



MEDIA CONTACT

media@njeda.com

PRESS RELEASE

SHARE

July 30, 2026 at 9:36 am

< 1 minute read

NJEDA TO AUCTION UP TO \$25M IN TAX CREDITS TO FIGHT HUNGER AND STRENGTHEN FOOD SECURITY

TRENTON, N.J. (July 30, 2026) –The [New Jersey Economic Development Authority](#) (NJEDA) will auction up to \$25 million in corporation business tax and insurance premiums tax credits through the [Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction](#). The auction, which was approved during the NJEDA's July Board meeting, helps businesses reduce their New Jersey taxes by up to 15% while raising funds to strengthen food security and fight hunger in communities across the state. The NJEDA will begin accepting applications on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026**.

WHAT: Up to \$25 million in tax credits will be up for sale through the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction, allowing bidders to offset their NJ tax liability by up to 15%.

Proceeds will fund programs that that strengthen food access and reduce hunger in communities across the state where these challenges are the most acute. These future grant, loan, and/or technical assistance opportunities will advance the priorities established by the Food Desert Relief Act and complement the NJEDA's robust toolkit of existing food security programs, including [FEED NJ](#), which was funded by proceeds from past tax credit auctions and is investing \$30 million to catalyze innovative, sustainable, and scalable food access initiatives in underserved areas.

WHO: New Jersey Corporate Taxpayers or Insurance Companies that want to reduce their New Jersey 2026 tax liability. Companies do not need to be located in a food desert, be in the food industry, or make any ongoing commitments beyond the purchase transaction to buy tax credits through the auction.

WHEN: Applications for the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction will open on **Tuesday, September 8, 2026 at 10 a.m.** and will close on **Friday, October 9, 2026 at 5 p.m.** Applications and additional information can be found [here](#).

An informational webinar will be held on **Monday, August 10, 2026 at 1 p.m.** For more information and to register for the webinar, click [here](#).

To learn more about NJEDA resources for businesses, call NJEDA Customer Care at 844-965-1125 or visit <https://www.njeda.gov> and follow @NewJerseyEDA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

###

RELATED CONTENT

PRESS RELEASE

July 28, 2026

NJEDA Updates RETROFIT NJ Program, Increasing Funding and Paving Way for Second Phase of Program

TRENTON, N.J. (July 28, 2026) – Last week, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board approved modifications to the Reducing Emissions through Retrofits, Optimization, Fuel-Switching, and Innovative Technologies (RETROFIT NJ) Grant Program to expand available funding and advance more solar generation, battery storage, and thermal energy network (TEN) projects.

[Read More >](#)

PRESS RELEASE

July 24, 2026

NJEDA Approves CAFE Program Awards for Projects in Westfield and Millburn

TRENTON, N.J. (July 24, 2026) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board approved two awards under the Cultural Arts Facilities Expansion (CAFE) Program, paving the way for projects at the Center for Creativity at the Rialto in Westfield and the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn.

[Read More >](#)

PRESS RELEASE

July 23, 2026

Oncology Therapies Manufacturer Approved for NJEDA Next New Jersey Manufacturing Award

TRENTON, N.J. (July 23, 2026) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board approved a Next New Jersey Manufacturing Program award for Hopewell-based BeOne Medicines US Manufacturing Co., Inc.

[Read More >](#)

[< Back to all News & Updates](#)



CONTACT US

PO Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625-0990

36 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

(844) 965-1125

About NJEDA

Press Room

Events

Online Payments

Legal Disclaimer

Privacy Notice

Language Assistance

Visit Governor Mikie Sherrill Website



MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Authority

FROM: Tim Sullivan
Chief Executive Officer

DATE: July 23, 2025

SUBJECT: Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Sale 2025

Request

The Members are asked to approve:

- 1) The sale of up to \$25 million in available tax credits in calendar year 2025 in a manner consistent with the Board-approved specifications from April 2023 and consistent with the Food Desert Relief Act, sections 35 through 42 of the New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020, P.L. 2020, c. 156, as amended by P.L. 2021, c. 160 and P.L. 2022, c. 47 (N.J.S.A. 34:1B-303, et seq), to receive funds for subsequent grant, loan, and/or technical assistance programs in line with the uses specified by the Food Desert Relief Act.
- 2) A minor revision to the Food Equity and Economic Development in New Jersey (FEED NJ) grant program, to remove language that conflicts with the NOFA and other program materials.

New Jersey Economic Recovery Act

On January 7, 2021, Governor Phil Murphy signed the New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020, P.L. 2020, c.156 (ERA), into law. The ERA presents a strong recovery and reform package that addresses the ongoing economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and positions New Jersey to build a stronger and fairer economy that invests in innovation, in our communities, and in our small businesses the right way, with the protections and oversight taxpayers deserve. Tax incentives and other investment tools are critical to economic development, and when used correctly, they can drive transformative change that uplifts communities and creates new opportunities for everyone.

Included in the ERA is the Food Desert Relief Act (FDRA), sections 35 through 42 of P.L. 2020, c. 156, as amended by P.L. 2021, c. 160 and P.L. 2022, c. 47 (N.J.S.A. 34:1B-303, et seq). The FDRA allows the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) to sell a portion of the \$240 million in tax credits allocated by the FDRA (\$40 million annually).

In April 2023, the Board approved the sale of up to \$50 million in available tax credits in calendar year

2023, in a manner consistent with the Food Desert Relief Act. In accordance with the delegated authority in the Board approval, the Chief Executive Officer determined to offer \$15 million for auction. The 2023 Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction was open from September 18, 2023 to October 18, 2023. Seven bids were received. Of those seven bids, three ineligible bids were declined. The remaining four bids totaled \$20 million in tax credit requests, more than the \$15 million that EDA had made available through the auction. Because the auction was oversubscribed, the remaining bidders proceeded to a best and final offer process. Four eligible bids were approved in December 2023 for a total of \$15 million in tax credits approved and \$13.075 million in proceeds.

In February 2024, the Board approved the sale of up to \$35 million in available tax credits in calendar year 2024, in a manner consistent with the Food Desert Relief Act. In accordance with the delegated authority in the Board approval, the Chief Executive Officer determined to offer \$20 million for auction. The 2024 Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction was open from August 28, 2024 to September 27, 2024. Six bids were received, all of which were eligible. The six bids totaled \$25.75 million in tax credit requests, more than the \$20 million that EDA had made available through the auction. Because the auction was oversubscribed, the bidders proceeded to a best and final offer process. All six bids were approved in December 2024 for a total of \$20 million in tax credits approved and \$17,998,750 million in proceeds.

In December 2024, the Board approved the creation of the Food Equity and Economic Development in New Jersey (FEED NJ) grant program, funded with up to \$30 million of the funds raised in the 2023 and 2024 tax credit auctions, in alignment with the Food Desert Relief Act. The Board also granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive Officer to accept up to \$5 million in additional funds for FEED NJ, including but not limited to unused or unspent funds from previously approved NJEDA food security programs and/or additional proceeds from the 2024 Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction.

Applications for FEED NJ closed on April 3. The program received nearly 200 applications and we expect it will be oversubscribed. Following review and scoring of these applications, staff will bring a request to the board later this year recommending applications for approval and declination. The high level of interest in FEED NJ demonstrates the ongoing need to support food security, and the request in this memorandum positions NJEDA to raise further funds that can be used to address this need.

This memorandum requests approval of the sale of up to \$25 million in tax credits through a 2025 Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Sale, which will be subject to the specifications approved by the Board in April 2023. Requests to fund specific grant, loan, or technical assistance programs with proceeds from the tax credit sale will be brought to the Board.

Sale Purpose and General Description

The Food Desert Relief Act allocates \$40 million annually in Corporate Business and Insurance Premiums Tax credits over six years, beginning with fiscal year 2021. The FDRA authorizes NJEDA to either award these credits to eligible applicants through the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Program or to sell all or a portion of the tax credits through a competitive auction process or publicly advertised solicitation for offers. Any unused allocation of tax credits carries forward to future years, meaning that a cumulative total of \$240 million of tax credits have become available to date. Because \$35 million in

tax credit awards were approved through the 2023 and 2024 Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Sales, the total amount of credits remaining is \$205 million.

Eligible bidders may purchase available credits for a minimum of 85 percent of face value for New Jersey Corporate Business Tax or Insurance Premiums Tax. As described above, the proceeds of the sale will be utilized to fund grant, loan, and/or technical assistance programs administered by the Authority to strengthen food security in New Jersey, pursuant to the parameters set out in the FDRA.

Staff is seeking Board approval to sell up to \$25 million of the \$165 million in currently available tax credits in calendar year 2025. Staff may seek Board approval to sell additional credits in the future, after considering demand for the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Program from supermarket and grocery store developers and operators as well as market conditions. A range of approaches is necessary to have an impact on the structural conditions that have led to the persistence of food deserts, and auctioning tax credits to fund grants, loans, and/or technical assistance, alongside launching the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Program allows NJEDA to take a multipronged approach to this issue. As stated in the April 12, 2023, board memorandum, the Chief Executive Officer will establish the amount of tax credits to be auctioned, up to the amount approved by the Board, based on an assessment of economic and market conditions.

FEED NJ Revision

Staff is seeking Board approval to align the FEED NJ program requirements for projects involving construction to remove the construction contingency set-aside requirement of at least 10% of the total project cost. The language requiring the construction contingency set-aside included in the previous Board approval is in conflict with the Notice of Funding Availability and all other program materials made available to the public. Staff has determined that the construction contingency set-aside is not necessary to further program goals and therefore requests approval to remove the requirement from FEED NJ to align the Program requirements with the materials available to the public. Like all FEED NJ grantees, a grantee that experiences cost increases in their construction work will have the option to request a budget modification. Their FEED NJ grant amount cannot be increased, but they could find cost savings in other budget lines or identify outside funding to cover increased costs.

Recommendation

The Members are asked to approve:

- 1) The sale of up to \$25 million in available tax credits in calendar year 2025 in a manner consistent with the Board-approved specifications from April 2023 and the Food Desert Relief Act, sections 35 through 42 of the New Jersey Economic Recovery Act of 2020, P.L. 2020, c. 156, as amended by P.L. 2021, c. 160 and P.L. 2022, c. 47 (N.J.S.A. 34:1B-303, et seq), to receive funds for subsequent grant, loan, and/or technical assistance programs in line with the uses specified by the Food Desert Relief Act.
- 2) A minor revision to the Food Equity and Economic Development in New Jersey (FEED NJ) grant program, to remove language that conflicts with the NOFA and other program materials.

Tim Sullivan
Chief Executive Officer

Prepared by:

Riley Edwards, Senior Advisor - Economic Security

FOOD DESERT RELIEF TAX CREDIT AUCTION

Applications for the 2026 Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction will open in early September. Please [click here](#) to sign up for updates or contact FDRTCAuction@njeda.gov with questions.

The Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction will raise funds for future grant, loan, and/or technical assistance programs to fight hunger and strengthen food security. Funds raised will help increase access to nutritious food in communities across the state and support the over 1,000,000 New Jersey residents currently facing hunger.

Both Corporation Business Tax and Insurance Premiums Tax credits will be auctioned to New Jersey taxpayers. Bidders have the opportunity to offset their NJ tax liability by up to 15%. Tax credits will be awarded to the fulfill the highest-priced bids until the allotment is fully allocated. Tax credits may be resold for a minimum of 85% of the transferred credit amount.

AUCTION PROCESS

ELIGIBILITY

AUCTION PROCESS

The NJEDA will raise funds for future grant, loan, and/or technical assistance programs by auctioning tax credits. Auction bids will be evaluated by price, with tax credits awarded to fulfill the highest-priced bids until the allotment of tax credits has been fully allocated.

Applicants may submit questions to FDRTCAuction@NJEDA.gov.

Competitive Auction Process:

1. Corporations and insurance companies bid on tax credits
 - Minimum tax credit request (face value): \$500,000
 - Minimum bid price per dollar of tax credits: \$0.85
2. Deposit of 10% of the total bid price (up to \$500,000) must be initiated by the end of the application period
3. Once bids are submitted, they will be reviewed for eligibility
4. If the auction is oversubscribed, bidders will have the opportunity to submit a best and final offer
5. Tax credits will be awarded to fulfill the highest-priced bids until all available tax credits have been awarded
6. Successful bidders will execute a Tax Credit Purchase Agreement and pay the remaining balance of their bid

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BOARD MEMORANDA

PROGRAM ONE-PAGER



SAMPLE APPLICATION



AUCTION PROCESS



APPLICATION CHECKLIST



PURCHASE AGREEMENT TEMPLATE (2025)



FAQS

(UPDATED 8/5/2025)



PAST AUCTION RESULTS

INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR

QUESTIONS

Please contact FDRTCAuction@NJEDA.gov with questions or to schedule a call with program staff. Any answers provided will also be shared publicly so that all bidders have the same information.

SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

Sign up for our email list to receive program announcements and updates.

First Name (Required)

Last Name (Required)

Email Address (Required)

Company Name

CAPTCHA



I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA

Submit

CONTACT US

PO Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625-0990

36 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

(844) 965-1125

EMAIL US

About NJEDA

Press Room

Events

Online Payments

Legal Disclaimer

Privacy Notice

Language Assistance

Visit Governor Mikie Sherrill Website

© 2026New Jersey Economic Development Authority

FEED NJ GRANT AWARDS

\$30M

TOTAL
INVESTMENT

50

FOOD DESERT COMMUNITIES SERVED

73

FOOD ACCESS
PROJECTS FUNDED

\$410K

AVERAGE INVESTMENT PER PROJECT

Food Equity and Economic Development in New Jersey (FEED NJ) is a \$30 million pilot program awarding grants between \$50,000 and \$500,000 for projects that strengthen food access and food security in New Jersey's most acute Food Desert Communities (FDCs).

Building on the success of the NJEDA’s Atlantic City Food Security Grants Pilot Program, FEED NJ aims to catalyze innovative, sustainable, and scalable food security and food access initiatives with high potential to maximize community-level impact. The total funding of \$30 million is one of the largest investments in recent years dedicated to strengthening New Jersey’s food security infrastructure.

Listed in alphabetical order, the following 73 organizations were approved for grant awards. The details below include the approved grant amount, the New Jersey Food Desert Communities (FDCs) they plan to serve, and a brief summary of their project.

KEY LINKS

FEED NJ PROGRAM DETAILS AND DOCUMENTS	>
BOARD MEMO	
PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT	>
INTERACTIVE MAP OF FDCS	
ROUND ONE PRESS RELEASE	
ROUND TWO PRESS RELEASE	

AWARDEES

The Apostles' House

FDCs Served: Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West

Arm in Arm Inc.

FDCs Served: Trenton East, Trenton West

Brick Farm Retail LLC

FDCs Served: Trenton East, Trenton West

The Cathedral Soup Kitchen Inc.

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken, Lindenwold/Clementon, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne

Catholic Charities Diocese of Metuchen

FDCs Served: New Brunswick City

Catholic Charities Diocese of Trenton

FDCs Served: High Bridge Borough, Trenton East, Trenton West

Catholic Family & Community Services

FDCs Served: Dover Town, Montague Township, Passaic City, Paterson South, Paterson North

Center for Empowered Politics Education Fund

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken

Center For Family Services, Inc.

FDCs Served: East Orange City, Newark North and Central, Newark West, Paterson North, Paterson South

Church World Service, Inc.

FDCs Served: Asbury Park City, Atlantic City/Ventnor, Bayonne City, Bridgeton/Fairfield Township/Lawrence Township, Burlington City, Camden East/Pennsauken, Egg Harbor City, Jersey City Central, Jersey City North, Jersey City South, Keansburg Borough, Lakewood North, Lakewood South, Lindenwold/Clementon, Long Branch City, Millville/Commercial Township, New Brunswick City, North Bergen/West New York/Guttenberg, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne, Passaic City, Paterson North, Paterson South, Paulsboro Borough, Penns Grove/Carneys Point, Perth Amboy City, Pleasantville/Absecon, Prospect Park/Haledon/Hawthorne, Red Bank Borough, Salem City, Trenton West, Union City, Vineland City, Woodbine Borough

City Green Inc.

FDCs Served: Passaic City, Paterson North, Paterson South

Clinton Hill Community Action A New Jersey Non-Profit Corporation

FDCs Served: Newark South

Coalition for Food and Health Equity Inc.

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken, Jersey City Central, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark West, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne, Paterson South

Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas Inc.

FDCs Served: Bridgeton/Fairfield Township/Lawrence Township

Common Market Philadelphia Inc.

FDCs Served: Bridgeton/Fairfield Township/Lawrence Township, Millville/Commercial Township, Vineland City

The Convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph, Chestnut Hill

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken

Community Food Bank of New Jersey Inc.

FDCs Served: Jersey City Central, Jersey City North, Jersey City South, Millville/Commercial Township, New Brunswick City, Trenton West

CUMAC/ECHO Inc.

FDCs Served: Passaic City, Paterson North, Paterson South, Prospect Park/Haledon/Hawthorne

Elijah's Promise Inc.

FDCs Served: New Brunswick City

Fairgrown Farm LLC

FDCs Served: Bridgeton/Fairfield Township/Lawrence Township, Camden East/Pennsauken, New Brunswick City, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne, Passaic City, Paterson North, Paterson South, Salem City, Trenton East, Trenton West

Families for Families, A NJ Nonprofit Corporation

FDCs Served: Paterson North, Paterson South

The Food Brigade

FDCs Served: Bayonne City, Fairview Borough, Jersey City Central, Jersey City North, Jersey City South, North Bergen/West New York/Guttenberg, Passaic City, Paterson North, Paterson South, Prospect Park/Haledon/Hawthorne, Union City

Franklin Township Food Bank, Inc.

FDCs Served: New Brunswick City

The Gary Klausner Chesed Fund Inc.

FDCs Served: Passaic City

God's Love We Deliver, Inc.

FDCs Served: Jersey City North, Jersey City South, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West

Greater Newark Conservancy Inc.

FDCs Served: Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West, Paterson South

HomeFront Inc.

FDCs Served: Trenton East

Impact Community Development Corporation

FDCs Served: Asbury Park City, Camden East/Pennsauken, Dover Town, East Orange City, Irvington Township, Lindenwold/Clementon, New Brunswick City, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne, Orange/West Orange/Montclair, Passaic City, Paterson North, Paterson South

Innoculated, LLC

FDCs Served: New Brunswick City, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West

Inspira Medical Centers, Inc.

FDCs Served: Penns Grove/Carneys Point, Salem City

Ironbound Community Corporation

FDCs Served: Newark East

Isles Inc.

FDCs Served: Trenton East, Trenton West

Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Mercer County Inc.

FDCs Served: Trenton East, Trenton West

Jewish Family Service and Children's Center of Clifton-Passaic Inc.

FDCs Served: Passaic City

Joseph's House of Camden, LLC

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken, Lindenwold/Clementon, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne

Lev Rochel Bikur Cholim of Lakewood Inc.

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken, Lakewood North, Lakewood South, New Brunswick City

Loving Our Cities Inc.

FDCs Served: Bridgeton/Fairfield Township/Lawrence Township, Burlington City, Camden East/Pennsauken, Lindenwold/Clementon, Millville/Commercial Township, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne, Paulsboro Borough, Penns Grove/Carneys Point, Salem City, Vineland City

Meals on Wheels in Greater New Brunswick

FDCs Served: New Brunswick City

Meals on Wheels of Mercer County Inc.

FDCs Served: Trenton East, Trenton West

Meeting Essential Needs with Dignity Inc.

FDCs Served: Newark East, Newark South, Newark West

Mercer Street Friends Center

FDCs Served: Trenton West

Mid-Atlantic States Career and Education Center Inc.

FDCs Served: Penns Grove/Carneys Point, Salem City

Mighty Writers

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken

Montclair State University Foundation

FDCs Served: Irvington Township, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West, Orange/West Orange/Montclair

mRelief Corporation

FDCs Served: All 50 FDCs

Neighborhood Center Inc.

FDCs Served: North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne

Neighborhood Collaborative Community Gardens, A NJ Nonprofit Corporation

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken, Lindenwold/Clementon, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne

Newark Emergency Services for Families Inc.

FDCs Served: Newark South, Newark West, Newark North and Central, Newark East, Irvington Township, East Orange City, Orange/West, Orange/Montclair

Newark Science and Sustainability, Inc.

FDCs Served: East Orange City, Irvington Township, Newark North and Central, Orange/West Orange/Montclair

New Beginnings Behavioral Health A NJ Nonprofit Corporation

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne

New Community Corporation

FDCs Served: East Orange City, Irvington Township, Newark North and Central, Orange/West Orange/Montclair

Our House Foundation, Inc.

FDCs Served: Newark North and Central

Parkside Business & Community In Partnership Inc.

FDCs Served: North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne

Perinatal Health Equity Foundation Inc.

FDCs Served: East Orange City, Elizabeth City, Irvington Township, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West, Orange/West Orange/Montclair

Plentiful Inc.

FDCs Served: Bayonne City, Jersey City Central, Jersey City North, Jersey City South, New Brunswick City, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West, North Bergen/West New York/Guttenberg, Passaic City, Paterson North, Paterson South, Perth Amboy City, Trenton East, Union City

Ranch Hope Inc.

FDCs Served: Salem City

Raritan Valley Young Men's Christian Association, A NJ Nonprofit Corporation

FDCs Served: New Brunswick City, Perth Amboy City

The Rescue Mission of Trenton, New Jersey

FDCs Served: Trenton East

Rutgers University Foundation

FDCs Served: New Brunswick City

RWJBH Corporate Services Inc.

FDCs Served: Elizabeth City, Jersey City Central, Jersey City North, Jersey City South, Keansburg Borough, Lakewood North, Lakewood South, Long Branch City, New Brunswick City, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne, Red Bank Borough, Trenton East, Trenton West

Safina Foundation, A NJ Nonprofit Corporation

FDCs Served: New Brunswick City

Share My Meals Inc.

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken, New Brunswick City, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West, North, Central and South Camden/Woodlynne

St. James Social Service Corporation

FDCs Served: Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West

T.A.S.K. Inc.

FDCs Served: Trenton East, Trenton West

Tri-County Community Action Agency Inc.

FDCs Served: Bridgeton/Fairfield Township/Lawrence Township, Paulsboro, Penns Grove/Carneys Point

Tuba Farm Foundation Inc.

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken, Lindenwold/Clementon

United Community Corporation

FDCs Served: Newark North and Central, Newark East, Newark West

The United Way of Central Jersey, Inc.

FDCs Served: New Brunswick City, Perth Amboy City

United Way of Passaic County Inc.

FDCs Served: Passaic City, Paterson North, Paterson South, Prospect Park/Haledon/Hawthorne

Urban Agriculture Cooperative, A NJ Nonprofit Corporation

FDCs Served: East Orange City, Elizabeth City, Irvington Township, Jersey City Central, Jersey City North, Jersey City South, Newark East, Newark North and Central, Newark South, Newark West, Orange/West Orange/Montclair

Urban Promise Ministries Community Development, Inc.

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken

UrbanPromise Trenton Inc.

FDCs Served: Trenton East, Trenton West

Virtua-West Jersey Health System Inc.

FDCs Served: Camden East/Pennsauken, North, Central and South
Camden/Woodlynne

CONTACT US

PO Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625-0990

36 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

(844) 965-1125

EMAIL US

About NJEDA

Press Room

Events

Online Payments

Legal Disclaimer

Privacy Notice

Language Assistance

Visit Governor Mikie Sherrill Website



FOOD SECURITY

NJEDA'S COMMITMENT TO FOOD SECURITY – INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

Connecting every New Jersey resident with equitable access to nutritious food is a core component of Governor Murphy's strategy for building a stronger and fairer New Jersey economy. NJEDA, along with its partners in government, business, nonprofits, and the community, is dedicated to increasing and improving access to fresh, affordable, healthy food.

Where we live has a major impact on our overall health and wellbeing. The U.S. Department of Agriculture describes food security as access by all people at all times to sufficient nutritious food for an active and healthy life. This basic need is still not met for all New Jerseyans. Food insecurity impacts all racial and ethnic groups and geographic regions of the state. Communities with high concentrations of unhealthy food options, while lacking traditional grocery stores, have been shown to have higher rates of chronic diseases. Currently, nearly one in ten children experience food insecurity in New Jersey, which can have negative impacts on their current and future physical and mental health and academic achievement.

To address these challenges, NJEDA's programs aim to promote a more inclusive, scalable and collaborative approach to ensure improved access, consistent availability, and increased utilization of nutritious foods.

THE FOOD DESERT RELIEF ACT

NJEDA-DESIGNATED FOOD DESERT COMMUNITIES

NJEDA FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS

[View all active programs](#)

RELATED PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

COMMISSION ON SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY: FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT GRANT



NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH: HEALTH INDICATOR REPORT OF FOOD
SECURITY



PRESS RELEASES

November 14, 2025

NJEDA Board Approves Over \$20M in Grants to 50 Organizations to Strengthen Food Security in NJ's Top Food Desert Communities

TRENTON, N.J. (November 14, 2025) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board recently approved more than \$20.6 million in grant awards to 50 organizations under the Food Equity and Economic Development in New Jersey (FEED NJ) Pilot Program.

[Read More >](#)

July 24, 2025

NJEDA to Auction up to \$60M in Tax Credits to Fund Innovative Programs

Auctions will support Food Desert Relief efforts and Innovation Evergreen Fund TRENTON, N.J. (July 24, 2025) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) will open applications for the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction and the New Jersey Innovation Evergreen Fund Tax Credit Auction. The proceeds from the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction [...]

[Read More >](#)

January 16, 2025

NJEDA Board Approves \$30 Million Program to Strengthen Food Security and Access in NJ Food Desert Communities

TRENTON, N.J. (January 16, 2025) – Last month, the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board approved the creation of the Food Equity and Economic Development in New Jersey (FEED NJ) Pilot Program, a \$30 million competitive grant program that will support food security projects in New Jersey's Food Desert Communities (FDCs).

[Read More >](#)

July 29, 2024

NJEDA to Open Applications for \$20M Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction

TRENTON, N.J. (July 29, 2024) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) will auction up to \$20 million in corporate and insurance premiums tax credits through the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction.

[Read More >](#)

March 28, 2024

NJEDA to Open Applications for Atlantic City Food Security Grants Program

TRENTON, N.J. (March 28, 2024) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) will open applications for the Atlantic City Food Security Grants Pilot Program on Tuesday, April 2, at 10:00 a.m., with an application deadline of Wednesday, May 15, at 5:00 p.m.

[Read More >](#)

November 15, 2023

Governor Murphy Commits Over \$5.5M to Strengthen Food Access in Atlantic City

TRENTON – Governor Phil Murphy today announced that the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) will commit over \$5.5 million in funding to support a multi-faceted approach to immediately expand access to fresh, healthy grocery shopping options for Atlantic City residents.

[Read More >](#)

October 12, 2023

NJEDA Expands Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction to \$15M

TRENTON, N.J. (October 12, 2023) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) is increasing the amount of tax credits available to \$15 million through the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction.

[Read More >](#)

August 17, 2023

NJEDA to Launch \$10M Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction

TRENTON, N.J. (August 17, 2023) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) will auction up to \$10 million in corporate and insurance premiums tax credits through the Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction beginning on September 18.

[Read More >](#)

August 1, 2023

Sustain & Serve NJ Distributes More Than 5 Million Meals

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) announced today that it has reached the remarkable milestone of supporting the purchase and distribution of more than five million meals through its Sustain & Serve NJ program.

[Read More >](#)

May 9, 2023

NJEDA Awards Over \$1 Million Through Food Security Planning Grant Program

Trenton, N.J. (May 9, 2023) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) has awarded nine grants totaling over \$1 million to seven county and municipal governments to support the development of plans to improve food access and food security by leveraging and repurposing distressed assets in New Jersey's Food Desert Communities (FDCs).

[Read More >](#)

April 12, 2023

NJEDA Board Approves Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Program Rules, Authorizes Tax Credit Sale

TRENTON, N.J. (April 12, 2023) – The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board today approved proposed rules for the \$240 million Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Program, which will help address food access challenges by attracting and retaining new supermarkets in the 50 Food Desert Communities (FDCs) designated by the NJEDA last year.

[Read More >](#)

January 6, 2023

NJEDA Announces New Grant Program to Fight Food Insecurity and Combat Food Deserts

The New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) Board announced at its December meeting the approval of a new grant program targeted at strengthening food security

[Read More >](#)

December 20, 2022

NJEDA Announces Additional \$5 Million for Sustain & Serve NJ Program

TRENTON, N.J. – The NJEDA today announced plans to allocate an additional \$5 million in state funding to Phase 3 of its Sustain & Serve NJ program. Sustain & Serve NJ provides nonprofit organizations with grants to support the purchase of meals from New Jersey restaurants that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19

[Read More >](#)

NJEDA PRESS ROOM

PRESS COVERAGE

CONTACT US

Questions may be submitted to FoodDesertRelief@NJEDA.gov



FOOD SECURITY

Enter your email address...

Submit



CONTACT US

PO Box 990, Trenton, NJ 08625-0990

36 West State Street, Trenton, NJ 08625

(844) 965-1125

EMAIL US

About NJEDA

Press Room

Events

Online Payments

Legal Disclaimer

Privacy Notice

Language Assistance

Visit Governor Mikie Sherrill Website

2023 Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction Results

Applicant Name	Tax Credit Award	Purchase Price
New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company	\$1,000,000	\$975,000
United State Fire Insurance Company	\$2,000,000	\$1,820,000
Rockefeller Group Development Corporation	\$2,000,000	\$1,780,000
Verizon Communications Inc.	\$10,000,000	\$8,500,000

2024 Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction Results

Applicant Name	Tax Credit Award	Purchase Price
New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company	\$1,000,000.00	\$975,000.00
OceanFirst Financial Corp.	\$750,000.00	\$712,500.00
Vitol Inc.	\$10,000,000.00	\$9,000,000.00
Rockefeller Group Development Corporation	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,780,000.00
Metropolitan Life Insurance Company	\$3,645,833.00	\$3,226,562.50
Aetna Life Insurance Company	\$2,604,167.00	\$2,304,687.50

2025 Food Desert Relief Tax Credit Auction Results

Applicant Name	Tax Credit Award	Purchase Price
New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Company	\$1,000,000	\$975,000
OceanFirst Financial Corp.	\$750,000	\$712,500
Atlas Copco North America, Inc.	\$2,500,000	\$2,275,000
Ocean Casino Resort Holdings, LLC	\$2,000,000	\$1,820,000
PRUCO LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	\$6,000,000	\$5,460,000
Aetna Life Insurance Company	\$8,000,000	\$7,240,000
Marsh & McLennan Companies, Inc.	\$4,750,000	\$4,275,475