



State of New Jersey

2024 Annual Performance Report

Capital Projects Fund

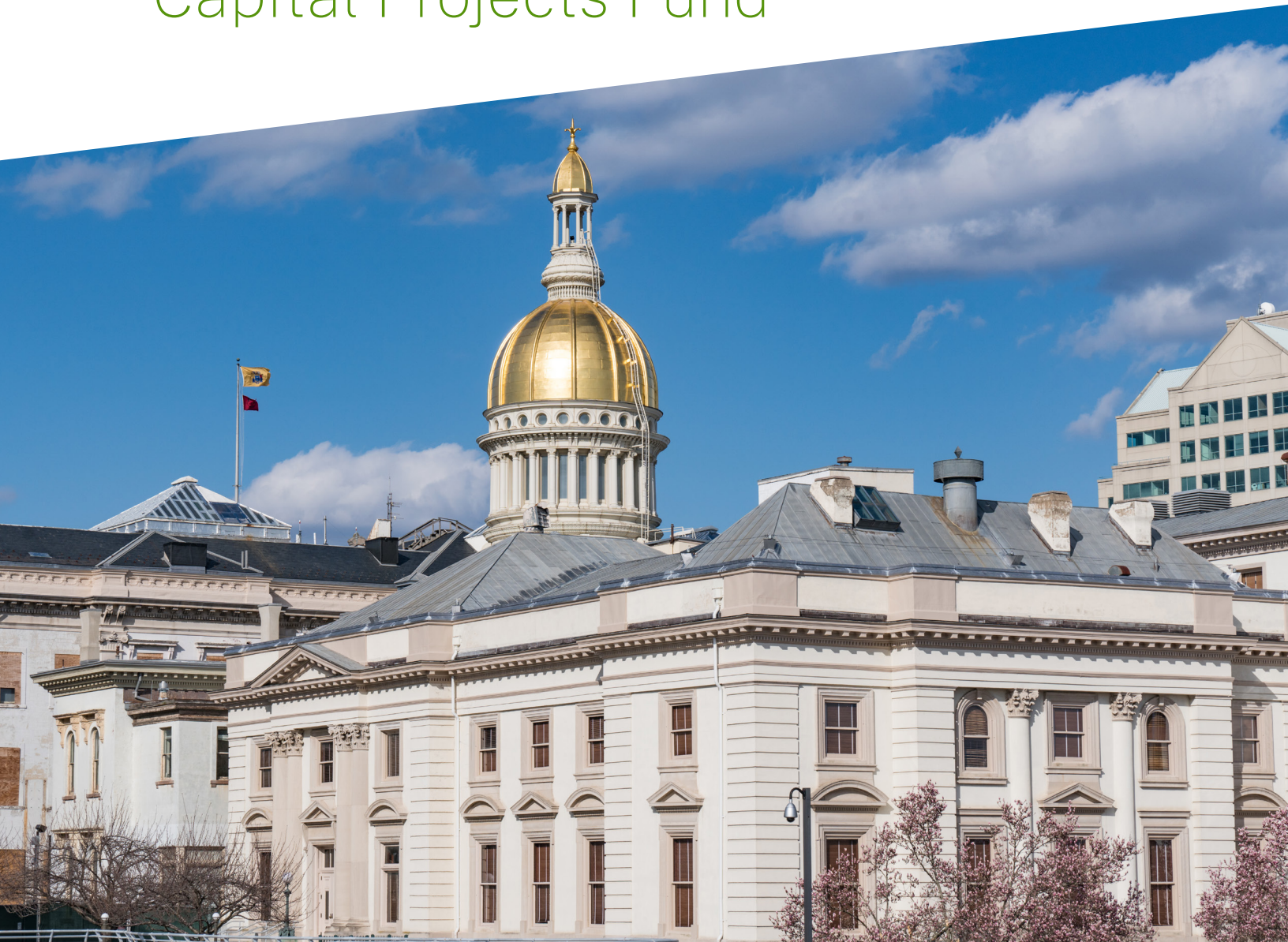




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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Murphy Administration is pleased to partner with the U.S. Department of Treasury (UST) to make critical investments in capital projects “directly enabling work, education and health monitoring” using the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (CPF). In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, these funds will promote digital equity and increase opportunities for broader engagement in school, healthcare, employment, and other essential services. This Administration – led by the Governor’s Disaster Recovery Office and the Department of Community Affairs’ Division of Disaster Recovery and Mitigation – created six (6) programs that will benefit thousands of New Jerseyans and specifically communities who have been underserved or historically disadvantaged.

New Jersey has received final approval from UST for the following programs/projects:

- The Board of Public Utilities, Office of Broadband Connectivity’s “New Jersey Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Equity Program (NJBIDE);”
- The School Development Authority’s “Union City Grade 7-9 Community School;”
- The State Library-led “Building Community Resilience through Community Facilities” Program;
- Newark’s Community Research Initiative “Homeless and Community Drop-In Center;”
- NJ Transit’s “Bus Wi-Fi Program;” and
- The New Jersey Economic Development Authority’s “Trenton Maternal & Infant Health Center.”

These programs intentionally target underserved communities who have lacked affordable access to high quality internet and other critical digital services that would otherwise provide access to improved healthcare, job training, and/or educational

support. The Murphy Administration understands that in a post-pandemic era, getting people connected is a long-term recovery solution and crucial to ensuring the following key outcomes:

1. Narrowing the digital divide by improving digital equity and opportunity, especially in disproportionately impacted communities.
2. Increasing job growth and higher rates of business formation, in addition to lowering unemployment rates.
3. Improving life and health outcomes, with increased access to health care providers, educational opportunities, and social networks.
4. Increasing civic engagement participation by widening access to critical information sources.

The State took multiple approaches over the course of more than a year to engage communities and solicit their feedback on choosing projects appropriate for CPF funding. The Administration collaborated with stakeholders through public input processes such as townhall meetings, listening sessions and scheduled meetings to further maximize public awareness and participation in the planning process. Feedback was solicited from thousands of individuals, community organizations, and advocates to understand the need and to assist in selecting CPF projects. For example, Governor Murphy signed a law creating the Broadband Access Study Commission (BASC) charged with evaluating the impediments of access to broadband services for all residents, and to study physical access, deployment, and affordability of broadband service. The BASC has convened with key agencies, departments, stakeholders, and community organizations. Through these important partnerships, Governor Murphy looks forward to making critical and high-impact investments with the CPF.

The State's strategy in selecting CPF projects has always focused on promoting equitable outcomes in communities with critical access needs. As described herein, the approved projects attempt to address digital inequalities that have created gaps between those who have access to technology, the internet, and digital literacy training and those who do not. The approved CPF projects will continue to prioritize designing and implementing programs geared towards building long-term solutions to bridge those gaps.

USE OF FUNDS

1. THE NEW JERSEY BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT EQUITY PROGRAM (NJBIDE) (CPF_GP_0000245)

Program Start Date: January 1, 2023

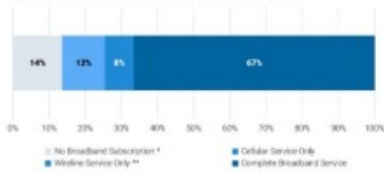
Program End Date: December 31, 2026

CPF Funds Awarded: \$50.0 million

LET'S BRIDGE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



Figure 1. Household broadband subscription rates, United States, 2019



* Excludes dial-up service and access without a subscription.
** Excludes satellite, fiber optic, DSL, and mobile internet service.
Source: 2019 American Community Survey 1-year estimates.

B Metropolitan Policy Program



Work on Go

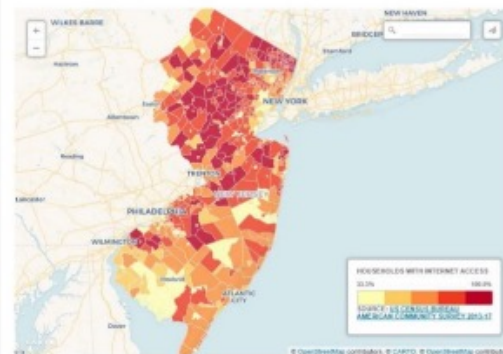


Learn on Go



Telemedicine on Go

Digital Divide across NJ



16-17% of NJ Residents Lack High Speed Access

A. Project Summary

To combat the digital divide and address critical needs and inequities related to work, education, and health monitoring, including those exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Jersey Broadband Infrastructure Deployment Equity program (NJBIDE) will implement a pilot program intended to identify and connect unserved, underserved, and at-risk areas in the State with limited or no access to broadband facilities through targeted broadband infrastructure projects developed by the States' Board of Public Utilities (BPU), Office of Broadband Connectivity (OBC).

The pilot program is intended to provide affordable universal access to reliable broadband services with a minimum of 100/100 Mbps capable of supporting existing and Next-Generation applications and streaming services. The goal is to promote digital equity and economic development through expanded non-traditional workplace, health, and educational opportunities. Through a competitive bid process, awarded bidders will implement and operate projects focused on the deployment of broadband infrastructure to bring access to high-quality internet service to areas which currently lack broadband connectivity.

While New Jersey has roughly 1,107,163 locations considered unserved, the pilot program’s potential deployment areas include: Cumberland, Salem, and Warren counties, an urban designated area in Essex County, the Borough of Palmyra in Burlington County, and Egg Harbor City and Egg Harbor Township in Atlantic County. While the pilot program will be limited in size and scope, it will be evaluated to develop a more detailed program strategy to achieve the Program Objectives on a much broader scale in the future using funding dedicated to New Jersey through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

B. Equity

A review of poverty rates within New Jersey determined which CPF-targeted areas had the lowest rate of Internet access and the highest rate of poverty. NJBIDE determined that based on the 2020 Census and the Poverty Rate by County Comparison, Cumberland County had the highest poverty rate by population: 16%. Essex County had 15.8% rate and Salem County had 13.8%. The project compared these rates to other data sources and found that the rates were accurate for each area targeted.

C. Project Outputs and Anticipated Outcomes

The BPU OBC has made significant strides in preparing for the implementation of the NJBIDE pilot program. Key achievements and upcoming activities in the following critical areas.

Public Awareness and Engagement:

BPU OBC launched a comprehensive website with announcements, news, and resources to promote public awareness and understanding of the NJBIDE program.¹ Information on the “Intent to Apply” was also published to gauge interest and gather preliminary information from potential applicants. Additional resources on the website aid the public in understanding the goals of the CPF program and the requirements for NJBIDE applicants, including compliance and financial reporting. OBC staff also implemented a new SAGE IGX grant management system on the website for applicants to register and prepare their proposals for the upcoming NOFA period.

Technical Preparation:

With the help of consultants and a recently hired GIS specialist, the OBC successfully challenged the national broadband map, resulting in the addition of 38,506 Broadband Serviceable Locations (BSL) and 27,116 unserved locations.

Upcoming Activities:

The BPU OBC will host the inaugural CPF summit to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among industry leaders, stakeholders, and government officials. Additional coordination with the State Planning Advocacy Workgroup will further align broadband infrastructure projects with broader state planning initiatives. Critically, the OBC will open the CPF NOFA period for applicants to submit their proposals, utilizing the SAGE IGX system for efficient and transparent management.

The BPU OBC is dedicated to ensuring the effective and compliant administration of the NJBIDE pilot program. By establishing a multi-layered support system with both internal and external expertise, the OBC is well-positioned to oversee the successful deployment of broadband infrastructure, promote digital equity throughout New Jersey, and maintain the highest standards of fiscal responsibility and regulatory compliance at all levels of the program.

¹“NJ Office of Broadband Connectivity,” <https://www.nj.gov/connect/>

D. Community Engagement

The BPU OBC is committed to robust community engagement throughout the NJBIDE pilot program, ensuring that the voices and needs of residents are heard and addressed. A dedicated feedback form will be prominently placed on the CPF website, allowing residents to submit comments, concerns, or questions before, during, and after broadband deployment. This form will serve as a central hub for collecting community input and ensuring transparency. The technical consultants engaged by the BPU OBC will be responsible for facilitating open and regular dialogue between grantees and residents in affected project areas. This will involve ensuring that grantees establish clear channels for communication, actively solicit feedback, and address concerns in a timely and transparent manner.

Consultants will also work with grantees to develop and implement a formal process for investigating and resolving grievances related to broadband deployment. This process will ensure that community concerns are taken seriously and addressed fairly. The consultants will play a crucial role in upholding transparency and accountability throughout the project lifecycle. They will monitor grantee activities, track progress, and ensure compliance with Treasury transparency requirements.

The BPU OBC is committed to reaching diverse communities through various outreach initiatives. The NJBIDE website provides information in multiple languages, ensuring accessibility for residents with limited English proficiency. The BPU OBC also utilizes targeted advertising campaigns to reach specific communities and demographics, including low-income and minority populations. Finally, the OBC partners with community-based organizations to disseminate information and gather feedback.

By prioritizing community engagement, transparency, and accountability, the BPU OBC aims to ensure that the NJBIDE pilot program not only expands broadband access but also empowers communities to fully utilize this vital resource for economic development, education, healthcare, and overall well-being.

E. Budget

PROGRAM BUDGET						
Program Administrative Costs						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
2. Total Program Administrative Costs						
Contracts/Professional Services				\$5,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$25,000,000
3. Project Costs				\$5,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$25,000,000
Total Project Costs				\$5,000,000	\$20,000,000	\$25,000,000
Final Total Project Costs	\$50,000,000					

NEW JERSEY SCHOOLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY CONSTRUCTION OF UNION CITY GRADE 7-9 COMMUNITY SCHOOL (CPF_GP-000151)

Program Start Date: March 20, 2024

Program End Date: December 31, 2026

CPF Funds Allocated: \$56.8 million



Picture above: Ongoing construction of the Union City Grade 7-9 Community School

A. Project Summary

The Union City Grade 7-9 Community School in Union City, New Jersey will function as a multi-purpose community facility and be designed and constructed to educate 827 students in grades seven through nine. It will encompass community use design features that will support the offering of vital in-house services that enhance student and adult learning and development. This facility will support the School District's after-school enrichment programs for students and adults which require the use of school facilities beyond the normal school day. The New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA) is leading the project.

The school's design and development will provide members of the Union City community with meaningful and productive learning opportunities to create employment opportunities. According to the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Union City maintains an unemployment rate of approximately 6%, which trends 2 percentage points higher than the county average. According to the data, close to 2,000 residents are currently unemployed. These numbers, however, are dramatically higher than reported due to the large number of undocumented workers living in Union City who are not represented in current data. Consequently, there is a tremendous need for career counseling programs, workforce training programs, as well as vocational training programs that allow participants to acquire the requisite skills needed for employment.

Fortunately, the school will provide a variety of learning opportunities that increase workplace marketability, support career development, and enable community members to find employment to support their families. Adult education programs, such as ESL and GED classes, will provide students with the foundations of learning and promote a basis for additional educational opportunities offered through this program. In addition, computer and technology literacy programs that will enable adult learners to gain necessary skills to navigate through our technology-dependent job market will be a critical component of the initiative. These programs will teach tech-specific skills in addition to providing learners with internet and technology access to learn, explore, and access job placement resources. Finally, this program will incorporate vocational programs and training in the fields of culinary arts, hospitality, and office management. These planned offerings will provide adult learners with career-specific skills necessary to obtain sustainable employment.

B. Equity

The communities targeted for this multi-purpose community facility include the Union City Public Schools' student population, plus the community at large with a focus on marginalized groups including immigrant and low-income groups. Union City, New Jersey, has the distinction of being the second most densely populated city in the nation, with a population of slightly under 70,000 people. With a median household income of \$42,483, the number of residents living below the poverty line is 24.3%, making it the 15th poorest city in the state of New Jersey. The district's percentage of students on free and reduced student lunch is 83%. The density of the population combined with the socio-economic factors create a unique set of challenges not just for all of the students, but for the community at large. COVID-19 had a tremendously heavy impact on the people of Union City. Many of the city's residents not only became ill due to the virus, but many perished while many others lost their jobs. For immigrants recently arriving with little or no formal education or job training, this school facility and its programs will strengthen the community and enable adults to pursue opportunities.

Moreover, the Union City Public School district is designated as one of 31 special-needs school districts in New Jersey known as NJSDA Districts (formerly 'Abbott Districts') and serve historically high concentrations of at-risk students such as limited English populations, students with disabilities, and other special needs. The community school will further academic gains and progress in closing student achievement gaps in New Jersey.

The funding provided for this project will ensure the facilities, programs, resources, and support systems needed for the continuity of a high-quality and equitable education in the school while providing enormous opportunities for a largely underrepresented adult population.

C. Project Outputs and Anticipated Outcomes

A contract has been executed with the Design-Build Contractor to complete the design and construction of the school with a scheduled completion date of June 2025 to support a facility opening of September 2025. Substantial building activities have taken place over the past year. Footing and foundation work, structural steel erection, and slab on deck construction are complete. Building enclosure activities, fireproofing and MEP rough in activities have commenced and are ongoing. The NJSDA expects the building to achieve temporary Certificate of Occupancy to support the planned September 2025 school opening.

D. Community Engagement

Extensive and ongoing community engagement and public participation will be solicited from the communities involved to guide implementation. NJSDA has established partnerships with local media such as Univision, Telemundo, and local and national media outlets to solicit input from the community and promote educational programs.

Future community engagement will include the establishment of a Steering committee which will be crucial to the success of the program. The committee, which will monitor the progress of the program, will identify opportunities to support it, troubleshoot challenges as they arise, and make organizational and program-specific decisions. The Steering Committee will include: the principal and central office leadership, community leaders, and any intermediary organization that will work directly with the partners to support the program.

E. Budget

PROGRAM BUDGET						
Program Administrative Costs						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Contract/Professional Services				\$250,000	\$300,000	\$313,150
2. Total Program Administrative Costs				\$250,000	\$300,000	\$313,150
Contracts				\$35,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$5,963,000
3. Project Costs				\$35,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$5,963,000
Total Project Costs				\$35,250,000	\$15,300,000	\$6,276,150
Final Total Project Costs	\$56,826,150					

BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH COMMUNITY FACILITIES (CPF_GP-000056).

Program Start Date: April 10, 2023

Program End Date: December 31, 2026

CPF Funds Allocated: \$36.1 million



Pictured Above: CPF “Community Resilience” Grant Recipient Bayonne Public Library

A. Project Summary

Building Community Resilience through Community Facilities project addresses disparities in access to education, jobs, and health monitoring by investing in capital improvements at community facilities: 14 public libraries, four municipal community facilities, and one community health facility. The result will be an increased number of residents with ready access to high-speed internet in community locations, together with opportunities for workforce development, education, and health monitoring in these convenient and trusted spaces. The New Jersey State Library (NJSL) administers the program; the grant opportunity opened in Summer 2023.

The program will fund 19 projects that improve community facilities and infrastructure and will invest in new equipment that supports digital equity. To complement the work of building or renovating physical spaces, the project allows grantees to acquire equipment such as computers, computer servers, routers, laptop or desktop computers, mobile devices including but not limited to Wi-Fi hotspots, and other items that are used for broadband access and employment readiness and job search, education programs, and health monitoring.

B. Equity

The pandemic provided stark evidence of the disparities in access to the internet, devices, and digital literacy across wide swaths of people. In addition to the disparities in access to digital tools and connectivity, challenges to community engagement were caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 health pandemic. This program targets those that were disproportionately impacted, including people with limited English proficiency.

The program funds community facilities that serve 19 communities that are historically underrepresented and were disproportionately impacted by the health pandemic. Selected grantees were chosen from a larger set of communities in qualified census tracts. Locations were assessed based on certain demographics, namely: percent of household with less than a high school degree, the percent of households without internet access, and the percent of families living in poverty.

Grantees were selected by reviewers based on grantees documentation of the challenges faced by their communities and the critical needs that they intend to address through the grant. The scoring criteria for applications gave weight to those community facilities serving populations with the greatest need, in addition to the facilities' proposed interventions for addressing those deficiencies. Grantees were drawn from across the state and reflect a cross section of the identified needs.

C. Project Outputs and Anticipated Outcomes

The New Jersey State Library (NJSL) developed and launched its competitive Capital Projects Fund (CPF) subgrant opportunity in Summer 2023 and received 44 applications requesting over \$94,000,000 in funding. Tremendous need was demonstrated by applicants which were drawn from across the state.

NJSL conducted pre-award risk assessments on organizations that were offered an award. These organizations were also required to complete a detailed project plan and budget for approval by NJSL prior to signing the grant agreement. NJSL provided technical assistance that helped organizations with more limited experience successfully complete the project plan and budget. A particular effort was made to provide guidance on community engagement and program design.

Thirteen (13) grantees have signed grant agreements and are proceeding with project implementation. The remaining grantees are expected to complete project plans and budgets and sign agreements in the near future.

D. Community Engagement

Subgrant applicants conducted extensive community engagement as part of their application process. Methods included surveys, focus groups, listening sessions, newsletters, and presentations. Moving forward, NJSL will continue to provide technical assistance to grantees on best practices for engaging the community to assure that the projects are centered in community voice.

E. Budget

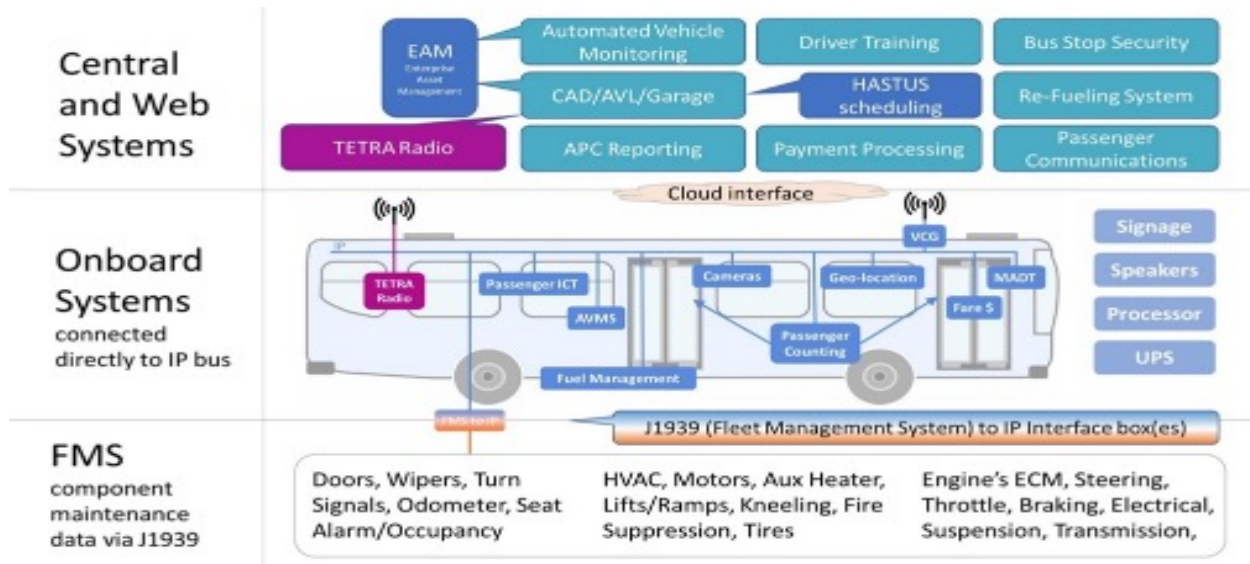
PROGRAM BUDGET						
Program Administrative Costs						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
General Administrative Services				\$422,440	\$343,320	\$350,735
Operating Supplies & Services				\$10,750	\$7,250	\$7,250
Contracts/Professional Services				\$214,230	\$184,395	\$109,670
2. Total Program Administrative Costs				\$647,380	\$534,965	\$467,655
Grants				\$9,000,000	\$22,000,000	\$3,412,740
3. Project Costs				\$9,000,000	\$22,000,000	\$3,412,740
Total Project Costs				\$9,647,380	\$22,534,965	\$3,880,395
Final Total Project Costs	\$36,062,740					

NJ TRANSIT WI-FI ON BUSES PROGRAM (CPF_GP-000150)

Program Start Date: April 19, 2024

Program End Date: December 31, 2026

CPF Funds Allocated: \$15.8 million



A. Project Summary

NJ TRANSIT’s Connected Bus program will address inequity in broadband access through the provision of free high-speed Wi-Fi to travelers onboard its public transport buses, which serve approximately 150 million riders annually. The project will feature a private operational network, a public Wi-Fi network, onboard device rationalization, edge processing, and garage-data interface. In addition, users will have access to a portal of useful content (e.g., instruction, job training, and health-related resources) onboard to make their trip more productive.

NJ TRANSIT provides reliable and cost-effective transit service, vital to the state’s economic and social well-being and quality of life. Covering a service area of 5,325 square miles linking major points in New Jersey, Philadelphia, and New York’s Orange County and Manhattan, NJ TRANSIT is the nation’s third-largest provider of bus, rail, and light rail transit. The agency operates an active fleet of 3,087 buses. On 252 bus routes statewide, NJ TRANSIT provides nearly 150 million passenger trips in a typical year.

Service population expectations and NJ TRANSIT’s commitment to innovation inspired the Connected Bus program, which outfits buses with advanced digital technologies including Wi-Fi. The Connected Bus program is part of a statewide innovation plan to provide resilient connectivity for innovative operational applications and passenger communications on bus, rail, and light rail lines. A connected bus will use a Vehicle Communication Gateway router for vehicle to central communications, plus cloud and garage-based interfaces for data and central system connectivity. These features will be tightly integrated into other innovation programs to provide connectivity, content, and development of video analytics using onboard edge processing. Additional Passenger Wi-Fi benefits include:

- On-bus Wi-Fi connection used for personal or professional purposes will enhance the customer travel experience and increase trust in NJ TRANSIT’s innovative transit system that incorporates technology to serve its customers.
- Considering that buses serve many economically disadvantaged communities, the opportunity to have free Wi-Fi on buses can help disadvantaged individuals fully integrate into the digital world.
- Wi-Fi onboard buses will encourage digital ticketing and address current customer issues related to accessing the mobile ticketing system.

The project will equip hundreds of existing buses that are not scheduled for replacement in the next five years and currently serving communities with critical needs. The expectation is that new buses will already include digital connectivity technology. There are plans to add over a thousand new buses over the next five years (funded externally from CPF), making more than a thousand connected buses in NJ TRANSIT’s fleet.

The project will be a model on how to efficiency and effectively provide resilient broadband communications for passenger and operations use by rationalizing communications equipment and deploying a combination of onboard video content with tailored access to higher bandwidth content.

B. Equity

Broadband access in New Jersey is not equitably distributed among all income groups. According to the 2019 American Community Survey findings released by the U.S. Census Bureau², 343,597 households in New Jersey still do not have an internet subscription, while 301,704 more households receive their internet connection solely via cellular data plan. Using the same 2019 American Community Survey data set, Elizabeth, Trenton, Camden, and Newark have been ranked 6th, 12th, 26th, and 39th worst-connected cities in the nation, respectively³. Over 40% of households in these cities lack wired internet. Undoubtedly, there is a critical need for digital connectivity statewide that NJ TRANSIT’s expansive public bus system will help to address. The Connected Bus program will prioritize vulnerable communities when selecting which buses to equip with digital connectivity technology.

Twenty-five percent (25%) of NJ TRANSIT bus riders are below the national poverty level and are among the lowest income groups of all NJ TRANSIT system riders. There is also a broad racial disparity between NJ TRANSIT’s bus and rail riders, with fifty-six percent (56%) of the bus riders belonging to a minority group, while less than 30% on the rail system are in the same group. In addition to targeting specific bus routes in low-income areas, targeting bus riders, in general, with the Connected Bus digital connectivity program will address a community with critical needs.

NJ TRANSIT’s project is one of the most effective ways to reach lower-income communities that do not have access to broadband communications. In addition to making Wi-Fi available on buses for easy access to information related to local travel and services, the Connected Bus program will provide access to training, such as digital literacy, and health resources desperately needed in underprivileged communities.

² See <https://www.nj.com/opinion/2021/06/thousands-in-new-jersey-still-dont-have-broadband-access-opinion.html> (citing to the 2019 American Community Survey findings released by the U.S. Census Bureau).

³ See <https://www.digitalinclusion.org/worst-connected-cities-2019/> (citing to the 2019 American Community Survey One Year Estimates, Table B28002).

C. Project Outputs and Anticipated Outcomes

NJ TRANSIT will fund initial bus deployments to determine expected Wi-Fi utilization on various routes and allow the preliminary evaluation of vendor solutions. The targeted buses may deploy with Wi-Fi within 18 months of selecting a contractor. This process will require a total of two years for the project deployment. After deployment, NJ TRANSIT will conduct a two-year evaluation and adjustment period and summarize its results in a final report.

The project is currently in the Pre-Design Phase. The Design Phase will determine the exact bus quantities, routes selected, and equipment needs. With that information, NJ TRANSIT can provide a more accurate estimate as to number of riders disaggregated by race with increased Wi-Fi access. NJ TRANSIT will provide periodic updates as outcome data becomes available.

D. Community Engagement

NJ TRANSIT customer feedback continually informs projects and improvements. With the participation of the bus-riding community, NJ TRANSIT plans to undertake an analysis to evaluate the benefits of the Connected Bus program, requiring at least one origin destination (O-D) survey after project implementation, but before and after surveys are recommended and will be considered. Sign-on location data acquired by the installed wireless systems in this initiative may also provide the necessary O-D information for a detailed analysis. A detailed analysis of safety benefits will also require compilation and analysis of route-specific crash data, and riders’ O-D routes will have to be overlaid on the road network.

Moreover, NJ TRANSIT generally collects feedback from the public via multiple mediums, including through in-person customer service representatives at major terminals, online form submissions, social media, and telephone hotlines. Feedback collected through these mediums will also engage the community in the project planning, shape how NJ TRANSIT will inform improvements and programming, and promote the benefits of the new program and its availability to the public.

D. Budget

PROGRAM BUDGET						
Program Administrative Costs						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Operating Supplies & Services (Admin)				\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
2. Total Program Administrative Costs				\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Equipment Proof of Concept				\$500,000		
Operating Supplies & Services				\$956,868	\$2,913,735	\$1,456,867
Contracts				\$2,292,882	\$4,585,765	\$2,292,883

PROGRAM BUDGET						
Program Administrative Costs						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
3. Project Costs				\$3,749,750	\$7,499,500	\$3,749,750
Total Project Costs				\$3,999,750	\$7,749,500	\$3,999,750
Final Total Project Costs	\$15,749,000					

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TRENTON MATERNAL & INFANT HEALTH INNOVATION CENTER (CPF_GP-000149)

Program Start Date: June 24, 2024

Program End Date: December 31, 2026

CPF Funds Allocated: \$26.3 million



A. Project Summary

As part of New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy and First Lady Tammy Murphy’s “Nurture NJ” initiative, which aims to make New Jersey the safest and most equitable place to deliver and raise a baby in America, the State of New Jersey selected the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) to receive a Capital Projects Fund sub-award of \$26.3 million to support the design, development, and construction of a Multi-Purpose Community Facility that will serve as the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center (“Center”) in the State’s capital of Trenton. This first-of-its-kind Center will: support health care delivery to New Jersey expectant mothers, as well as new parents and babies; advance the growth and development of the perinatal workforce; and serve as a hub for maternal and infant health policy and innovation focused on eliminating racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes that will benefit the City of Trenton, the State, and the entire country.

The Center is a core element in NJEDA’s work to advance Governor Murphy’s commitment to growing the innovation economy in New Jersey. Governor Murphy’s Economic Development Strategic Plan, “The State of Innovation: Building a Stronger and Fairer Economy in New Jersey” includes, as one of its key goals, making New Jersey the state of innovation through investment in its people, ecosystem, physical spaces, and both private and public research and venture capital financing.⁴ The Center offers a path toward achieving these goals with a focus on catalyzing new innovations and burgeoning industries to improve maternal and infant health across the state and scaling those approaches to have potential national and international impact, while also addressing and investing in the health and well-being of Trenton’s residents in the wake of COVID-19, and supporting the growing perinatal workforce.

⁴ The State of Innovation: Building a Stronger and Fairer Economy in New Jersey (2018), download as PDF at <https://www.njeda.com/economicplan/>



The Center will serve as a long-term hub for growing and training the perinatal workforce (e.g., community doulas) by providing direct training and certification. Additionally, the Center can provide long-term job placement or entrepreneurial support for perinatal workers to either enter the workforce through public health agencies, existing health care or social service providers, or aid the perinatal workers in creating and growing small businesses or sole proprietorships.

The Center is envisioned as a multi-floor, multi-use building, with space dedicated to direct health care service delivery, including space for telehealth services; classroom space for perinatal workforce training services and support; a multi-purpose work space to serve as an incubator and hub for start-ups focused on maternal and infant health innovation; and office space for a data collaborative and the newly established New Jersey Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority (“MIHIA”).⁵ MIHIA was created to manage the Center and oversee ongoing maternal and infant health program and policy implementation. It is a new government entity that will lead the State’s efforts in coordinating and promoting maternal and infant health initiatives, with a specific focus on eliminating racial disparities in maternal health outcomes. MIHIA is governed by a 15-member Board consisting of public members and several state representatives. MIHIA will have a local, statewide, national, and global reach, setting a gold standard for maternal health.

Prior to the establishment of MIHIA, NJEDA released a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the Center’s Lead Roles Anchor Tenants in April 2023 seeking well-qualified entities with demonstrated experience in maternal and infant health services to take residence and provide pre- and post-natal clinical care, educational programs, and social services to the community. Shortly after a subsequent Request for Proposal (RFP) was shared with eligible entities and in April 2024 the three Lead Role Anchor Tenants were announced.⁶ MIHIA will oversee all the services and activities of the three Lead Role Anchor Tenants.

Rutgers University, was selected as the Lead Institution of Higher Education and will provide a variety of services, including accredited degree programs, certification programs, non-degree programs, on-the-job training opportunities, student support services and maternal and infant health research. The School of Nursing, within Rutgers Health will lead the Higher Education Consortium within the Center, alongside Mercer County Community College, Stockton University,

⁵ Governor Murphy Signs Bill Establishing Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center <https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562023/approved/20230717a.shtml>

⁶ NJEDA Board Approves Anchor Tenants for Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center <https://www.njeda.gov/njeda-board-approves-anchor-tenants-for-maternal-and-infant-health-innovation-center/>

the College of New Jersey and Thomas Edison State University. Princeton University will collaborate in future research and policy endeavors.

Capital Health will serve as the Lead Healthcare Clinical Services Provider to offer clinical care to Trenton residents focused on maternal and infant wellbeing and health equity, as well as provide prenatal and postpartum care, newborn and pediatric care, mental and behavioral health care, doula and lactation services, telehealth services, and obstetrics and gynecology.

Trenton Health Team, a non-profit which uses a data-driven approach to work with community groups to assess their health care needs, will serve as the Lead Trenton-Based Multi-Service Organization and focus on providing services that directly impact social determinants of health such as food security, housing, and transportation. Trenton Health Team, which serves as one of the four regional health hubs, has been recognized as an innovative force in the field of urban health care reform, as they have pinpointed gaps and barriers to service, and identified ways to improve delivery of preventative and remedial services.

In addition to the selection of the three Lead Roles, in May 2024, NJEDA's board approved a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Trenton Board of Education (BOE) and the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (NJSDA) to purchase property in downtown Trenton, known as the Battle Monument site. The historic Battle Monument site, previously owned by BOE, is located at the southwest corner of Pennington Avenue and Warren Street in Trenton. It was identified through community engagement efforts and prioritized due to its accessibility for community residents, safety, and proximity to community resources such as the Henry J. Austin Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center and Greater Mount Zion AME Church (Figure 1). This site is also part of the city of Trenton's revitalization real estate plan.

Figure 1 – Planned location of the Trenton Maternal & Infant Health Innovation Center:



In July 2024, the city of Trenton and the Trenton Housing Authority were awarded \$15 million from the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant to build more homes and revitalize neighborhoods that have been left behind. The Center's construction site is within the larger neighborhood plan to revitalize the city, also known as the

Battle Monument neighborhood (Figure 2). The city and state will continue to work together to channel resources into the state capital to support better health and wellness outcomes for the community.

Figure 2 – Battle Monument Neighborhood location of Trenton Maternal & Infant Health Innovation Center:



B. Equity

While inequities in maternal and infant health service delivery existed before the COVID-19 pandemic, a May 2021 report from the Urban Institute found that the pandemic exacerbated existing inequities in receipt of health care services and longer-run health outcomes. However, the pandemic has also opened new possibilities for expanding maternal and infant health care services through investments and policy changes that cover telehealth, expanded Medicaid postpartum coverage, and expanding the universe of practitioners that can provide pre- and postnatal health care services (e.g., doulas).³ The Center will address these striking inequities and leverage the policy advances made during the pandemic to ameliorate disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes and provide high quality care to mothers and babies in Trenton.

Given the Center’s potential to impact a high need community as well as influence the Statewide (and national) policy framework, Trenton – the State’s capital – is a natural choice to host the Center. For example, from 2016-2018, Mercer County (which includes Trenton) had the fourth highest number of Black infant deaths (34 out of 383 statewide) and second highest Black infant mortality rate (13.1 per 1,000 births) among all 21 NJ counties.⁷ In addition, according to one respondent to NJEDA’s 2021 Request for Information, the City of Trenton only has one Obstetrician/Gynecologist that accepts Medicaid and the Federally Qualified Health Center within the city does not have sufficient capacity to offer pre-natal services, forcing many low-income Trenton women to seek care outside the city or forgo pre-natal services entirely. Furthermore, there are currently no hospitals within the city limits where a woman can give birth – the last hospital offering birthing services relocated services outside the city a decade ago. Since then, Trenton has been a birthing desert.

⁷ “Nurture New Jersey Strategic Plan” State of New Jersey (2021), page 28. 20210120-Nurture-NJ-Strategic-Plan.pdf

Beyond the provision of maternal health services, the City of Trenton has other attributes that make it a community of critical need. Based on the New Jersey Department of Community Development's (NJDC) 2020 Municipal Revitalization Index (MRI) — a multi-faceted measure of municipal distress — Trenton ranks as the 6th most distressed municipality in the state (out of 565).⁸ The city's poverty rate in 2019 was nearly 30%, with a median household income of \$37,002 between 2016-2020. Less than 15% of residents hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared with over 40% for the State as a whole. The percentage of residents without health insurance under the age of 65 is more than double the statewide average — 16.8% compared with 7.6% — creating significant implications for accessing health care services and fostering healthy pregnancies and infancy.⁹

C. Project Outputs and Anticipated Outcomes

There are over 50,000 women in Trenton and the surrounding area between the ages of 15-45 years old and nearly 15,000 children under the age of 5. This group is expected to be the likeliest to utilize the health care services through the Center. Furthermore, there are likely to be hundreds of individuals per year served through a combination of workforce training programs, wrap-around service provision, or come to work at the Center as a care coordinator, entrepreneur, or staff member.

Healthy pregnancy, birth, and “raising a healthy child” educational programs will all be components of the Center's education plan. Educational services will be geared to prospective, expectant, or new parents in the Trenton community. In addition to services offered at the Center, the Center will also conduct outreach to communities to provide relevant maternal and infant health education within specific communities in Trenton or across New Jersey, in partnership with the Lead Role Anchor Tenants and other local health organizations. Local organizations that wish to participate as a partner with the Center are able to express interest through the online Organization Interest Form. This form is targeted toward organizations that have experience working in the Trenton community and desire to deliver direct services in partnership with one of the Lead Role Anchor Tenants. Organizations that complete this form may be contacted by the Center if deemed appropriate by MIHIA and or any of the Lead Roles.

Health monitoring will also be core to the Center's mission to reduce disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes, both through the provision of direct health care services for pre- and post-natal health monitoring, and through policy, research, and data work to highlight promising practices in reducing maternal and infant health disparities and collecting data to uncover trends and patterns in disparities and monitor change over time. The goal of the Center is to create measurable impact over time on maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, as well as the social determinants of health that underlie those outcomes.

In accordance with state legislation MIHIA will manage the New Jersey Maternal Care Qualitative Collaborative (NJMCQC) which will also be housed within the Center. The NJMCQC serves as the state's legislated 34-member maternal health task force. The NJMCQC was formed to improve maternal health outcomes by catalyzing a multidisciplinary collaboration, analyzing maternal health data, and promoting timely innovation and education at the consumer, provider, and system levels. The collaborative will make data driven recommendations to MIHIA and the board in coordinating efforts and strategies aimed at reducing severe maternal morbidity and mortality, and racial/ethnic disparities across the state.

⁸ “NJ Municipal Revitalization Index” New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (2020). <https://www.nj.gov/dca/home/MuniRevitIndex.html>

⁹ “2020 Census Results” United States Census Bureau (2020). <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/2020-census-results.html>

D. Community Engagement

In March of 2022, the Board of the NJEDA approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the John S. Watson Institute for Urban Policy & Research at Kean University (“Watson Institute”) to conduct ongoing community engagement within the City of Trenton to inform development of the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Center. The first phase of community engagement included focus groups with more than 50 Trenton women to learn more about their maternal and infant health experiences and the gaps in services that they experienced that the Center could help fill. The Watson Institute also conducted key stakeholder interviews with existing service providers in and around Trenton to understand the existing service landscape to make recommendations of how the Center can complement and build on existing services. This feedback has directly informed the proposed services for the Center, as well as the area within Trenton where the Center will eventually be located. The first phase of community engagement was completed in December of 2022. The Watson Institute and NJEDA posted a community engagement report on the key findings.¹⁰ The second phase ended in December 2023, which included a second public report.¹¹ These reports capture the voices, stories, and experiences of black women navigating health systems in the city of Trenton and what they deem as priorities in social services and healthcare delivery. This project identified existing needs, assets, and recommendations to support the Center focused on the needs of Black women throughout the Trenton area.

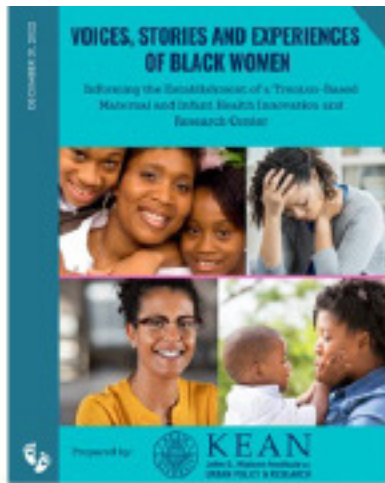
NJEDA renewed the MOU with the Watson Institute in January 2024 to continue ongoing community engagement and awareness building to ensure community voice continues to guide

“Improving our understanding of Black women’s health and reproductive challenges – including how they perceive and use neighborhood assets and resources – should inform the methods, systems, structures, and policies of care in communities dedicated to improving maternal and infant health equity. Similarly, identifying assets as perceived by Black women and their service providers offers an opportunity to build on the many existing supports throughout the city. An important criterion of efficacy is the realization that all supports may not be recognized as such by those for whom they are intended.” – Phase One Community Engagement Report



⁸ “NJ Municipal Revitalization Index” New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (2020). <https://www.nj.gov/dca/home/MuniRevitIndex.html>

⁹ “2020 Census Results” United States Census Bureau (2020). <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/2020-census-results.html>



- Food Insecurity
- Housing
- Transportation
- Access to Care
- Quality of Care and Services
- Mental Health
- Trauma
- Knowledge & Information Sharing



and shape all aspects of the Center. Currently the Watson Institute is working closely with NJEDA’s real estate team to develop guided questions to the community on the design of the Center. The Watson Institute in partnership with NJEDA’s real estate team firm, Ballinger, will hold additional town halls, meetings, and interviews to inform the construction process.

In addition to the community input through the Watson partnership, the Maternal and Infant Health Innovation Authority is charged with establishing a Community Advisory Board (CAB) as part of its governance structure. This CAB will include appointed community residents to ensure the Trenton community has an ongoing voice in the establishment and governance of the Center. The goal is to provide stipends to CAB members to enable individuals who might otherwise be unable to participate to lend their voice and feedback to this critical governance structure.

D. Budget

PROGRAM BUDGET						
Program Administrative Costs						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
General Administrative Services				\$400,000	\$400,000	\$450,000
2. Total Program Administrative Costs				\$400,000	\$400,000	\$450,000
Construction				\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
3. Project Costs				\$5,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000
Total Project Costs				\$5,400,000	\$10,400,000	\$10,450,000
Final Total Project Costs	\$26,250,000					

CITY OF NEWARK COMMUNITY DROP-IN CENTER (CPF_GP-000199)

Program Start Date: March 14, 2024

Program End Date: December 31, 2026

CPF Funds Allocated: \$6.7 million



A. Project Summary

The State of New Jersey is utilizing \$6.7 million in CPF to partner with the City of Newark, in conjunction with the non-profits North Jersey Community Research Initiative (NJCRI) and Bridges Outreach, Inc., to develop a Community Resource Center located in downtown Newark near Newark Penn Station.

This Community Resource Center will provide Newark residents with housing navigation, health, workforce services, and address basic needs by offering meals, showers, and laundry facilities. The center will be opened to the public but will have a focus on unsheltered Newark residents, especially those experiencing chronic homelessness. This population is among the most vulnerable in this community. They experience prolonged homelessness and often have a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability.

The new Community Resource Center will provide healthcare services such as COVID-19 testing and vaccines and referrals for primary care, and treatment for substance abuse, along with educational workshops addressing physical and mental health matters. Counselors will be available for screening, assessment, and one-on-one counseling, as needed. The facility will provide phone and internet services to follow-up with work, education, health monitoring, and other appointments that include job interviews. The facility will also work with the City of Newark's Workforce Development Board (NWDB) and other partners to provide vocational services and assist clients to rejoin the workforce. The NWDB will provide targeted and client-centered satellite services at this location, an area highly frequented by the homeless population.

B. Equity

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected the population sought to be served. The target group is predominantly a vulnerable, underserved minority population that is affected by a variety of chronic health conditions including chronic illnesses and behavioral health issues. This population also has unique and persistent barriers in accessing care, including access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations and primary health care. As a result, the population continues to be a vector for the spread of COVID-19, and this can have an impact on controlling the virus throughout the greater community.

NJCRI has had a tremendous amount of success in reaching this population through its COVID-19 Vaccination Task Force (VTF). The VTF model relies on a diverse team of expert clinicians who are trained in trauma informed and culturally appropriate care and vaccine administration. This flexible, mobile team approaches clients on a personal one-on-one basis that is individually tailored to overcome issues with vaccine hesitancy. The VTF also includes experts in behavioral health and teams of Community Health Workers focused on overcoming vaccine hesitancy specifically among this population that included homeless, migrant workers, undocumented, formerly incarcerated, sex workers, and injection drug users. To date, NJCRI's VTF has vaccinated over 15,000 individuals in the population of focus. Through the VTF, individuals receive personalized care and access and linkage to a suite of wrap-around services, in addition to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations such as, HIV and STD Testing, primary care, behavioral health care, substance user services, workforce development, childcare and housing assistance and more.

C. Project Outputs and Anticipated Outcomes

An essential component of this center will be the access to the information and services that it will provide to Newark residents. To address gaps in services throughout the homeless ecosystem, the City plans to operate the center 24/7 to serve residents outside of traditional hours and integrate services from State, County, community-based agencies to improve engagement and outcomes. To assess and evaluate the service and outcome goals of the center, the project will implement the use of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to collect and manage data. Data standards, metrics, and goals will be established with partner organizations.

NJCRI's VTF model will be replicated on site at the new drop-in center to drive positive outcomes for this project, and this will ensure that this population receives the personalized, individualized and focused care that is needed to help them overcome any barriers they have in accessing the full range of services they need, including healthcare, educational training, and workforce development opportunities. It is anticipated that 2,000+ individuals will benefit from the healthcare, educational, and workforce development services at this facility.

Bridges Outreach, Inc., will provide case management, expansive housing components, and street outreach, creating a sound and solid community effort in the downtown area to serve, inform, manage, engage residents without addresses, many of whom populate in and around Newark Penn Station. This team will prioritize preventing experiences of homelessness and creating rapid exits from homelessness. With permanent housing as the primary goal, Bridges will include housing stabilization planning, housing navigation, housing sustainment, and skill building in its services.

Additionally, the project will deploy street outreach teams that will coordinate with other outreach providers to cast a net over the city to establish an integrated, 24/7 homeless services ecosystem for unsheltered, sheltered, and unstably housed residents alike.

D. Community Engagement

The City of Newark will work with partners, stakeholders and residents to develop a marketing plan that will include promotional materials, social media, educational billboards, bus advertisements, or other place-based ads. In order to reach our most vulnerable residents, the project will partner with City outreach teams to promote the services of the center on-the-ground and provide transportation to the center for those in need.

NJCRI is performing community engagement by partaking in the New Jersey Harm Reduction Network, which regularly meets to guide program activities and project implementation. Group members will include people who use drugs (PWUD), individuals in recovery, harm reduction service providers and other key community members such as public safety officers, mental health providers and treatment providers. Some anticipated members of the network include Integrity House, La Casa de Don Pedro, Bridges Outreach, Iris House, and Rutgers University. NJCRI will also recruit members from its client advisory boards to participate in the network.

NJCRI will utilize its strong pre-existing Consumer Advisory Board (CAB) within the agency to assist with programmatic decision-making (program recruitment, planning, implementation, and design or use of the safe space). NJCRI currently operates a 10-member CAB through its PRIDE Center. CAB members represent a wide range of experiences, including community leaders, House Ball legends, an immigration lawyer, an LGBTQ journalist, sex workers, a licensed social worker, and homeless individuals. The program will seek input from the CAB and community stakeholders to select the most appropriate program promotion and recruitment strategies in the program. NJCRI will host CAB meetings at least twice per year in the form of focus groups, surveys, interviews, pop-up events, Town Hall gatherings, etc. NJCRI will utilize the CAB throughout the period of performance to ensure services are responsive to the needs of the POF.

D. Budget

PROGRAM BUDGET						
Program Administrative Costs						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
General Administrative Services				\$42,355	\$42,355	\$42,357
2. Total Program Administrative Costs				\$42,355	\$42,355	\$42,357
Contracts				\$3,000,000	\$2,240,179	\$1,000,000
Environmental Reviews				\$50,000	\$50,000	
IT/Telecom				\$53,332	\$53,332	\$53,332
Operating Supplies & Services				\$35,000	\$35,000	\$35,000
3. Project Costs				\$3,138,332	\$2,378,511	\$1,088,332
Total Project Costs				\$3,180,687	\$2,420,866	\$1,130,689
Final Total Project Costs	\$6,732,242					

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Murphy Administration held two public listening sessions in late July 2021 and a third in September 2021 in connection with American Rescue Plan funding and program development. Over 200 organizations were invited to give oral testimony to Administration senior staff on recommended uses of funding. The public was invited to send written testimony as well. Three additional public listening sessions were held in August 2022 as CPF plans were developed to solicit a wide range of feedback from a broad coalition of stakeholders. In addition to individuals and businesses providing input, the following diverse group of community-based organizations, non-profits, and advocacy groups submitted input on potential ways to expended American Rescue Plan funds (both CPF and Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds):

- 32BJ SEIU (Service Employees International Union)
- ACLU-NJ
- Alliance Center for Independence (ACI)
- American Federation of Teachers New Jersey (AFT NJ)
- ArtPride New Jersey
- Association of State Colleges and Universities
- Bergen Volunteer Medical Initiative (BVMI)
- Bergen Volunteers
- Center for Great Expectations
- Chamber of Commerce Southern New Jersey (CCSNJ)
- Coalition of the Delaware River Watershed
- Communications Workers of America
- Community Options, Inc.
- Displaced Homemakers Network of New Jersey
- Employers Association of New Jersey
- Health Care Association of New Jersey (HCANJ)
- Higher Education Leadership Council
- International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers
- Isles
- Latino Action Network
- Latino Action Network Foundation
- Mayo Performing Arts Center
- Metro Community Church
- Musconetcong Watershed Association
- New Jersey Black Issues Convention (NJBIC)

- New Jersey Business & Industry Association
- New Jersey Citizen Action
- New Jersey Coalition to End Domestic Violence
- New Jersey Community Schools Coalition
- New Jersey Cultural Trust
- New Jersey Education Association
- New Jersey Emergency Medical Services Task Force
- New Jersey Future
- New Jersey Health Care Quality Institute
- New Jersey Hospital Association
- New Jersey Library Association
- New Jersey Policy Perspective
- New Jersey Restaurant and Hospitality Association
- New Jersey School Boards Association
- Policemen’s Benevolent Association Local #105
- Property Tax Fund Advocate
- Regional Plan Association
- Rutgers University
- Salvation and Social Justice
- The Family Success Institute
- The Somerville Historic Advisory Committee
- The Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage Association
- The Worker Institute, School of Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University
- Tri-State Transportation Campaign
- UFCW Local 360
- United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW Local 464A)
- United Way of Northern New Jersey

As the State continues to advance CPF projects, we will continue to engage with a diverse array of individuals and organizations to solicit input on effective ways to ensure that CPF-funded projects serve people with significant barriers to services, including people with low incomes, limited English proficiency populations, and other traditionally underserved groups to ensure that they are able to take full advantage of the CPF projects that promote better health, work, and education outcomes for these populations.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY LABOR PRACTICES

The State of New Jersey’s robust labor practices protect workers, improve the overall pool of labor talent, and ultimately lead to the successful completion of major public works projects by skilled laborers. Over the years, and particularly under Governor Murphy’s administration, New Jersey has made clear that public contracting is a privilege and not a right by instituting laws that guarantee some of the most rigorous worker protections in the country. The following is a brief overview of New Jersey’s existing labor practices that will be applied to construction projects funded by Capital Project Funds.

I. PREVAILING WAGE ACT

New Jersey’s Prevailing Wage Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25 et seq. (PWA), protects workers engaged in public works as well as their employers from the effects of unfair competition resulting from wage levels that are detrimental to the efficiency and well-being of all concerned. The Act requires the payment of minimum rates of pay to laborers, craftsmen, and apprentices employed on public works projects. Pursuant to the PWA, covered workers must receive the appropriate craft prevailing wage rate as determined by the Commissioner of the Department of Labor & Workforce Development.

In addition to the PWA, the New Jersey State Building Service Contracts Act, N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.58 et seq., establishes prevailing wage levels for employees of contractors and subcontractors furnishing building services in state-owned and state-leased buildings. To effectively enforce the PWA, New Jersey’s standard contract “Terms and Conditions” require compliance with the appropriate State or federal prevailing wage. In almost all cases, the prevailing wage rates for various trade personnel are higher in New Jersey than the federal rates.

II. PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS AND THE PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION ACT

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34-11-52.38 et seq., a public entity must consider a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) that serves as a pre-hire collective bargaining agreement covering terms and conditions of a project greater than \$5.0 million. A public entity may include a PLA if it finds that the project meets the requirements for a PLA, taking into consideration the size, complexity, and cost of the project. These requirements also include promoting labor stability and advancing the interests of the public entity in cost, efficiency, skilled labor force, quality, safety, and timeliness.

Upon review of a State public works project, the New Jersey Department of Treasury’s Division of Property Management & Construction (DPMC) determines whether the statutory criteria for a PLA is met. In addition to the size, complexity, and cost of the project, DPMC considers not only the need for a reliable skilled labor pool needed to complete a project, but also the quality of the work needed, and the need to meet all safety, regulatory, and special requirements of the project.

In many large, complex projects, the PLA will provide a certain level of confidence to the State that a project will be completed in an orderly and timely manner by a skilled labor pool capable of performing quality work and in

an efficient and safe manner. In these projects, a PLA will be recommended and negotiated with the local Building Construction Trades Council using the standard State PLA. The project is then advertised with a requirement for a PLA and the contractor agrees to abide by the PLA at contract award. The PLA then governs the employment of labor on the project from initiation until completion.

On April 30, 2021, Governor Murphy strengthened the State's existing PLA law by signing legislation that promotes workforce diversity in public works projects by requiring any public entity which includes a PLA in a public works contract to include PLA provisions requiring the provision of on-the-job or off-the-job outreach and training programs for minority group members, members of disadvantaged communities, and women. The PLA expansion bill also expands the permissible use of PLAs beyond contracts for building-based public works projects, thus allowing PLAs to also be used for highway, bridge, pumping station, water, and sewage treatment plant projects.

To further promote the development of the State's workforce, New Jersey's Public Works Contractor Registration Act (PWCRA), N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.48 et seq., requires any contractor, or any subcontractor or lower tier subcontractor of a contractor, to be registered with LWD when bidding on a public works contract. Governor Murphy signed a law in 2019 that mandates that all contractors engaging in public work must be participating in a United States Department of Labor "Registered Apprenticeship Program" to obtain an LWD registration under the PWCRA. Unlike other states, there is no opt out of the Registered Apprenticeship Program in New Jersey. This ensures that every dollar spent on public construction in New Jersey at the State, county, or municipal level is invested in expanding and training the current and future construction workforce.

III. EMPLOYEE WAGES AND BENEFITS PROTECTIONS

New Jersey's laws ensure that its workers enjoy some of the strongest wage and benefits protections in the country. Every New Jersey worker is legally entitled to minimum wages (\$15.13/hour in 2024), earned sick leave, equal pay, temporary disability insurance, family leave insurance, and unemployment insurance. Further, New Jersey has some of the most expansive statutes protecting against civil rights violations and preventing discrimination in the workplace. See, e.g., New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.

In addition to strong legislation to protect workers, the Murphy Administration has more than doubled the number of Wage Hour investigators at the New Jersey Department of Labor & Workforce Development (LWD), and most recently created an Office of Strategic Enforcement and Compliance to coordinate resources and enforcement authorities throughout LWD and across state government to protect workers and compliant employers from the threats of wage theft, employee misclassification, workers compensation fraud, and dozens of other worker protection statutes.

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

The State of New Jersey hereby affirms that it uses all CPF funds in accordance with all legal requirements relating to nondiscrimination and nondiscriminatory use of Federal funds. Those requirements include ensuring that entities receiving CPF funding do not deny benefits or services, or otherwise discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), disability, age, or sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI), 42 U.S.C. 2000d-1 et seq.; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504), 29 U.S.C. 794; Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX), 20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq.; and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. 6101 et seq.



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Capital Projects Fund