



New Jersey Department of Health Announces \$10 Million Zero-Percent Interest Forgivable Loan Program Opportunity for Facilities Licensed by the State of New Jersey that Provide a Full Spectrum of Reproductive Health Care Services

Background

The New Jersey Department of Health (the Department), in partnership with the New Jersey Health Care Facilities Financing Authority (the Authority), is pleased to announce the creation of a \$10 million zero-percent interest rate, one-year (1) forgivable loan program for family planning facilities upgrades at eligible facilities (the Program), which was part of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Appropriation Act, P.L. 2022, c. 49 (the Act). The Authority, through a Memorandum of Agreement (the Agreement) with the Department, will create, implement, and oversee the Program.

Program Term

The Program period will run through June 30, 2023; however, facilities will have 180 days after the close of the Program period to submit final expenditure reports and perform any necessary and related close out activities.

Program Eligibility

Program applications may only be submitted by facilities licensed by the State of New Jersey who are in good standing and provide a full spectrum of reproductive health services to facilitate family choice, including but not limited to:

- Family planning counseling and education, such as preconception health services to improve infant and maternal outcomes and improve patient health;
- Birth control / contraception methods;
- Pregnancy testing and counseling;
- Pregnancy termination services;
- Pelvic exams;
- Cervical, breast, testicular, and prostate cancer screening;
- Basic infertility services;
- Sexually transmitted infection (STI or STD) testing and other sexually related diseases such as Monkeypox, prevention, education, and treatment;
- Screening for HIV, PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) assessment and other services; and/or
- Referrals to other reproductive health and related social services.

Project narratives should specifically outline which reproductive health services will be supported through the Program.

Facilities that are licensed by the State of New Jersey to provide other health care services—including but not limited to, other medical, dental, mental health, substance use disorder services—and do not provide services related to family planning, pregnancy-related, and other reproductive health services are not eligible to submit applications for the Program.

Program Application Criteria & Requirements

Eligible facilities will be able to submit Program applications for only allowable expenditures and costs incurred and/or expended during the Program, which are related to and/or support facilities or equipment improvements and/or upgrades. Allowable expenditures and costs include but are not necessarily limited to:

- Facility acquisition;
- Interior renovation and improvements to existing buildings and facilities, including examination rooms, waiting rooms, and other components;
- New and/or expanded exterior changes such as parking, fencing, sheltered outdoor waiting space, etc.;
- New equipment, including machines, tools, etc., which can include medical and other supplies that are needed to support facilities or equipment improvements and/or upgrades;
- New and/or expanded Information Technology services and supports, such computer software, hardware upgrades, and/or improved Wi-Fi access points to accommodate increased caseload and support provision of services via telehealth modalities; and
- Additional staffing or recruitment efforts, but only for initial, startup costs (first three (3) months) as ongoing costs will need to be assumed by the facility.

Maximum Forgivable Loan Awards

The maximum award for each approved Program application is to \$750,000; however, due to the limited funding pool and depending upon the number of applications received and awarded under the Agreement, there is no guarantee that applicants will receive the maximum award or the maximum award may be adjusted and reduced based on the number of eligible Program applications. The Authority, in partnership and the Department, has the discretion to approve amounts of forgivable loan funding that are different from the amount provided by the facility in its Program application. To this end, more information will be provided through the Program application process.

Next Steps & How to Apply

To be eligible to apply for a forgivable loan under the Program, an application must be submitted to the Authority via email at FPLoan@njhcffa.com. All Program applications must be received by **4:00 PM EST on Monday, November 28, 2022** in order to be considered. Program applications will be reviewed in the order that they are received and approved subject to remaining funding availability. The forgivable loan application can be found on the Authority's website at <https://www.nj.gov/njhcffa/>. Full submission instructions are included on the Program application.

Contact Information

Should you have any questions about the Program and/or the application process, please feel free to reach out to Mark Hopkins at the Authority via email at MHopkins@njhcffa.com or via phone at (732) 539-9390, or Erica Holmes at the Department via email at Erica.Holmes@doh.nj.gov or via phone at (609) 376-0964. Thank you.