



The New Jersey Department of Education

Overview of

Grant Program

for School Facilities Projects
in County Vocational School Districts



School Facilities Grant Program

- \$3.9 billion total
- \$2.9 billion for SDA Districts
- \$1 billion for RODs, including \$50 million allocation for vocational schools



County Vocational School District Grant Program

“The school facilities projects of a county vocational school district that did not receive State support for its projects from the \$100,000,000 of bond proceeds originally allocated for the State share of county vocational school district school facilities projects pursuant to section 14 of P.L.2000, c.72 (C.18A:7G-14) shall receive priority in the allocation of the bond proceeds authorized for the State share of county vocational school district school facilities projects pursuant to P.L. 2008, c.137 provided that the county vocational school district demonstrates to the commissioner the need for the school facilities projects.”



County Vocational School District Grant Program

- **Separate from ROD process**
 - Funding limit of \$50 million dollars.
 - Separate submission deadlines.
 - Eligible project scope of work limited to critical operational (Level 1) and existing Career and Technical Education (CTE) program needs (Level 2).
 - Prioritization process based on previous funding received by district from least to most.
 - Maximize distribution of funds.



Eligible Scope of Work

Level 1

Critical operational needs

- Capital maintenance projects.
- Projects that address handicapped accessibility.
- Building code issues.
- Technology infrastructure.



Eligible Scope of Work

Level 2

CTE program needs

- Upgrades to existing vocational instructional space to meet Industry certification requirements or standards.
 - (No grant funding for new schools or any new construction other than additions for existing vocational instructional spaces.)



Funding Prioritization Categories

1. County vocational school districts that received \$0 in State funding support for its school facilities projects from the prior allocation.
2. County vocational school districts, other than 1 above, that received less than \$1,000,000 in State funding support for its school facilities projects from the prior allocation.



Funding Prioritization Categories

3. County vocational school districts that received greater than \$1,000,000 but less than \$5,000,000 in State funding support for its school facilities projects from the prior allocation.
4. County vocational school districts that received greater than \$5,000,000 in State funding support for its school facilities projects from the prior allocation.



Project Eligibility and Prioritization

If project does not qualify to be considered for grant funding:

- District can request debt service funding for eligible scope; or
- Revise scope of work and resubmit; or
- Request Other Capital Project approval.



Project Eligibility and Prioritization

If project qualifies for consideration but is not selected to receive grant funding:

- Request debt service aid; or
- Request Other Capital Project approval.



Timelines

First allocation scheduled

- Allow County Vocational District's time to plan projects.
- Open to limited scope of work.
- \$50 million maximum available.
- Subsequent allocations to be announced, if funding available.



Timelines

Approval Process

For all County Vocational School District's seeking grant funding

December 31, 2008: Latest date for County Vocational District to notify Department of intention to seek a grant.

A county vocational school district may request a preliminary determination concerning the eligibility of the school facilities project for a grant.



Timelines

Approval Process

June 30, 2009: Deadline for district project application to the Department.

September 30, 2009: Latest date for Department to issue preliminary approval and grant funding determination.

October 30, 2009: Latest date for Department to issue final approval pending receipt of Board of Chosen Freeholders resolution accepting preliminary approval.



Funding Release Notifications

- County Vocational District's school facilities projects and grant approvals, unfunded from the original allocation may be released early.
- Subject to the availability of funds, remaining grant approvals to be released in order of least to most grant funding received in previous allocation.



Timelines

*****IMPORTANT*****

Districts must adhere to submission deadline.

Submission must be complete.



Projects in the Pipeline

No retroactive provisions.

If a project has been approved by the Department and a contract has been awarded by the district to complete the work, the district cannot apply for retroactive grant funding for the project.



Projects in the Pipeline

If a district has submitted a project to the Department that it would like considered for grant funding:

If submitted but not approved: Contact the Office of School Facilities (OSF).

If previously approved as an "Other Capital" project and no contract awarded: Cancel project and resubmit a new project application.

If previously approved for debt service funding and no contract awarded: Cancel project and resubmit a new project application if district accepted preliminary eligible costs OR contact the OSF to request grant funding if district has not accepted preliminary eligible costs.



Additional Information

- DOE Office of School Facilities web site
 - <http://www.state.nj.us/education/facilities/>
- DOE Office of School Facilities Grant Information web site.
 - <http://www.state.nj.us/education/facilities/projectapplication/> .
- Email questions or comments to:
 - project_app@doe.state.nj.us.
- Regulations have been filed with OAL.