

NJ COVID-19 CARES Act Marine Fisheries Assistance Grant Program

Take notice that the Department of Environmental Protection, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4, hereby publishes notice of the availability of the following grant funds:

A. Name of Grant Program

NJ COVID-19 CARES Act Marine Fisheries Assistance Grant Program

B. Purpose

The purpose of this funding is to provide financial assistance to coastal and marine fisheries-related businesses that have seen a greater than 35% loss in revenue caused by the impacts of COVID-19.

C. Amount of Money in the Grant Program

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJ DEP) will be distributing \$8,032,163 to eligible Marine Fisheries businesses in the form of direct payments. The funding has been issued from NOAA through the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC), and on to NJ DEP.

D. Eligible Applicants

Eligible fisheries-related businesses include commercial fisheries, aquaculture businesses, processors, dealers, and recreational fishery businesses including for-hire businesses as well as bait and tackle shops.

MFA's application will require applicants to select one of the following three sectors in order to determine eligibility:

- Commercial
 - Includes aquaculture businesses
- Recreational
 - For-hire
 - Bait & tackle shops
- Processors and Dealers

Applicants can apply for payment from each sector for which they participate in.

Bait and tackle shops must meet additional criteria in order to be considered eligible. They must meet New Jersey's small business definition of less than 100 full-time employees and they must be able to verify that marine bait and tackle sales account for at least 75% of their total revenue.

Aquaculture businesses must also not be otherwise eligible for assistance under the USDA Farm Service Agency Disaster Assistance Programs listed under part 1416 of 7CFR. Aquaculture businesses should reach out to their county Farm Service Agency Office before applying to ensure that they are not eligible for this assistance.

E. Qualifications Needed by an Applicant to be Considered for Funding

All applicants must meet the following criteria in order to be considered eligible for funding:

1. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a greater than 35% loss in fishery related revenue between July 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020, as compared to their 5-year average revenue from the same time period of July 1st through December 31th. Applicants will be required to provide this revenue information on their application.
 - a. Applicants must provide revenue data for all years between 2015 and 2019 in which the business existed. If the business existed, but was inactive during any of those years, \$0 in revenue must be used for that year.
 - b. Applicants do not have to provide revenue data for any years in which the entity did not exist
 - c. Applicants must have at least 1 year of revenue history between the period of 2015 and 2019 to be eligible to receive payment
2. Applicants will be required to provide a total revenue for the full year of 2020
3. Applicant(s) must be the owner(s) of the business
4. Applicants must provide the following identification numbers
 - a. Tax ID Number
 - b. Bureau of Marine Fisheries ID Number (BMFID), Conservation ID Number (CID), Bureau of Marine Water Monitory (BMWM) permit ID, and/or Department of Health license ID numbers – depending on which sectors are chosen by the applicant
5. Individual applicants must be a New Jersey Resident. Businesses and corporations must be located within New Jersey. Operations fishing in New Jersey waters, but not located within New Jersey will not be eligible. Applicants must be 18 years age or older.
6. Applicants must provide a list of any and all COVID-19 assistance that they have applied for or are going to apply for, including COVID-19 assistance funding received in the first round of direct payments. While eligible fishery participants under this award may apply for other assistance programs, applicants cannot be made more than whole by this or any combination of this and other federal grant funding. Being made more than whole will be calculated based on their total revenue for the entirety of 2020, compared to their 5-year average revenue from 2015 through 2019.
7. Applicants must hold the following valid permits and licenses:
 - a. Commercial Fishery Sector:
 - i. Must be a resident of New Jersey
 - ii. Must have a current valid 2020 New Jersey commercial harvesting license
 - iii. Must have had a valid New Jersey commercial harvesting license for at least one year between 2015 and 2019
 - b. Aquaculture (within Commercial Sector):
 - i. Must be resident of the State of New Jersey
 - ii. Must have a current valid 2020 New Jersey commercial shellfish license
 - iii. Must have had a valid commercial shellfish license for at least one year between 2015 and 2019
 - iv. Must have a valid 2020 New Jersey aquaculture permit from Bureau of Marine Water Monitoring
 - v. Must have had a valid aquaculture permit for at least one other year between 2017 and 2019
 - c. Recreational Fishery Sector:

- i. For-Hire
 - 1. Must be a resident of the State of New Jersey
 - 2. Must have 2020 New Jersey saltwater registration for vessel
 - 3. Must have had a New Jersey saltwater registration for the vessel for at least one year between 2015 and 2019
 - 4. Must be owner of the business
- ii. Bait Shops:
 - 1. Business must be physically located in the State of New Jersey
 - 2. Must be registered as a business with the State of New Jersey
 - 3. Must meet the State of NJ's Small Business definition of having under 100 full-time employees
 - 4. 75% of revenue must come from saltwater bait & tackle supply sales specifically
- d. Dealers and Processors Sector:
 - i. Business must be physically located in the State of New Jersey
 - ii. Must hold 2020 New Jersey Department of Health license to operate a wholesale food business
 - iii. Must have held a New Jersey Department of Health license to operate a wholesale food business for at least one year between 2015 and 2019.
 - iv. If dealing federally managed species, must hold a valid 2020 Federal Dealers Permit
 - v. If purchasing species requiring a NJ dealers permit, must hold a valid 2020 NJDFW permit(s) for them. The following species require a NJ dealers permit:
 - 1. Summer flounder
 - 2. Scup
 - 3. Black sea bass
 - 4. Menhaden
 - vi. If handling oysters, clams or mussels, business must hold a valid 2020 New Jersey Department of Health Certificate to handle oysters, clams, or mussels.

F. Procedure to apply, Application and Required Submissions

The application for funding under this grant program will be made available on New Jersey's eGrants website <https://njdepage.intelligrants.com/> known as SAGE. Applications will be completed and submitted online. In order to access the online application, applicants will need to create an online portal through SAGE. An online portal can be created [here](#). Once the online application period is opened, applicants will be able to access the application through the previously mentioned portal.

Applicants will need to provide the following information:

- 1. Applicant information
 - a. Address
 - b. Contact information
 - c. Type of entity
 - d. Fishery Sector(s)
 - e. Tax ID Number
 - f. BMFID, CID Number, BMWM Permit ID #, Saltwater Registry #, and/or Department of Health license number(s) depending on sector choices.

2. 2020 revenue from July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020
3. Previous 5-year revenue history for the following:
 - a. July 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019
 - b. July 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018
 - c. July 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017
 - d. July 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016
 - e. July 1, 2015 – December 31, 2015
4. Total revenue projection for the totality of 2020
5. Valid 2020 permit and/or license information required for your business
6. All permit and/or license information from 2015 through 2019
7. List of all COVID-19 assistance programs that applicant has received, applied for, or intends to apply for
8. Signed affidavit stating that all information provided within this application is true and accurate and that the applicant can provide supporting documentation proving revenue history and losses, which must be provided if requested at any time.

I. Address for Application Submittal and Inquiries, and Filing Deadline

Any questions regarding the Grant Announcement may be submitted by email to njfisheriesaid@dep.nj.gov.

Applications will be made available on SAGE on Wednesday August 18, 2021. The application period was originally set for 30 days. The original submission deadline was October 15, 2021 at 5pm EST. The application period has been extended for an additional 28 days. The application deadline is now November 12, 2021 at 5pm EST.

J. Date by which Applicants shall be notified:

Applicants will be notified immediately at the time of their application submission if their application has been accepted as eligible or if it will require a manual review to determine eligibility. Applicants that require manual review will be notified as to the eligibility of their application within seven (7) days of application submission. Applicants that require manual review and are deemed ineligible will be notified within seven (7) days of application submission and will receive an appeal form in their online SAGE portal and will be given 14 days to submit an appeal. Once an appeal has been submitted, the NJ DEP will complete the appeal review within 10 days.

Payments will be disbursed to eligible applicants after all applications have been reviewed and determined.