

Green Workforce Training Grant Product Specifications

Green Workforce Training Grant Proposed Program Specifications	
Funding Source	A total of \$7 million will be available through this program, with minimum and maximum award amounts set at \$250,000 and \$1.5 million, respectively. Of the \$7 million total, \$2.65 million will be provided through the Offshore Wind Sector Initiatives Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NJEDA / NJBPU dated October 12, 2023, and \$4.35 million from the Green Council MOU between NJEDA/NJDEP dated _____ 2024 that furthers the work of the Governor’s Council on the Green Economy.
Program Purpose	<p>The Green Workforce Training Grant will provide New Jersey residents, with a particular focus on New Jersey’s overburdened communities, with access to workforce development training, apprenticeship, and learning opportunities for green economy careers in industries, including, but not limited to, offshore wind and other renewable energy technologies, green construction, environmental infrastructure, and energy efficiency.</p> <p>NJEDA is seeking proposals from entities who can provide skills development, workforce training, job placement, professional growth, wraparound services, and other related supports to implement workforce development initiatives that establish New Jersey’s talent pipeline and address identified labor market shortages for our burgeoning green economy.</p>
Eligible Applicants	<p>Eligible applicants can include, but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community-based organizations • Non-profit or private workforce training organizations • Labor unions • Technical high schools • County colleges • Other non-profit organizations • Regional workforce development boards • For-profit companies <p>Applicants must include, at a minimum, one Community-Based Organization¹ (CBO) that serves one or more NJ Overburdened Communities² as part of their application (see Exhibit B). The CBO must</p>

¹ For the purposes of this training challenge, a CBO is defined as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with demonstrated experience serving a NJ Overburdened Community as defined by NJ’s Environmental Justice Law that provides direct services or supports to a specific geographic NJ community(ies) or specific segments of a New Jersey community(ies). For the purposes of this Challenge, government entities, K-12 schools, and institutions of higher learning do not qualify as CBOs. However, these entities may be the applicant or an additional collaborator on the applicant team. Entities that are not 501(c)3 organizations do not qualify as a CBO for the purposes of this grant challenge even if they serve a New Jersey Overburdened Community. Per the NJ Division of Taxation, a 501(c)(3) Organization refers to a nonprofit organization that has received a determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) stating that the organization is exempt from federal Income Tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The term also may refer to a church or ministry that may qualify for an IRS 501(c) (3) determination letter, even though it does not intend to apply for an IRS determination.

	<p>either be the applicant or, in the alternative, a strategic collaborator with the applicant. All applications that include the CBO as a strategic collaborator must submit a signed letter of intent from the CBO stating that they are a strategic collaborator with the applicant for the proposed program, the role the CBO will have in the proposed program, and the amount of the requested budget allocated to the CBO. The applicant is responsible for transferring the allocated budget to the CBO for their assigned tasks for the proposed program.</p> <p>Applicants may, but are not required to, collaborate with additional entities, including for-profit or non-profit entities of all types, to design and implement the training program as needed.</p> <p>In addition to the eligibility parameters already stated above, the applicant must also be in substantial good standing with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development (LWD) and NJ Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to participate in the program. The applicant must provide a current tax clearance certificate as part of the application to demonstrate the applicant is properly registered to do business in New Jersey and in good standing with the NJ Division of Taxation.</p>
Eligible Uses	<p>Eligible uses of grant funding include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs associated with planning (e.g., staff costs for program development, curriculum materials, etc.) • Soft launch (e.g., outreach costs, recruitment materials and related costs, etc.) • Capital costs (e.g., procurement, construction or renovation of program space, equipment, and material purchases, etc.) • Implementation costs (e.g., instructor time, facility fees, participant stipends, equipment or materials, delivery of support services, etc.) <p>Proposed initiatives must focus on one or two (but no more than two) of the following industries (see Exhibit C for detailed descriptions):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offshore Wind • Other renewable energy technologies • Green Design & Construction • Environmental & Green Infrastructure • Grid Resilience • Clean Transportation • Energy Efficiency <p>Funding will be available based on the criteria listed below:</p>

² NJ’s Environmental Justice Law, N.J.S.A 13:1D-157, defines overburdened communities as any census block group, as determined in accordance with the most recent United States Census in which: 1) at least 35 percent of the households qualify as low-income households; 2) at least 40 percent of residents identify as minority or as members of a State recognized tribal community; or 3) at least 40 percent of the households have limited English proficiency.² ([NJDEP | Environmental Justice | What are Overburdened Communities \(OBC\)?](#))

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the \$7 million total available in funding through this grant challenge, \$2.65 million of the funding is earmarked to fund proposals for offshore wind programs. • Of the \$7 million total available in funding through this grant challenge, \$4.35 million of the funding is earmarked to fund proposals across all eligible industries (see Exhibit C), including offshore wind. • If a proposal covers offshore wind and one other eligible industry NJEDA, at its discretion, may combine funds from the Council on the Green Economy and the Wind Institute. <p>No more than ten percent (10%) of the grant amount may be used on indirect costs such as general administration and overhead. No more than thirty percent (30%) of the grant amount can be applied for construction costs.</p> <p>If capital costs are proposed, the applicant and collaborators performing capital work will be subject to labor compliance, including New Jersey affirmative action prevailing wage requirements, and requirement to complete New Jersey Contractor Registration. Applicants who identify capital costs as an expected use of funding will acknowledge as part of the application that they understand the grant is subject to these requirements and documentation may be audited.</p> <p>Applicants must provide a detailed budget using the budget template included within the Grant Challenge application materials. The budget should demonstrate how the grant will be used to cover eligible costs related to the proposed program. All program collaborators must be included in the application budget, and identified for their role in the project, and status as a Community-Based Organization, non-profit, or for-profit.</p>
Term of Grant Period	For programs that do not involve program design components and only include program implementation, the term of the grant cannot exceed two years. For programs that involve both program design and implementation, the term of the grant can be a maximum of three years with no more than one year of the three-year term dedicated to the program.
Grant Amounts	\$7,000,000 will be available through this grant challenge. Grants will be subject to minimum and maximum amounts of \$250,000 and \$1,500,000, respectively.
Scoring Criteria	<p>The minimum score requirement to be considered for an award is 80 points, with the highest score possibility being 100 points. Applications will be scored by an Evaluation Committee based on the following criteria:</p> <p>Highest Score Possibility: 100 points Minimum Score Requirement: 80 points</p>

	<p>In general, applicants will have the opportunity to receive the points outlined below based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Full Credit/Points: Compelling plan and ample evidence of ability to execute• Partial Credit/Points: Moderately compelling plan and/or minimal evidence of ability to execute• No Credit/Points: No compelling plan and/or no evidence of ability to execute <p>Criteria 1 – Ability to meet the needs of New Jersey’s burgeoning green economy industries (Up to 35 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details a compelling, impactful, and scalable program concept that will fulfill a workforce-related need in one or more of NJ’s green economy industries and position New Jerseyans to enter a thriving career in a green economy sector (up to 20 points)• Outlines a clear strategy to engage industry and build a network of employer partners who will be integrated into the program, including to develop industry vetted curriculum, selection of training candidates, job placement, and other relevant processes (up to 15 points) <p>Criteria 2 – Ability to serve NJ’s Overburdened Communities (Up to 10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify steps for how the applicant will recruit and serve members of: New Jersey’s overburdened communities based on geographical considerations; (Up to 10 points) <p>Criteria 3 – Ability to provide wraparound supports and low- or no-cost training (Up to 15 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clearly identify which wraparound supports will be provided to training participants, such as transportation, social services, career readiness, childcare, housing assistance, etc., and an approach for providing these services (Up to 10 points)• Outlines an approach to offer low- or no-cost training to participants (Up to 5 points) <p>Criteria 4 – Prior experience creating and implementing workforce development initiatives (Up to 30 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Details a track record of related experiences operating workforce development programs, including experience recruiting, training, and/or providing services to a diverse group of participants (Up to 10 Points)• Has a team with the qualifications and experience required to design and implement the program (Up to 5 Points)• Provides a realistic implementation plan, including strategies to mitigate anticipated challenges (Up to 10 Points)• Describes an approach to conduct ongoing program evaluation and improvement (Up to 5 Points)
--	---

	<p>Criteria 5 – Budget and associated milestones (Up to 10 points)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a realistic budget and budget-associated milestones for the program in spreadsheet format utilizing the template provided in the application guidance (Up to 10 Points) <p>To maximize the total amount of funding allocated through this challenge, NJEDA may request revisions to the proposed budgets or scopes of select high-scoring proposals that, if awarded, would bring the allocation above the funding cap. These changes may result in some applicants not receiving the full amount of their requested grant award.</p>
Funding Disbursement	<p>The grant will be disbursed according to the following milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 percent of the grant will be disbursed upon execution of a grant agreement between NJEDA and the selected applicant; • 25 percent of the grant will be disbursed upon the applicant’s submission of quarterly and mid-program reports and associated materials, with exact timing and format to be determined based on the grantee’s design and/or implementation plan and reflected in the grant agreement; and • 50 percent of the grant amount will be disbursed upon meeting specific program milestones and deliverables to be defined by the applicant in their application and negotiated and finalized with NJEDA if a grant award decision is made.
Additional Specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NJEDA will reserve a royalty-free, non-exclusive irrevocable license to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use any copyrightable materials developed utilizing funds awarded through this grant, inclusive of training curriculum materials and program reports. • NJEDA will require quarterly expense reporting from grantees in a template approved by NJEDA, which is expected to include an expense cover sheet and supporting documentation, including receipts, invoices, and proofs of payment for all grant-related expenses. The grantee will be expected to adhere to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) and utilize grant funding for agreed upon allowable costs as defined within the grant budget. NJEDA, at its discretion, may conduct an audit or disallowance action for any costs incurred by the grantee that are determined to not be allowable under the project scope of work defined in the grant agreement. At the end of the grant agreement period, any underspent funds or disallowed costs will be returned by the grantee to NJEDA. • NJEDA will require grantees to provide quarterly reporting on program data, including enrollment, completion, and job outcomes from the training, attendance, exam and credential results, recruitment plans, wraparound services, trainee evaluations, expenses, progress against milestones, challenges/successes, and demographics information. • The term of the grant period for respective awarded applicants will meet the following criteria: For programs that do not involve program design components and only include program implementation, the term of the grant cannot exceed two years. For programs that involve both program design and implementation, the term of the grant can be a maximum of

	<p>three years with no more than one year of the three-year term dedicated to program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NJEDA will review and approve all branding for programs offered by grantees through the funding received from this grant challenge, including program names, flyers, websites, use of logos, and communication materials.
--	--

Application Eligibility Flow Chart

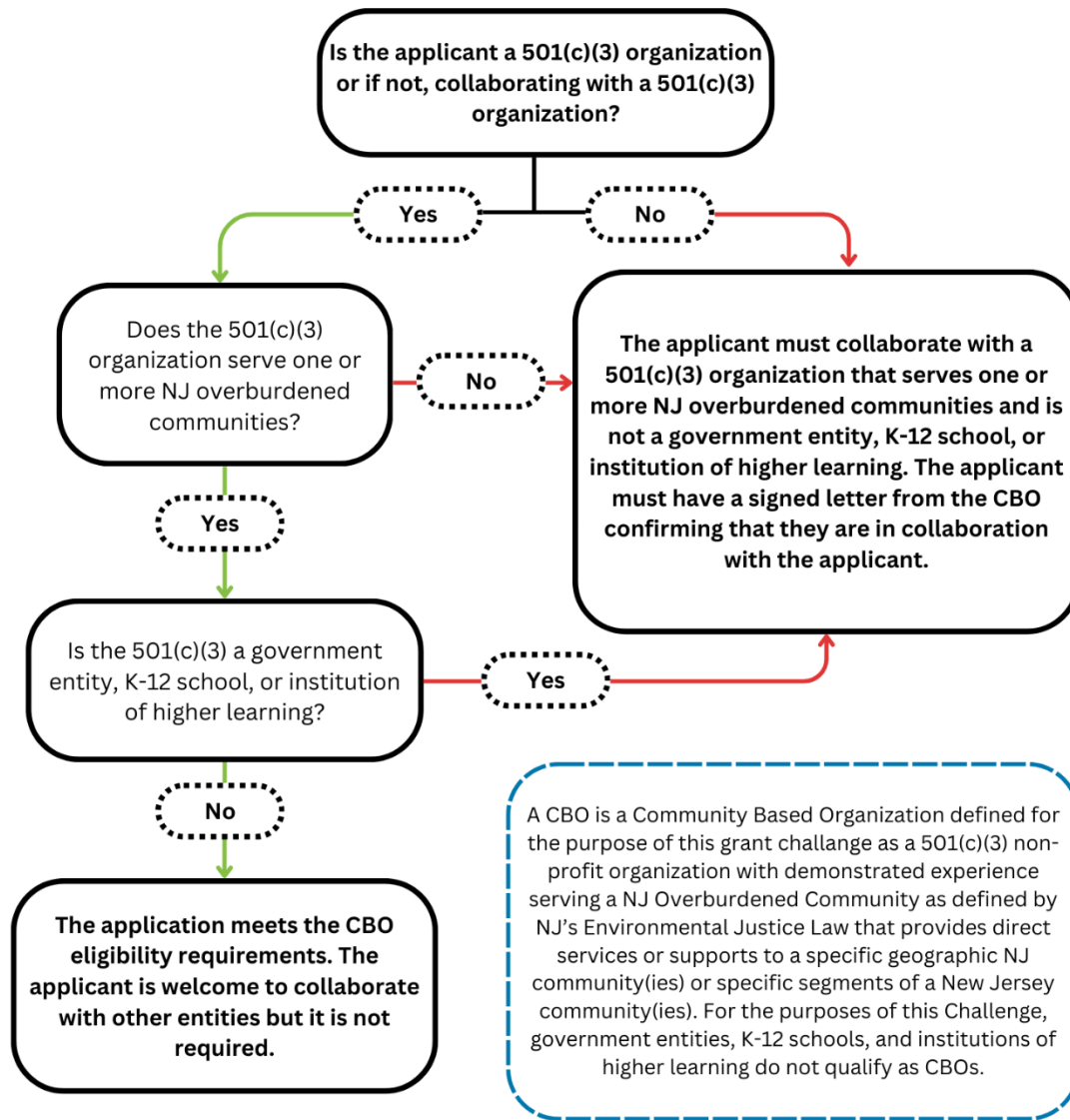


Exhibit C – Eligible Industries for Grant Challenge

Eligible Industries for Grant Challenge	
Industry	Description
Offshore Wind	This industry is inclusive of careers in the development and generation of offshore wind. Relevant occupations include but are not limited to component manufacturing, fabrication, assembly, energy engineering, maritime, environmental surveying, logistics, and offshore wind associated construction roles.
Other Renewable Energy Technologies	This industry is inclusive of careers in the development and generation of solar, geothermal, hydropower, marine, and biomass energy. Relevant occupations include but are not limited to technology innovation, component manufacturing, fabrication, assembly, energy engineering, energy system installation, and service technician roles.
Green Design & Construction	This industry is inclusive of careers in the green design and construction of new and retrofitting of existing buildings, as well as the installation of green construction technology (e.g., low-carbon materials) that can help decarbonize and improve the resiliency of our built environment. Relevant occupations include but are not limited to architects, engineers, electricians, carpenters, welders, plumbers, and roofers.
Environmental and Green Infrastructure	Environmental and green infrastructure is inclusive of careers that utilize natural systems and innovative technologies (e.g., cool roofs, permeable pavements, bioswales, rain gardens, etc.) that help mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts and reduce stormwater runoff. Relevant occupations include but are not limited to foresters, arborists, ecosystem (e.g., wetlands) restoration, wildlife conservation and biodiversity, soil and plant scientists, and environmental engineers.
Grid Resilience	Grid resilience is inclusive of careers that transform our power sector infrastructure to supply clean electricity and increase the reliability and resilience of our power grid. Relevant occupations include but are not limited to transmission line workers, service technicians, electrical engineering, energy storage, electrical power line installers and repairers, and electrical, electronic, and electromechanical assemblers.
Clean Transportation	Clean transportation careers reduce the environmental impact of the transportation sector, including across all classes of automotive vehicles, mass transit, vessels, and aviation while advancing infrastructure developments that support walking and micro-mobility options. Relevant occupations include but are not limited to automotive technicians, commercial drivers, transportation engineers, electric vehicle charging station installation and maintenance, and rail track laying and maintenance equipment operators.
Energy Efficiency	This industry is defined to include careers that improve energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Relevant occupations include but are not limited to building operations & maintenance, high-efficiency heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) installers and repairers, energy auditors, ENERGY STAR & efficient lighting installers, insulation workers, and weatherization installers and technicians.