



NEW JERSEY OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF

**HIGHER
EDUCATION**

Notice of Grant Opportunity

Submission Deadline: September 19, 2025

Term: July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

FY26 Re-Application for Continued Grant Funding for County College-Based Centers for Adult Transition

The New Jersey State Plan for Higher Education: “Where Opportunity Meets Innovation: A Student-Centered Vision for New Jersey Higher Education” includes the vision that every New Jersey student should feel safe and supported in their learning environment—and that all students should feel welcome on campus.¹ This commitment also emphasizes the importance of ensuring every New Jersey student has access to a high-quality, career-relevant academic program to succeed in the global economy.

In January 2022, Governor Murphy signed into law [P.L. 2021 c. 425](#), requiring all county colleges in New Jersey to establish adult centers for the transition of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (“centers”). These centers shall provide individuals with developmental disabilities up to the age of twenty-four (24) with the support and resources necessary to experience more successful transitions from secondary school to postsecondary education, adult employment, and independent living opportunities and skills, as appropriate.

County colleges may continue satisfying the statutory requirement to establish a center by either establishing or expanding an existing center on campus or by partnering with another county college and utilizing that county college’s center. The appropriated grant funding must

¹ <https://www.nj.gov/highereducation/documents/pdf/StateEducationplan.pdf>

be used to provide services, programs, and resources to students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. **Eligible re-applicants may apply for up to a \$100,000 award.**

The FY26 grant awards will not require submission of entirely new grant applications but rather, the satisfaction of a reapplication process. The award payments will be made in two installments. The first installment of 50% of award will be disbursed to grantees upon OSHE's receipt of the following three documents: 1) signed grant agreement, 2) completed and approved budget template, and 3) completed budget narrative that follows the guidelines below. The second installment of the award will be disbursed to grantees upon OSHE's receipt and review of the interim report in early 2026.

Eligibility Criteria

Each of New Jersey's 18 county colleges is eligible to apply for a Centers for Adult Transition grant.

Application Criteria

County colleges may reapply for a Center for Adult Transition grant by submitting a complete re-application as described below on or before **5:00 p.m. on September 19, 2025**. The application must demonstrate either:

- 1) plans for the county college to operate a Center for Adult Transition; or
- 2) a contractual partnership with another county college that will provide individuals who reside in the county with access to the services offered by the contracted county college

Process for Submission and Notification

Completed re-applications are due to OSHE no later than 5:00 p.m. on September 19, 2025. Applications should be uploaded to [FY26 CAT Application](#) with two attachments (PDF of grant narrative and Excel spreadsheet of budget). Following successful upload, please send an email to FinanceDocs@oshe.nj.gov with the subject line "Institution Name_Centers for Adult Transition Grant_FY26" to confirm your institution's single submission via Qualtrics and additionally attach all related materials. To ensure all materials are adequately reviewed, please provide all attachments via Qualtrics **AND** email. Additional submissions or submission modifications will not be accepted. The application **MUST** include a narrative as a PDF file and one budget template as an Excel file. Applications with missing components will be disqualified.

Applicants may include an appendix with letters of support from partner institutions and/or organizations contributing services to the Center. No more than one letter of support per partner should be submitted detailing their role in collaboration and meeting targeted goals. Institutions must also submit a copy of their contracts between partner institutions and/or organizations. Institutions will receive an email confirmation upon receipt of the application to both the Qualtrics and FinanceDocs@oshe.nj.gov account.

Only one submission per institution shall be accepted and considered. Please carefully review all components of the re-application prior to submission to ensure compliance with this Notice.

OSHE is under no obligation to consider multiple submissions from the same applicant and will review the earliest submission.

Upon OSHE's receipt and approval of the application materials, a grant agreement will be provided, and once executed, the initial payment will be processed.

An interim report for the Centers for Adult Transition grants will be due to OSHE no later than January 15, 2026. OSHE will provide a template for the interim report in advance of the submission deadline.

A final report, inclusive of final grant expenditures, is due to OSHE no later than July 31, 2026. OSHE will provide a template for the final report in advance of the submission deadline. The use of funding must abide by State guidelines. Any remaining funds need to be returned to OSHE by August 31, 2026. Questions can be directed to Sara.Lipsett@oshe.nj.gov.

Grant Narrative

Your comprehensive re-application must be submitted by uploading to [FY26 CAT Application](#). The application **MUST** be one narrative as a PDF file and one budget template as an Excel file. Applications missing information from the required template will be disqualified.

The narrative portion of the application must be submitted as a PDF. Use the headings listed below within the application. Institutions must abide by the word limit indicated per section. Any information beyond the word limit will not be reviewed. The grant narrative must include:

- An application **Cover Sheet** with contact information.
- **Executive Summary:** Provide a short summary of the anticipated and continued services to be offered through the Center in this FY2026 application cycle. We ask that institutions engaged in partnerships with other institutions of higher education detail the roles and responsibilities of each participating institution. Please provide brief details explaining how this additional round of funding will build upon and/or will be utilized in a manner that can be differentiated from that of previous grant cycles. The summary should be a minimum of one paragraph and written in simple terms.
- **Goals and Mission:** Provide a description of the institution, including the strategic goals and mission of the Center, organizational structure, location, and anticipated number of students to be served by the Center annually. Please indicate how your institution plans to coordinate and integrate existing county and State services, programs, and resources into your overall goals and mission for the Center in this current application cycle. This discussion should be a minimum of two paragraphs.
- **Sustainability:** Describe how your institution is planning for out-year expenses and maintenance of the Center long-term given the State's inability to guarantee funding in future fiscal years. This should be a minimum of one paragraph.
- **Description of Activities Performed:** Please provide any other relevant information your institution would like to share regarding the Centers for Adult Transition grant. This

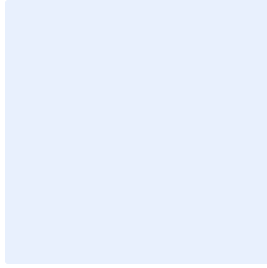
should be a minimum of one sentence. If there is no other relevant information to be included, please indicate it in a single sentence.

- **Budget Template:** Please see the FY26_Centers for Adult Transition Budget template.xlsx titled “Institution Name_Centers for Adult Transition_Budget_FY26.” Institutions should complete the ‘Contact Information,’ ‘Original Budget,’ and ‘Justification’ columns. Please do not modify the budget spreadsheet rows or columns. **Each of the 18 county colleges may apply for a maximum award of \$100,000.** In considering the amount sought, institutions should be mindful of the spending timeframe. Funds must be obligated and expended by June 30, 2026. The term of the agreement will be from the date of grant agreement execution through June 30, 2026. Please note that additional funding may be available in subsequent years, but this is subject to State appropriations and cannot be guaranteed. Indirect costs are not allowable under the terms of this grant agreement.

Appendix A: Optional Cover Sheet Template

Application Cover Sheet

[If you choose, insert logo or picture in image space below. Please delete if not used.]



[Please complete the following information by clicking into the text box and entering the information.]

Institution:	[Name of Institution]
Project Title:	[Project Title]
Partner Institution(s), <i>if applicable</i>	[Name of partner institution(s)]
Date of Report:	[Date]
Total Project Requested:	[Total \$ Amount Requested]
Point of Contact(s):	[Name, email address]
	[Name, email address]