months post placement into a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program or construction job in an affiliated trade earning no less than \$15 per hour.

G. PROCEDURES FOR ELIGIBLE ENTITIES TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDS

All grant proposals must establish a lead applicant which serves as the training provider, as well as the applicant agency of record, the legally recognized fiscal agent for the grant project and the single point of contact for NJDOL. The lead applicant is responsible for overseeing the implementation of 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 that support the program's stated goals and objectives, together with the program description and budget, providing a comprehensive plan for the successful accomplishment of the program. The plan shall also include the occupation in which the training will be provided, a summary of the curriculum of the training and clearly outline the number of hours of the training. Proposals that do not meet the above requirements or do not adhere to the potential award amount parameters will be eliminated from consideration.

Applicants under this grant program must provide a narrative describing their organizational capacity, resources, commitment and any demonstrated ancillary program successes in similar type of programs. Applicants must detail their experience in providing construction trades training in the specific occupation(s) for which they are applying. Such information is to be included as part of the applicant's "Organizational Commitment and Capacity" section of this application. A Budget Summary must also be completed. The summary must explain all monetary and non-monetary funding sources or resources within the budget. The maximum cost for training is \$6,000 per participant. The budget may include a participant stipend not to exceed \$125 per week (not included in the per participant costs). Administrative costs must not exceed 10% of your training budget. Budgets will be reviewed using the State of New Jersey policies and regulations as a guideline.

The lead applicant should conduct an orientation for all pre-screened individuals to ensure program requirements are met and training requirements are clearly understood. The orientation should provide a realistic picture of the trades, what they might encounter and how they can deal with these challenges in a positive way. The orientation should also outline the curriculum and number of training hours.

The lead applicant must partner with USDOL Registered Apprenticeship programs, trade unions, and/or private contractors/employers to ensure the training being provided aligns with the workforce needs of employers and unions and to create a pathway for graduates to be placed in USDOL Registered Apprenticeship programs or construction jobs.

H. REPORTING AND REQUIREMENTS

Grant recipients are required to maintain progress data and submit monthly program and fiscal reports documenting grant-related activities. The reports will be reviewed to ascertain the

grantee's progress within the scope of work and its conformance with program regulations and enabling legislation.

Monthly narrative and performance reports will include at a minimum the following: participant enrollment; participant attendance; participant demographics; benchmarks achieved; credentials achieved; job placement; program progress which includes achievements and challenges.

This grant will have a 18-month programmatic period and include participant follow up for 3 months after placement into a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program or construction job in an affiliated trade earning no less than \$15 per hour. Reimbursement will be made based on cost reimbursement and performance based according to the performance standards which will be stipulated in the contract. Requests for reimbursement for program costs is done through the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) system.

Performance and financial reports are due on or before the 15th of each month. A closeout report will be due 30 days from the end of job monitoring phase. A closeout template will be provided by NJDOL towards the end of the grant. Grantees who fail to provide the necessary documentation by each monthly reporting deadline could face a hold on available funds, and possible contract cancellation.

All grantees will be subject to announced and unannounced on-site technical assistance visits and inspection of required maintenance of records and documentation. The purpose of the visit will be to assess progress toward the program goals and the integrity of the program model.

I. APPLICATION PROCESS

NJDOL accepts reviews, approves and manages grants electronically using the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE). Any potential applicant is encouraged to first submit a letter of intent via email to NJBUILDPrograms@dol.nj.gov. The letter of intent needs to include the Applicant Agency, Business Name, Name of Person Responsible for Submitting Application (Agency Official), Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN) and Dun and Bradstreet (DUNS) Number. The letter of intent should be submitted in accordance with the chart in Section K.

In the event an applicant does not currently have access to SAGE, they must register at the following website: <https://njsage.intelligrants.com>. You will receive an email message confirming that your account has been validated. Within the next three business days, NJDOL will provide access to the application. After receiving the confirmation, eligible entities will have access to complete and submit their grant application online. It is recommended that registration in SAGE be submitted at the time the letter of intent is completed.

Proposal Content and Checklist

To ensure consistency and fairness of evaluation, each applicant seeking funding under this grant program submit an online application 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. A description of each component is listed in this section, after the checklist.

<i>Required</i>	<i>Component</i>
✓	Activity Plan
✓	Letter(s) of Commitment from Partner(s)
✓	Statement of Need
✓	Organizational Commitment and Capacity
✓	Training Curriculum and Schedule
✓	Comprehensive Attendance and Drug Policies
✓	Program Sustainability Plan
✓	Letter of Commitment from Workforce Development Board
✓	Budget Summary

The Program Narrative must meet 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;
- Proposals, excluding attachments, should not exceed 25 pages.

Explanation of Program Components

- 1) Activity Plan – An activity plan, including specific objectives and a training plan must be completed. Detailed information for each component is to be included in a timeline format from recruitment to graduation and subsequent job placement or enrollment in a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program. The program must be completed within 18 months. Post placement follow up plans are required for proposal submissions. Applications must describe how they will track placements and/or credential attainment after participants have acquired employment or enrolled in a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program. Monitoring of the employment retention will be done at 3-months post job placement.
- 2) Letter(s) of Commitment from Partner(s) – A letter of commitment from each USDOL Registered Apprenticeship and/or construction contractor, or union who will be in partnership with the grantee must be submitted along with the application. The letter should indicate the specific activities the entity will be involved in and a willingness to hire graduates of the training program. Also, a letter of commitment from the local Workforce Development Board is required and must be submitted.

- 3) 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 and research specifically relating to construction projects in the targeted area. This should also include projected number of apprenticeship opportunities with unions and construction employers within the targeted area and the surrounding area.
- 4) Organizational Commitment and Capacity – Applicants need to describe their commitment to addressing the conditions and/or needs identified, including the organizational support that exists for implementing the proposed project. 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 construction-related training. Additionally, the applicant should focus on how previous experience will be applied to ensure successful implementation of the proposed project.
- 5) 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 construction trades training. At the completion of training, participants should be prepared to take and pass the entrance examinations to a USDOL Registered Apprenticeship program or obtain a construction job in an affiliated trade. Proposals must include training which leads to at least one industry-recognized credential. Examples of such certifications include: OSHA10 Safety Training, EPA Lead-Safe Training, etc. The curriculum must list the specific construction trades occupation(s) individuals will enter once they complete the training. Basic skills assessment testing must take place for all students prior to acceptance into the training program and at the conclusion of instruction. Field trips to union training centers and/or worksites must be part of the curriculum and does not count toward the number of hours of training. Hands-on training must be included.
- 6) Comprehensive Attendance and Drug Policies - Applicants must ensure that participants are drug free throughout the training program and therefore must include a policy for a minimum of two drug tests (one at the start of training and one at the completion of training). Policies should include corrective action plan if applicable. In addition, applicants must include a comprehensive attendance policy detailing procedures for handling tardiness, excused absences, unexcused absences, and corrective action.
- 7) Budget Summary – A Budget Summary must be completed. The summary must also include a budget narrative explaining all monetary and non-monetary funding sources or resources within the budget. The maximum cost for training is \$6,000 per participant. The budget may include a participant stipend not to exceed \$125 per week (not included in the per participant costs). Administrative costs must not exceed 10% of your training budget.

Budgets will be reviewed using the State of New Jersey policies and regulations as a guideline.

- 8) Program Sustainability Plan – Applicants must provide a detailed plan and clearly state in their proposal an outline of sustainability when the grant is completed and funding is no longer available.

Award Process:

NJDOL will conduct an internal review of each grant application. An internal review team will evaluate the application on the basis of quality, comprehensiveness, completeness, accuracy and adherence to the guidelines and requirements of this NGO. Applicants are reminded that grants will be awarded through a competitive process. The NJDOL cannot fund all applications submitted; therefore, only applications that meet the highest standards will be awarded.

Panel Review Process:

All applications are subject to a department panel review and final approval by the Commissioner of NJDOL. Applicants will be notified of the decision by NJDOL within 30 days of the panel review date.

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:

Evaluation Criteria	Total Points
Program Narrative and Training: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compelling statement of need• Summary of training curriculum and alignment with NGO• Training focused on identified union construction needs in New Jersey• Organizational commitment and capacity describes past experience and includes information about their MIS• Letter(s) of commitment from partner(s) and Workforce Development Board	45
Program Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity Plan adequately addresses the grant objectives• Strategy to ensure participant program completion and placement in a construction apprenticeship program• Timeline is clear and concise• Attendance and drug policies submitted and comprehensive	25
Budget Summary and Budget Narrative: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget is reasonable• Budget is within the cost guidelines of the NGO• Budget Summary aligns with Budget• No calculation errors	30

J. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Applications are submitted online, via SAGE at www.sage.nj.gov. Successful application submission will prompt a system-generated email. If you do not receive an email confirming successful submission, email NJBUILDPrograms@dol.nj.gov immediately.

Technical Assistance

NJDOL will provide two technical assistance sessions via tele-conference to potential applicants. General guidance on completing the required documents, budget forms and an overview of SAGE will be provided. It is important that both the Program Director and Fiscal Officer attend this session. It is strongly suggested that applicants attend the technical assistance workshop. There will be two Technical Assistance Workshops offered to choose from.

Workshop	Date	Time	Register by noon on:
1	February 10, 2022	10:00a.m.	February 9, 2022
2	February 17, 2022	2:00p.m.	February 16, 2022

The technical assistance workshops will be conducted electronically through GoTo Meeting sessions. Pre-registration of the technical assistance workshop at: <https://www.eventbrite.com>. GoTo Meeting log-in information will be provided only to those who have registered through Eventbrite.

K. APPLICATION SUBMISSION DATE

Letter of Intent -SAGE registration/LOI submitted and accepted by NJDOL-	Online Application (Completed in SAGE with all required documents uploaded) 12:00 Noon	Expected Panel Review Week of:
February 23, 2022	March 2, 2022	March 14, 2022

*Dates are subject to change based on available funding or due to unforeseen circumstances and any changes will be posted on the department's webpage.

L. DATE BY WHICH APPLICANTS SHALL BE NOTIFIED

All proposals are subject to a Department panel review and final approval by the Commissioner. Applicants will be notified of the final determination of their request within 30 days after the panel review date.