



**NJ DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF FAITH-BASED INITIATIVES GRANT PROGRAM**

**NJ FREEDOM SCHOOLS  
SOCIAL INNOVATION**

To download the grant guidelines, click this link: <https://www.state.nj.us/state/ofbi.shtml>

The mission of the New Jersey Office of Faith Based Initiatives (OFBI) is to eliminate barriers to funding and other resource opportunities, create greater access for partnership and enhance the capacity of faith and community-based organizations (FBCOs) to create and implement innovative approaches that are designed for community and economic transformation.

**Grant Awards are Subject to the Availability of Funding**  
**Application Due Date: April 20, 2023 @ 4:59PM**

**Training Webinars:**

Technical assistance training webinars can be found on OFBI's website <https://www.state.nj.us/state/ofbi.shtml>. Scroll down to "Spotlights" click "Grant Opportunities" then click "Webinars" located on the right-hand side.

**Eligibility Criteria:**

Applicant must:

- Applicants must be a non-profit Faith and/or Community-Based Organization serving low-income residents;
- Applicants must be tax-exempt by determination of the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with Section 501(c)(3) and upload their IRS Determination Letter that states that the organization is created for charitable purposes and not for religious purposes;
- Applicants must be registered with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs and have a valid Charity Registration Number and be **IN COMPLIANCE** with the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs, Charitable Registration and Investigation Section
- Be registered with the NJ Department of Treasury - Division of Revenue and Enterprise Services and must have a valid Business Revenue Number;
- Be **IN GOOD STANDING** with the Department of Treasury - Business Service Center
- Applicants must have their Certificate of Incorporation.

**Ineligible Applicants:**

- Houses of Worship;
- Colleges/Universities;
- Public schools, charter schools, or private schools;

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### Category Descriptions:

Service Category	Maximum Request	Total Funding Available
Freedom Schools	\$50,000	\$250,000

### Freedom Schools:

- The Freedom School grant is designed to provide a summer enrichment program to K-12 grade students with rich culturally relevant teaching models facilitated in a multicultural multi-racial environment. The program must include five essential components: high quality academic and character building enrichment; parent and family involvement, civic engagement and social action; intergenerational servant leadership development and nutrition, health and mental health wellbeing services. In order to apply for the OFBI Freedom School grant, the organization must be a 2023 certified NJ Freedom School through the Children Defense Fund Freedom School program (<https://www.childrensdefense.org/programs/cdf-freedom-schools/>) and must upload the 2023 approval letter.

### **Program Procedures:**

Applications are submitted to the OFBI on the System for Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) and reviewed by an outside independent panel. Recommendation for funding is based solely on the merit of the application. Award and denial letters are e-mailed to the appropriate organizations via the SAGE system. **Funding period is from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024.**

## **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

The proposal is to be submitted via the Department of State – System Administering Grants Electronically (SAGE) no later than **April 20, 2023 @ 4:59pm.**

**All applications must consist of and include the following items in order to be considered complete.**

**Applications missing requested information will be disqualified from review;  
Applications rating 69 percent or lower will not be considered for funding.**

## Grant Awards are Subject to the Availability of Funding

Application Requirements and Rating Criteria		
Section	Description/Criteria	Maximum Rating
Project Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefly indicate the mission of the organization as well as the proposed activities, goals and objectives and the impact the program is designed to achieve.</li> </ul>	<b>5 Points</b>
Organization Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicate how long the organization has been implementing the program it's applying for;</li> <li>Briefly indicate the impact it's had in 2022</li> <li>Provide a description of the staff associated with the program and their roles.</li> </ul>	<b>10 Points</b>
Statement of Need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicate which surveys, needs assessments were used to inform the organization that the program is needed in the community.</li> </ul>	<b>15 Points</b>
Statement of Collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the 3 collaborating partners and how will the partnership support the applicant in the implementation of the proposed project.</li> </ul>	<b>5 points</b>
Project Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a detailed response to the following:</li> <li>Explain how it is historically connected to the civil rights movement?</li> <li>What is the pedagogy of teaching to assure that the environment is culturally responsible and culturally sustaining?</li> <li>How does it plan to be financially sustainable?</li> <li>How does it plan to assure that there are strong school, family engagement strategies in place?</li> </ul>	<b>15 Points</b>
Target Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Describe the target population.</li> </ul>	<b>5 points</b>
Goals & Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicate the goals and objectives associated with the project.</li> </ul>	<b>15 Points</b>
Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicate how the project will plan to utilize an independent evaluator to evaluate the impact of the Freedom School, Articulate the model and create a case study for publication.</li> </ul>	<b>10 Points</b>

<b>Application Requirements and Rating Criteria</b>		
<b>Section</b>	<b>Description/Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Rating</b>
Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete all budget forms in the SAGE system;</li> <li>• \$2,000 of grant funds can be used for the purchase of technology;</li> <li>• \$1,500 of grant funds can be used for administrative costs;</li> <li>• \$1,000 of grant funds can be used for staff development;</li> <li>• Hire a 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluator</li> <li>• Up to 85% of grant, funds can be used for personnel.</li> </ul>	<b>10 Points</b>
Required Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Resolution</li> </ul>	<b>N/A</b>
Appendices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logic Model</li> <li>• 3 letters of support</li> </ul>	<b>10 points</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>100 Possible Points</b>

### **Restrictions and Limitations**

- ◆ Nondiscrimination by Religious Organizations and Entities  
Applicants agree that if provided funds from the New Jersey Department of State Office of Faith-based Initiatives, they will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for services or participation in the proposed program on the basis of religion, race, gender and/or physical disabilities.
- ◆ Recognition of Cultural Sensitivity  
Applicants must assure that all programs are linguistically appropriate and culturally relevant to groups within the community. Appropriate accommodations for services will be developed and maintained for those individuals who are deprived of reasonable access to those services due to language barriers or ethnic and cultural differences. All programs and services *must* be reflective of the demographic needs of the community, while providing all people the opportunity to experience any and all available services irrespective of their ethnic or cultural heritage.
- ◆ Reporting Requirements  
All funding recipients are required to submit quarterly programmatic and fiscal. Schedules of due dates for reporting periods and program terms will be provided upon notification of preliminary approval of award. Funding recipients must adhere to a schedule determined by the New Jersey Department of State Office of Faith Based Initiatives
- ◆ Training  
All funding recipients are required to attend technical assistance and training sessions scheduled throughout the fiscal year as coordinated by the New Jersey Department of State Office of Faith-based Initiatives and/or its training intermediary
- ◆ Applications that fail to meet these requirements detailed in this Grant Guideline will not be reviewed and the application will be disqualified. All applicants will be notified by email regarding the outcome of their award.

- ◆ Grant awards may only be used to further the project that the organization has applied for. Paying for organized fundraising or solicitation, construction and purchase of real property, medical/health-related activities or items are ineligible costs and will not be approved.
- ◆ Funds may not be used to build an organization's capacity to provide programs or services that include inherently religious activities. If a recipient provides programs or services that include inherently religious activities, such activities must be separate in time or location from the programs or services that the organization is seeking to improve through this grant.
- ◆ Grantee's activities are governed by all applicable State laws and regulations and will be provided directly to individual faith-based and community organizations to develop impactful services.
- ◆ The New Jersey Department of State reserves the right to reject any and all proposals when circumstances indicate that it is in its best interest to do so including, but not limited to, loss of funding for the contract, insufficient infrastructure, the applicant's failure to provide adequate services, indication of misrepresentation of information and/or non-compliance with any existing State or Federal laws and regulations, contracts or procedures. Grantees applications document the applicant's readiness to implement the project.

#### **Selection and Notification of Award**

- ◆ All applications are screened for eligibility and conformity with the specifications in the Grant Guidelines. Applications that fail to meet these requirements will not be reviewed and will be disqualified.
- ◆ Applicants are not pre-selected. All applications are rated by a panel of independent, objective reviewers according to the precise selection criteria specified in the Grant Guidelines.
- ◆ The independent committee reviewing and scoring applications will not include individuals employed by the organization, affiliated with the organization, organization's board members, contractors, training providers, providers of cost share or in-kind support, or any organization/individuals affiliated in any way with the organization.

#### **Post Award Requirements**

- ◆ OFBI will monitor grantee compliance with grant requirements, in the event of non-compliance and request appropriate documentation. Should the grantee fail to comply with these requests, sanctions may be implemented up to and including the repayment of all funds associated with this grant award.
- ◆ Promptly Respond to Requests for Communication and Information
- ◆ Participate in all Required Events, Activities and Evaluations
- ◆ Comply with all OFBI Contracting, Fiscal Monitoring and Other Reporting Requirements