



New Jersey Department of Health Announces State Fiscal Year 2025 \$10 Million Zero-Percent Interest Forgivable Loan Program Opportunity for Facilities Licensed by the State of New Jersey that Provide a Full Spectrum of Family Choice 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 continuation of the \$10 million zero-percent interest rate, one-year (1) forgivable loan program for family planning facilities upgrades at eligible facilities (the Program), which was originally created as part of the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023 Appropriations Act, P.L. 2022, c. 49, and is now being continued through the SFY 2025 Appropriations Act, P.L. 2024, c. 22 (the Act). The Authority, through a Memorandum of Agreement (the Agreement) with the Department, will oversee and monitor the Program.

Program Term

The Program period will run from **July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025**; 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 family choice services, including but not limited to:

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

Project narratives should specifically outline which reproductive health services will be supported through the Program. Please be advised that **any construction associated with projects must be paid at prevailing wage in accordance with the New Jersey State Prevailing Wage Act**, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25 et seq. Facilities will be responsible for ensuring that contractors and/or construction managers are aware of this requirement and have factored the cost of paying construction tradespeople the prevailing wage (as defined by the N.J. Department of Labor and

Workforce Development) into their construction estimates/budgets. 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, pregnancy-related, and other reproductive health services are not eligible to submit applications for the Program.

Additionally, to be eligible for loan forgiveness under the Program, a facility must remain open for business and continue to meet the eligibility and service requirements outlined in their approved Loan Agreement for one (1) year from the date of execution of the Loan Agreement. To that end, if a facility conveys and/or sells its interest, or ceases providing family planning and other reproductive health/pregnancy-related services, during the one (1) year term, then all loan funds will be due and payable to the Authority.

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 with 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 Friday, October 25, 2024** to be considered. Program applications will be reviewed by the Department and the Authority in the order that they are received and approved subject to remaining funding availability. Please note that facilities that applied for and were awarded funding under this Program during SFY 2023 or SFY 2024 are not precluded from applying for additional funding under this Program during SFY 2025; however, the Department

and the Authority will take prior year awards into consideration when evaluating SFY 2025 Program applications and making recommendations to the Authority's Board Members. To this end, please also note that all Program applications are subject to the final approval of Authority Board Members. 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 Taryn Jauss-Rommell at the Authority via email at tjauss@njhcffa.com or via phone at (609) 789-5642, or Christina Cartisano at the Department via email at Christina.Cartisano@doh.nj.gov or via phone at (609) 376-0965. Thank you.