



New Jersey Autism Center for Excellence (NJACE) Plus-1 Grant Request for Applications (RFA) 2025

Important dates:

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| March 21st, 2025 | Letter of Intent Due (Required) |
| May 16th, 2025 | Application Due |
| August 1st, 2025 | Notice of Award |

Program overview (NJACE)

The NJACE grant was awarded to Children's Specialized Hospital (PI: Wayne Fisher) in July 2023, with a subcontract to Rutgers University. In addition, Autism New Jersey is a collaborating institution. The goals of the NJACE are to improve health outcomes of New Jersey residents at all life stages with a focus on community-oriented research and training tailored to the autism community and their needs. This includes both basic research focused on understanding biological or environmental variables that may improve ASD outcomes in the future and clinical research focused on improving outcomes for ASD individuals.

Grant Information

The goal of the NJACE Plus-1 Grant will be to support autism investigators who have already received substantial funding (an RO1 or equivalent) from a federal, state, or private entity and are interested in adding an aim to the current project. That is, this award aims to enhance a currently ongoing research or training grant by supporting the team in adding an additional aim.

Eligibility

Full-time Faculty or Qualified Research Institutions in New Jersey: Only those employed by entities credentialed as a qualified research institution in the State of New Jersey may apply for a seed grant. The research-credentialed entity must have established procedures to receive and administer Federal and State grants and adhere to procedures for the protection of human subjects as regulated by NIH. The research-credentialed entity must also have an Institutional Review Board (IRB) that will approve the proposed research activities. The principal investigator must demonstrate the funding that has already been secured and how the added aim will align with and enhance the current project.

Number of grants available

For this funding period, two Plus-1 grants will be awarded. Each grant will support up to \$100,000 for one year (\$100,000 maximum per grant, including direct and indirect costs).

Letter of Intent

A letter of intent (LOI) is required prior to submission of the application. The letter of intent will be a short document, not to exceed one single-spaced page, describing the project and PI using the LOI template provided in Appendix A.

Application

The requirements for the full application are provided in Appendix B.

Budget preparation

Budgets must include fringe rate calculations and personnel costs/justifications for full-time and part-time employees/consultants where applicable. Direct and indirect costs for the duration of

the grant must be detailed. Maximum indirect cost is 10% (e.g., \$10,000 of the available \$100,000). The fringe benefits are restricted at 15% for all personnel with no exceptions whatsoever.

Review process

All applications will be reviewed in accordance with the process described below. The determination of awards will be made through a two-step process:

1. Administrative review:

Upon receipt, all grant applications will be reviewed by the NJACE administrative team for compliance with the outlined regulations in this RFA, and to ensure completeness and accuracy. If the grant application needs correction due to a budgetary issue, the applicant will be contacted to provide a revised budget. If the NJACE administrative team determines that the application does not meet the administrative requirements, the application will be denied and will not be forwarded to the next phase, independent scientific review.

2. Independent scientific review:

The NJACE will identify a committee of reviewers based on the number of grant applications and the content of those applications. The review committees will be tasked with determining the relevance of all applications to the priorities of the NJACE, before evaluating the applications on the significance of the application to critical areas of need and feasibility. Applications that involve an interdisciplinary research team will be prioritized. Based on these reviews, the committee will make funding recommendations to the NJACE administrative team.

The NJACE administrative team will receive the applications triaged by the review committees along with their recommendations. The NJACE will make the final funding decisions, considering the mission, priorities, and critical areas of need.

Post-award reporting

At the conclusion of the review process, all applicants will be formally notified of the outcome of their application as soon as possible but no later than August 1st, 2025 via a letter of intent to fund or a letter of denial.

Questions

For any questions, reach out to the NJACE at NJACE@childrens-specialized.org.

Appendix A: Letter of Intent Form

New Jersey Autism Center for Excellence (NJACE)

Seed Grant Letter of Intent for 2025

Funding Opportunity: Research Seed Grant Training Seed Grant
 Plus-1 Seed Grant Postdoctoral Fellowship Grant

Principal Investigator (PI): Fill Here

PI Address: Fill Here

PI Email: Fill Here

PI Telephone: Fill Here

Project Collaborators (if applicable): Fill Here

Fellowship Mentor(s)/Supervisor(s): Fill Here

Participating Institutions and Organizations (including FEIN#): Fill Here

Project Overview

Descriptive Title of the Project Proposed: Fill Here

Specific IACC Question Addressed in Proposed Project (selected from Appendix 1): Fill Here

Significance: Fill Here

Specific Aims: Fill Here

Approach: Fill Here

Appendix B: Application Instructions

- Font: Arial 11 point. (A smaller type size may be used for figures and graphs but must be legible.)
- Margins: Use at least one-half inch margins (top, bottom, left and right) for all pages.
- Proposal must be submitted to NJACE@childrens-specialized.org as a single PDF file and titled: LastName_FirstName_Plus1Grant_NJACE2025.pdf
- Format and order of documents must be strictly adhered to. Submissions that do not meet the following guidelines, will be returned without review.
- Submissions must include
 - **NIH Biosketch for PI and key personnel**
 - Use format currently required by NIH.
 - Include Other Support
 - List all external and internal research support regardless of relevance to this application, including pending applications. Give grant number, title, duration, amount for current year, total value of award, and source of support.
 - **Scientific Abstract**
 - Limited to 250 words
 - **Lay Abstract**
 - Limit to 250 words using simple, everyday words and sentences.
 - **Description of Current Project & Aims of Current Project, and Added Aim**
 - Limited to 6 pages (not including references, budget, and budget justification)
 - Specific Aims page and most recent notice-of-award letter from original grant
 - Sections include (See for detailed suggestions)
 - Significance
 - Innovation
 - Added Aim
 - Approach (include expected outcomes & measurement)
 - **Literature Cited**

- **Protection of Human Subjects**
- **Budget**
 - Funds cannot be used for memberships, food, drink, lodging, the purchase of books or subscriptions, or travel to meetings of professional societies (unless the investigator is presenting research supported by the grant).
- **Budget Justification**
 - As per NIH guidelines for a detailed budget