

**New Jersey Economic Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology
Clean Tech Research and Development Seed Grant Pilot Program
Round 4**

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY

The New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation, and Technology (“CSIT”) will begin accepting applications for the Clean Tech Research and Development (“R&D”) Seed Grant Pilot Program, Round 4 (“Program”) on June 2, 2025 at 9:00 AM EST. Applications must be submitted by July 11, 2025, at 5PM EST.

The Program will make available up to \$750,000 in grant funding, as approved by the CSIT Board on [March 21, 2025](#), through a competitive application process to ten (10) eligible awardees.

No application fees will be charged for this program. The application can be accessed at: <https://www.njcsit.gov/clean-tech-research-and-development-rd-voucher-program-round-4/>

Purpose and Overview

The Clean Tech R&D Seed Grant Pilot Program, originally launched in January 2021, was created to support early-stage, New Jersey-based companies engaged in clean tech/clean energy research and development. Aligned with that goal, Phase 4 of the Program aims to accelerate the development and innovation of clean technologies, transforming new discoveries from the research stage into commercially viable technologies that attract industry and investor interest. The Program addresses the gap in funding and support for early-stage clean tech companies, helping them make significant progress and have a meaningful impact on their commercialization outcomes.

Funding Source

The total funding available for Round 4 of the Program is \$750,000. This funding is allocated from the 4th MOU entered into on October 25, 2023, by the NJEDA and the NJBPU, and the NJEDA/NJCSIT MOU entered on November 3, 2023.

The total funding and potential award amount are based upon current information about funding availability. CSIT reserves the right to change that award amount and number of awards should additional funds become available.

Program Details

Round 4 of the Clean Tech R&D Seed Grant Pilot Program will support New Jersey-based early-stage clean tech/clean energy companies that accelerate the development and

innovation of clean technologies. The Program will enable applicants to make significant progress and have a meaningful impact on their commercialization outcomes by supporting companies to develop or test clean technologies intended to avoid emissions of, or to recapture, greenhouse gases and/or criteria pollutants, or to enable such avoidance or recapture.

The grant award is to support the following targeted areas for these clean technologies:

- Chemicals/Advanced Materials
- Energy Distribution/Storage
- Energy Efficiency
- Energy Generation
- Green Buildings
- Transportation
- Waste Processing
- Water and Agriculture

Eligibility

Eligible applicants for the Program must meet the following criteria at the time of Program application submission and maintain them throughout the Application Review Period:

1. Be authorized and in good standing to conduct business in New Jersey.
2. Have a current New Jersey tax clearance certificate listing the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology. Certificates listing another State agency will be rejected.
3. Have a minimum of one (1) full-time worker (calculated on a 35-hour work week). A founder can be counted as a worker; a worker may be paid or unpaid.
4. Have no more than 50 full-time equivalent workers (calculated on a 35-hour work week) at the time of application.
5. 50% or more of the cumulative hours worked by all workers, founders, and contractors must be worked in New Jersey, calculated on a full-time equivalent basis of 35 hours per week.
6. Have less than or equal to \$5,000,000 in prior calendar year sales revenue (excluding grant revenue).
7. The proposed project must be between Technology Readiness Level (“TRL”) 2 (Applied Research) to TRL 7 (Integrated Pilot System Demonstrated).

Exclusions: *Recipients of two or more **active** CSIT R&D Seed or Demonstration Grants at the time of application are **ineligible** for this Program.*

Eligible Funding Uses

The grant funding can be utilized for project research and development activities. However, no more than 30% of the budget proposed for the project, in the aggregate, may be spent on:

- Marketing and customer discovery specific to the innovation
- IP patent prosecution and licensing-related expenses
- Conference registration fees

Ineligible Funding Uses

- Direct services to individuals or organizations
- Manufacturing of products for sale or commercial use
- Real estate rental expenses
- Patient clinical trial expenses
- Construction costs
- Travel, entertainment, and other similar expenses
- Allocations of general overhead expenses
- Any expenditures incurred before the grant agreement is signed by all parties
- Any expenses for equipment and materials not used for the Project during the Project period; or
- Fees related to conferences not associated with the Project.

Application Submission and Review Process

Applications will be accepted via the Program's online application portal from June 2, 2025 9am EST to July 11, 2025 5pm EST. Applicants must complete all required portions of the application questions fully and upload all required PDF documents and attachments. All applications must include the following documentation to be considered complete:

- a. Budget and Milestone Proposals (Excel template embedded within online application)
- b. Uploaded results from Technology Readiness Level Calculator Excel file (The TRL Template is embedded within online application)
- c. Employee information as appropriate for applicable company structure and staffing -i.e., most recent NJ WR-30 (W2 employees) or 1099 (contractors), shareholder agreement or K-

1 or offer letters. Please note that if a professional employment organization (“PEO”) is utilized, the applicant must submit confirmation of PEO-A form issued by the NJ Department of Labor (“DOL”), These confirmations are issued on an annual basis and are valid for a year. See <https://www.nj.gov/labor/ea/employer-services/leasing-companies/> for additional information on PEOs.

d. Summary of the most recent Internal Payroll (Q4 2024 or Q1 2025) indicating each employee name and number of hours worked per week.

e. Most recent Company tax filing: Federal 941 and either an NJ-CBT-100 (Schedule A), Form- 1065 or Form -1040 (Schedule C), or whichever is applicable to the organizational form of your business, showing the total Gross Receipts or Sales for the year.

f. Current New Jersey tax clearance certificate addressed to New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology. Certificates addressed to another State agency will be rejected. See https://www16.state.nj.us/NJ_PREMIER_EBIZ/jsp/home.jsp. **DUE No Later than August 1, 2025.** Please note: A New Jersey tax clearance certificate may not be immediately available; therefore, this should be applied for well before the due date.

g. If applicable, copy of Woman, Minority, Veteran and/or LGBTQ+ owned business New Jersey certification <https://www.njportal.com/DOR/SBERegistry/Default/> **DUE No Later than August 1, 2025**, or relevant bonus points will not be awarded. Please note: These certificates may not be immediately available; therefore, these should be applied for well before the due date.

h. If applicable, a copy of an executed University License Agreement between the applicant and the University. **DUE No Later than August 1, 2025** or relevant bonus points will not be awarded.

i. For companies with a doing business as (“dba”) name, CSIT requires proof of New Jersey registration reflecting the same.

Applicants must be in good standing with both the New Jersey Department of Labor (“DOL”) and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (“DEP”) to be eligible for a grant award.

CSIT staff will review all applications for completeness and eligibility. The Program applications will be competitively scored by an evaluation committee comprised of CSIT and NJEDA staff. Complete and eligible applications will be reviewed and assigned a score pursuant to the Program’s scoring criteria.

An applicant must receive a minimum of 70 out of the available 100 points on the standard scoring to be considered for funding. The ten (10) highest scored applications, including

bonus points, will be recommended to the CSIT Board for the Program award. The CSIT Board will make the final decision on grant award recipients, declinations for discretionary reasons, and appeals.

A copy of the Program scoring criteria (Program Specification) is available at <https://www.njcsit.gov/clean-tech-research-and-development-rd-voucher-program-round-4/>.

Grant Amount

The Program offers awards of up to \$75,000 for a maximum of ten (10) awardees. The grant funding can be utilized for project research and development activities. However, as stated above, no more than 30% of the proposed project budget may be spent on specific activities such as marketing and customer discovery, IP patent prosecution and licensing-related expenses, and conference registration fees.

Grant Funding Disbursements

The disbursement schedule for the Program is structured to ensure efficient allocation of funds.

- The first disbursement, constituting 80% of the grant award, will be made upon the execution of the grant agreement.
- The remaining 20% will be disbursed following the submission and approval of all Final Reporting requirements by CSIT.

Note: NJEDA on behalf of CSIT will send out a Final or Compliance report reminder 12 month after the execution of the grant agreement. Supporting Documents (includes: Invoice of Details, Employee Log, Employee Verification, Updated Tax Clearance, and Requisition Form), must be uploaded through the NJEDA portal link that will be provided within the email reminder.

Post Compliance

For three years from the date of the grant agreement, workers and consultants who continue working on the project must conduct at least 50% of their work in a NJ location. Failure to comply may result in the awardee having to make a full re-payment of the grant award.

All grant awardees must report economic impact data to CSIT upon the completion of the project and then every year for the next three years after project completion by submitting an Economic Impact Questionnaire provided by CSIT.

All grant awardees are encouraged to participate in future CSIT/NJEDA/NJBPU alumni activities, such as serving as a panel member or participating in interviews about Program experience.

Confidentiality

Applications will be reviewed only by staff of CSIT, NJEDA and SMEs. All applications are subject to requests for disclosure, including but not limited to, a public disclosure request pursuant to the Open Public Records Act ("OPRA"), N.J.S.A.47:1A-1 et seq.

Fees

No application fees will be charged for this program.

Additional Requirements and Information

Comprehensive information about the Clean Tech R&D Seed Grant Pilot Program, Round 4 is available at <https://www.njcsit.gov/clean-tech-research-and-development-rd-voucher-program-round-4/>

All answers will be posted publicly in the form of a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document which will be posted on the CSIT website prior to the application deadline <https://www.njcsit.gov/clean-tech-research-and-development-rd-voucher-program-round-4/>.

State and Federal Requirements

Funding for this grant is subject to State and Federal statutes including, but not limited to, the following, which may impact affiliates: N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq., which prevents the New Jersey government entities from certain dealings with businesses engaged in prohibited activities in Belarus or Russia; Compliance with the list of "Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons" promulgated by the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), <https://sanctionssearch.ofac.treas.gov>; N.J.S.A. 24:6I-49 which provides that the following are not eligible for most State or local economic incentives (a) a person or entity issued a license to operate as a cannabis cultivator, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or delivery service, or that employs a certified personal use cannabis handler to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service; and (b) a property owner, developer, or operator of a project to be used, in whole or in part, by or to benefit a cannabis cultivator, manufacturer, wholesaler, distributor, retailer, or delivery service, or to employ a certified personal use cannabis handler to perform work for or on behalf of a cannabis establishment, distributor, or delivery service; and N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12, et seq., which prohibits a member of the Legislature or a State officer or employee or their partners or a corporation in which they owns or controls more than 1% of

the stock to undertake or execute any contract, agreement, sale, or purchase of \$25.00 or more, made, entered into, awarded or granted by any State agency, with certain limited exceptions including grant awards by the New Jersey Commission on Science, Innovation and Technology.