

FY 2026 New Jersey Locally, Empowered, Accountable, and Determined (NJLEAD)
Category B: Reentry Supportive Services
Question Period Ending February 4, 2026

NEW FOR FY26

E. Availability of Funds

It is understood that “Only one award will be given to each applicant per category.” We would appreciate the opportunity to provide both “emergency housing services” and “short-term housing.” Can an applicant apply for a grant that provides both those services? If so, is there a maximum award for the combined services grant?

Answer: Yes, an applicant organization may structure their NJLEAD grant application to provide both “emergency housing services” and “short-term housing” under Category B. Per the Category B NGO, page 6, “. . . Consideration will be given only to proposals that support formerly incarcerated individuals with emergency, transitional, or long-term housing needs. The maximum award for a combined services grant would be the amount reflected in the NJLEAD Category B NGO of \$350,000.

Is there a specific percentage or cap of the award that may be allocated toward salaries?

Answer: For FY26, there is no Salaries cap; however, it is incumbent on the organization to structure their application and have their Budget fully reflect their program design, as explained by their Budget Narrative. Salaries, as a percentage of the requested Budget, should not appear or be excessive. Other budget categories should be included and reflect the direct provision of services to NJLEAD participants, as part of a comprehensive application approach.

Are funds permitted to cover counseling services? Specifically, may we outsource counseling to licensed providers, or must these services be incorporated under case management?

Answer: Yes, NJLEAD funds for counseling services are an allowable use of funds. An organization may outsource counseling to licensed providers, exclusive of Case Management services. This area should be budgeted under Section D. Services Gap funding on the Counseling Services line. It does not remove the Case Management and organizational employment requirements of the Notice of Grant Opportunity (NGO).

I understand that a Reentry Specialist is required under this category. Does this individual need to hold a specific certification, or would an experienced case manager meet the qualification requirements?

Answer: Please refer the Category B NGO, pages 5 and 6, for information. It is incumbent on the organization to structure their application and specify and the Case Manager’s role as part of their program design. Certifications for the Case Manager position should be required to fulfill the role outlined in the proposal to provide services; including, but not limited to, a Masters in Social Work (MSW), and as determined by the organization.

Are the Sub Categories on the Budget sheet (section D) mandatory?

Answer: It is incumbent on the organization to structure their application and have their Budget fully reflect their program design, as explained by their Budget Narrative. Per the NGO Category B, on page 5, Scope of Work, the application, “. . . must offer emergency housing assistance.” Therefore, for the FY26 NJLEAD Category B Budget Form, under Section D., line 6. Housing Assistance and Fresh Start would be required. The other Section D. line items chosen would depend on the fiscal approach to carrying out the program design.

I had a question about the Category B opportunity for NJLEAD. It seems like emergency housing is a part of the NGO, but I am not quite sure how much of the award can be for emergency housing. How much can we apply for emergency housing? If we hire one FT Reentry Specialist for \$50,000, can we apply for \$150,000 for emergency housing provision? Is there a ratio?

Answer: Per the NGO Category B, on page 5, Scope of Work, the application, “. . . must offer emergency housing assistance.” It is incumbent on the organization to structure their application and have their Budget fully reflect their program design, as explained by their Budget Narrative. Please refer to the Category B NGO, page 8, Availability of Funds. If one FT Reentry Specialist is hired for \$50,000; \$150,000 may be requested for emergency housing provision, per the \$200,000 Category B maximum award request for emergency housing applications. There is no ratio; however, the application must fall within the minimum and maximum limits for Category B dependent on the type of housing assistance services being provided in the proposal (i.e. emergency, short term and/or long-term housing services).

Can a FT employee spend 50% of their time working on NJLEAD responsibilities, being paid with NJLEAD funds, and the other 50% of their time paid out of a different grant?

Answer: Please refer to the Category B NGO, pages 5, 6 and 7, Scope of Work. Case Management must be provided Full Time (FT) by one (1) FT Case Manager or two (2) Part time (PT) Case Managers. If you hired, 2 PT Case Managers, then the answer to your question is yes; both could work 50% on NJLEAD, and one or both could have 50% of their time paid out of a different grant. You could also hire other PT NJLEAD employees under this structure, but the 100% Case Management requirement must be fulfilled. Also, any employees working less than 100% of their time on NJLEAD are not eligible for Fringe Benefits per the Category B NGO, pages 7 and 8 references.

An organization has several questions regarding the NJLEAD Category B NOGO issued 2/2/26.

- ***Pg. 7 – Priority Service Eligibility - The FY25 NOGO included “Coordination of services for adult individuals recently released from a New Jersey county correctional facility within the past one (1) year.” This category is not listed in the FY26 NOGO. Are individuals released from county correctional facilities ineligible to receive LEAD supportive services for the FY26 grant year?***

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Answer: The FY26 NGO is unambiguous about its target population. For FY26, the target population is individuals who have maxed out from a state prison in NJ within the past 7 years.

- ***Pg. 7 – Priority Service Eligibility – Please clarify what is meant by “Juvenile and Adult prevention work”.***

Answer: The NGO does not support any services for previously or currently incarcerated juveniles. The NGO does not support funding a prevention program in the community for individuals who were not previously incarcerated.

The following questions are submitted on behalf of an organization:

- ***D - Scope of Work - Section 5 - Prior Service Eligibility***
 - a. ***The RFP states that "immediate family members" are eligible for services via the NJLEAD grant, but that "proof is required." Will the provider be given a standard criterion that needs to be met in order to prove the relationship, particularly if the relationship cannot be proven via birth certificate, marriage certificate, etc.?***

Answer: The service provider will be given guidance as to what documentation may be used to support the establishment of the familial relationship.

The following questions are submitted on behalf of an organization:

- ***D - Scope of Work - Section 5 - Prior Service Eligibility***
 - b. ***The RFP states that "Adult individuals under NJ State Parole supervision may be eligible for supportive services under this initiative on a case-by-case basis." As parolees comprise a large number of referrals, can you provide the criteria that will be used to determine eligibility for services?***

Answer: The FY26 NGO is unambiguous about its target population. For FY26, the target population is individuals who have maxed out from a state prison in NJ within the past 7 years. The Office of Community Engagement and Reintegration Initiative may authorize service to an individual under parole supervision if the partner agency has met its service benchmark for individuals who have maxed out of a New Jersey state prison.

The following questions are submitted on behalf of an organization:

- ***E - Availability of Funds - Section 1***

The RFP states "Clients are limited to this one-time support and may not receive this assistance across agencies." Will providers have access to a tracking system/mechanism to determine if a new client has already been provided assistance under the NJLEAD grant by another agency, or will this be monitored by the Office of Community Engagement and Reintegration.

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Answers: Partner agencies are required to monitor and track data on all individuals whom they provide appreciated NJLEAD funded housing assistance and share it with the Office of Community Engagement and Reintegration Initiatives.