

Document: 57 N.J.R. 1895(d)

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VOLUME 57, ISSUE 16, AUGUST 18, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICES

Reporter

57 N.J.R. 1895(d)

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Agency

HIGHER EDUCATION > NEW JERSEY HIGHER EDUCATION

Text

Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund

Notice of Availability of Grant Program Funds

Take notice that in compliance with N.J.S.A. 52:14-34.4 et seq. (P.L. 1987, c. 7), the Secretary of Higher Education (Secretary) hereby publishes notice of the availability of funding from the Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund, as established at N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-72 et seq. (Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund Act) and implemented at N.J.A.C. 9A:12-1.1 et seq. (CIF Regulations).

Please also take notice that the Secretary is also publishing notice of the availability of funding from the Higher Education Facilities Trust Fund, as established at N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-49 et seq. (collectively the "Higher Education Capital Facilities Programs") simultaneously with this notice in this issue of the New Jersey Register. The round of grant funding encompassed by these two notices of funding availability shall be referred to throughout this notice as the "Summer 2025 Cycle."

Applicants should consult both notices for the Summer 2025 Cycle prior to preparing an application for this competitive grant program. Applicants may submit multiple projects for consideration; however, the total aggregate amount of grant funds requested by a single applicant from the Higher Education Capital Facilities Programs during the Summer 2025 Cycle may not exceed \$ 20,000,000, with the exception of New Jersey City University (NJCU). Please see Section E for information regarding NJCU. An application may request funding from one or both of the Higher Education Capital Facilities Programs. The applicant should also consult the "Higher Education Capital Facilities Programs Joint Solicitation for Grant Applications - Summer 2025 Cycle" (Solicitation) for more detailed information concerning the grant programs and the application submission requirements.

A. Name of grant program: Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund (CIF Grant Program).

B. Purpose for which CIF Grant Program funds will be used: To provide grants to New Jersey's four-year public and private institutions of higher education for the cost, or a portion of the cost, of the renewal, renovation, improvement, expansion, construction, and reconstruction of facilities and technology infrastructure. "Renewal and renovation" means "making the changes necessary to address deferred capital maintenance needs, to meet all [State of New Jersey] and federal health, safety, fire, and building code standards, or to provide a safe and appropriate educational or working environment." (N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-75). See Section D for further eligibility requirements.

C. Amount of funding available: The total amount of funds available pursuant to the CIF Grant Program during the Summer 2025 Cycle is \$ 110,000,000. \$ 100,000,000 will be available for aggregate awards to [page=1896] eligible institutions of higher education (with the exception of NJCU) and \$ 10,000,000 will be available for award to NJCU. Each applicant to the Summer 2025 Cycle may request funding in an aggregate amount of no more than \$ 20,000,000 for all submitted projects. Please see

Section E for more information regarding NJCU. In the event that not all of the available funds are allocated in the Summer 2025 Cycle, the Secretary may publish a notice of availability of funds for one or more additional cycles of grant funding. Pursuant to the CIF Grant Program, four-year public institutions of higher education must commit to paying one-third of the debt service on the bonds issued to finance a project and four-year private institutions of higher education must commit to paying one-half of the debt service on the bonds issued to finance a project (N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-78(b) and N.J.A.C. 9A:12-1.3(e)4). Funds for a grant pursuant to the CIF Grant Program will not be disbursed until the Secretary certifies approval of the grant to the New Jersey State Legislature (State Legislature), subject to the approval of the State Legislature, the New Jersey Educational Facilities Authority (NJEFA) issues the necessary bonds to finance the grant (subject to the prior written approval of the State Treasurer), and requisite grant agreements are executed by the grantees.

D. Entities that may apply for funding pursuant to the CIF Grant Program: Eligibility for the CIF Grant Program is limited to four-year public and private institutions of higher education which are eligible to receive State aid. (N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-75 and N.J.A.C. 9A:12-1.3). A "Public institution" of higher education is defined as "Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, the State colleges, the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Rowan University, Montclair State University, Kean University, the county colleges and any other public university or college now or hereinafter established or authorized by law." (N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-3). The "State colleges" as referenced above are New Jersey City University, Ramapo College of New Jersey, Stockton University, the College of New Jersey, Thomas Edison State University, and William Paterson University. "Private institution of higher education" is defined as "independent colleges or universities incorporated and located in New Jersey, which by virtue of law or character or license, are nonprofit educational institutions authorized to grant academic degrees and which provide a level of education that is equivalent to the education provided by the State's public institutions of higher education as attested by the receipt of and continuation of regional accreditation by the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, and which are eligible to receive State aid." (N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-3). As previously stated, eligibility for the CIF Grant Program is limited to four-year public and private institutions of higher education that are eligible to receive State aid. Therefore, the county colleges and any other institutions that fall within the above definitions, but are not four-year institutions or are not eligible to receive State aid, are not eligible for funding.

E. New Jersey City University: Pursuant to P.L. 2025, c. 74, the Secretary has determined that \$ 10,000,000 of the available funding pursuant to the CIF Grant Program during the Summer 2025 Cycle will be allocated for award to NJCU. During the Summer 2025 Cycle, NJCU will not be eligible to apply for CIF grant funding outside of this allocation. NJCU will be required to comply with all application submission and project eligibility requirements contained in this notice and the Solicitation when applying for this allocation.

F. Procedure for eligible entities to apply for a grant pursuant to the CIF Grant Program: Applications for the Summer 2025 Cycle will be accepted from September 10, 2025 through September 22, 2025. Applicants should review the Solicitation for application submission requirements and other information prior to applying for grant funding. The Solicitation will be available for viewing on the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education's (OSHE) website located at <https://nj.gov/highereducation/> on or before 5:00 P.M. (Eastern Prevailing Time) on August 11, 2025. Applications will be screened for completeness, eligibility, and conformity with the Higher Education Capital Improvement Fund Act and CIF rules. Complete applications for eligible projects will be submitted to a review committee for consideration, evaluation, and potential recommendation to the Secretary. Applications must be submitted online utilizing the Apply platform. Access to the online application will be available on OSHE's website at: <https://nj.gov/highereducation/> beginning on September 10, 2025.

G. Technical assistance materials: On or before August 22, 2025, materials will be posted to OSHE's website to assist applicants in the completion and submission of applications for the Summer 2025 Cycle of the Higher Education Capital Facilities Programs.

H. Questions and addenda: Questions may be submitted through email to FinanceDocs@OSHE.nj.gov from August 18, 2025 until August 22, 2025 (12:00 P.M. Eastern Prevailing Time). Phone calls or facsimiles will not be accepted. Answers to timely submitted questions and any addenda to the Solicitation will be posted to <https://nj.gov/highereducation/> no later than August 28, 2025.

I. Date by which applications must be received: Applications must be received by September 22, 2025 (4:00 P.M. Eastern Prevailing Time) through the Apply platform for consideration in the Summer 2025 Cycle. The Secretary will not be responsible for any expenses incurred in the preparation and/or presentation of the applications, if any, or for the disclosure of any information or material received in connection with the applications, whether by negligence or otherwise. The Secretary reserves the right to reject any and all applications, with or without cause, and to waive any irregularities or informalities in the submitted applications. In the event that all applications are rejected, the Secretary reserves the right to resolicit applications.

J. Notification of funding for application: Funding for the approved applications is subject to the approval of the State Legislature (N.J.S.A. 18A:72A-77(d)) and the issuance of bonds to finance the projects by the NJEFA, which are subject to various approvals outside of OSHE or the NJEFA's control.

NEW JERSEY REGISTER

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