



## **Submitted Questions for Notice of Fund Availability for FY2025 Global Entrepreneurs in Residence Pilot Program**

Application Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2024 by 5 p.m.

[Notice of Funding Availability Link](#)

*Question Document Last Updated: November 20, 2024*

The Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Act included a Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Innovation package with \$400,000 to the NJ Office of the Secretary of Higher Education (NJ OSHE) to implement an AI-Focused New Jersey Global Entrepreneurs in Residence (NJ Global EIR) Program. GEIR is an economic development initiative that helps attract and retain startup entrepreneurs and their companies for the State. GEIR focuses on filling the visa gap for international students by utilizing non-profits, such as colleges and universities, to hire entrepreneurs at the university. This provides the opportunity for the entrepreneur to obtain H-1B status by working either for or at the university pending the approach taken by the institution. The full Notice of Fund Availability is available on the [OSHE website](#). The following document provides a summary of submitted questions for interested applicants, but eligible applicants should refer to the original Notice of Funding Availability for information regarding the application process. Questions about the Notice may be submitted through Monday, November 25, 2024 and this document will be updated through November 26, 2024.

### **Submitted Questions**

- **What is the benefit to institutions of higher education?**

Institutions can benefit from the program in a multitude of ways, including, but not limited to: employing an entrepreneur on campus who can provide mentorship and aid in entrepreneur culture at institution, supporting and retaining graduates; building new partnerships with the institution; potential future support from a successful venture; and aiding in local and state economy.

- **Can we recruit entrepreneurs to work on established institutional start-ups?**

The Global EIR Program is an economic development initiative that helps attract and retain startup founders and their companies for the State. In particular, it helps fill the visa gap for graduating international students who are already in the process of founding a startup.

- **How do you envision the use of AI in the implementation of the grant?**

We envision the Global EIR program to prioritize entrepreneurs and their businesses that focus on AI or AI-related fields for their products or services. Additionally, we envision that grantees may support AI or AI-related development through strategic leveraging of relevant academic departments/programs, external partnerships, and supporting opportunities for the entrepreneur to pursue AI-related professional development.

- **Does the grant program prioritize broad AI integration or a specific, targeted application?**

As this is a pilot year, we anticipate the Global EIR program may utilize broad use of AI in the recruitment and selection of entrepreneurs.

- **Do you have any example of a successful AI application for Global EIR program?**

As this is a new program for the State of New Jersey, we do not have an example of a successful AI application for a Global Entrepreneur-in-Residence. The institution(s) selected will need to develop criteria for identifying and selecting eligible entrepreneurs. We recommend reviewing this [external resource library](#) in the development of such criteria. You may also wish to review the publicly available [Report to the Governor on Artificial Intelligence](#) to learn more about the State's AI-related priorities.

- **What are the key evaluation criteria for assessing the impact of AI-driven projects?**

Within the current Notice of Funding Availability, the application details the content for each section and assigned point values, with most specifically the Project Activity/Operational Plan asking about how the institution will center AI/generative AI as a key focus within their strategy.

Institutions will be responsible for reporting out on the pilot program, if selected. For consideration, Global Detroit, one of the original Global EIR programs, provides an [annual outcomes report](#) that may be of interest.

- **What are typical cost estimates for Global EIR positions?**

The applicant should establish a budget based on costs needed to develop and implement program based on their context. However, the Global National Peer Network estimates:

*In a mockup of a Global EIR program, the Global EIR Peer Network estimates one-time legal fees at about \$10,000 per founder, ongoing annual costs of about \$12,000 per founder, and a full-time program manager with salary plus benefits summing to about \$80,000 (O'Brien, 2024; [How more states and cities can retain immigrant entrepreneurs](#))*

- **Are there any current Global EIR programs in New Jersey? Where are there other programs?**

No, there are currently no Global EIR programs in New Jersey. There are programs in other locations across the United States, including Michigan, Cleveland, Massachusetts, California, as well as programs starting in Washington and New York.