

**Integrity Monitor Report
Category 3**

Integrity Monitor Firm Name: K2 Integrity
Quarter Ending: March 31, 2025
Expected Engagement End Date: December 31, 2026

A. General Info

1. Recovery Program Participant:

New Jersey Economic Development Authority ("NJEDA")

2. Federal Funding Source (e.g. CARES, HUD, FEMA, ARPA):

\$4,000,000 ARP SLFRF

3. State Funding Source (if applicable):

\$1,250,000 FY 2022 Food and Agriculture Innovation appropriation,
reallocated from the Food Retail Innovation in Delivery Grant (FRIDG)

4. Deadline for Use of State or Federal Funding by Recovery Program Participant:

December 31, 2026

5. Accountability Officer:

Elizabeth George-Cheniara, Director Legal Compliance

6. Program(s) under Review/Subject to Engagement:

Atlantic City Food Security Grants Pilot Program.

7. Brief Description, Purpose, and Rationale of Integrity Monitor Project/Program:

The Atlantic City Food Security Grants Pilot Program is a \$5,250,000 initiative funded by the Economic Recovery Fund (ERF). Its primary goal is to enhance food access and security in Atlantic City. The program will provide grants to projects that aim to improve food access and food security for residents of the Atlantic City/Ventnor Food Desert Community (FDC). Eligible applicants include for-profit, nonprofit, and government entities that have been in existence for at least two years and currently

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serve residents of the Atlantic City/Ventnor FDC. Funds can be used for various purposes, including construction, equipment, salaries, and rent, but not for land or building acquisition. Grants range from \$50,000 to \$500,000, covering up to 100% of project costs.

8. Amount Allocated to Program(s) under Review:

\$5,250,000.

9. Amount Expended by Recovery Program Participant to Date on Program(s) under Review:

\$2,052,549.13 as of March 2025 – This represents the first ~50% disbursed to 9 out of the 11 grantees.

10. Amount Provided to Other State or Local Entities:

N/A

11. Completion Status of Program (e.g. planning phase, application review, post-payment):

The NJEDA Board approved ACFSGPP and has committed \$5.12 million. During a six-week application period, a total of 20 applications were submitted. These applications were evaluated for completeness and eligibility, with 17 of them proceeding to the scoring phase. The scoring was based on criteria such as project description, work plan, organizational capacity, community engagement, and budget. Out of these, 15 applications met the minimum score requirement of 50 out of 100 points. Ultimately, 11 applications were approved for funding, totaling \$5.12 million.

The program is now focused on the implementation and monitoring of the funded projects to ensure compliance and successful completion.

12. Completion Status of Integrity Monitor Engagement:

On-going.

B. Monitoring Activities

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13. If FEMA funded, brief description of the status of the project worksheet and its support:

a) IM Response

N/A.

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

14. Description of the services provided to the Recovery Program Participant during the quarter (i.e. activities conducted, such as meetings, document review, staff training, etc.):

a) IM Response

The Monitor attended a kickoff meeting on March 10, 2025 hosted by NJEDA staff.

NJEDA provide the ACFSPG Spending Status report. The Monitor reviewed this document which serves as an internal disbursement schedule indicating the amount of federal funds and state funds allocated to each ACFSPGR grantee.

Additionally, the Monitor reviewed the 1) *MOU between the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs and NJEDA* 2) *Board Memo dated April 13, 2022* 3) *Board Memo dated October 12, 2023* and 4) *Board Memo dated September 11, 2024*.

In a separate but related task order, the Monitor met with NJEDA staff to review and discuss a program-wide risk assessment, which provides insights into the organization. NJEDA staff provided the monitor with a number of program related policies, procedures, and process documents, including supplemental materials such as samples and templates. The Monitor notes that the NJEDA staff updated key policies within the last year. The Monitor reviewed the updated policies and procedures, as well as documentation related to applicant evaluation and program funding allocation processes. Additionally, the Monitor met with NJEDA staff to discuss the implemented risk mitigation measures concerning program administration, applicant

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selection, funding allocations, and evaluation criteria to ensure fairness and compliance with regulatory guidelines. This discussion, coupled with the Monitor's review of reporting documentation, indicates that program-wide progress reporting has been thoughtfully considered and that programs are generally well-monitored.

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

15. Description to confirm appropriate data/information has been provided by the Recovery Program Participant and description of activities taken to review the project/program:

a) IM Response

See response to Question 14.

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

16. Description of quarterly auditing activities conducted to ensure procurement compliance with terms and conditions of contracts and agreements:

a) IM Response

See response to Question 14.

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

17. If payment documentation in connection with the contract/program has been reviewed, provide description.

a) IM Response

NJEDA provided the ACFSPG Spending Status report February 20, 2025. The Monitor reviewed this document which serves as an internal disbursement schedule indicating the amount of federal funds and state funds allocated to each ACFSPGR grantee.

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b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

18. Description of quarterly activity to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and/or abuse:

a) IM Response

See response to Question 14.

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

19. Details of any integrity issues/findings, including findings of waste, fraud, and/or abuse:

a) IM Response

None.

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

20. Details of any other items of note that have occurred in the past quarter:

a) IM Response

None.

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

21. Details of any actions taken to remediate waste, fraud, and/or abuse noted in past quarters:

a) IM Response

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N/A.

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

C. Miscellaneous

22. List of hours (by employee) and expenses incurred to perform quarterly integrity monitoring review:

a) IM Response

Bradley Sussman	0.00 hours, no expenses
Tejah Duckworth	0.50 hours, no expenses
Michael Bernstein	0.00 hours, no expenses
Yomi Togunde	10.50 hours, no expenses
Bruce Archer	0.00 hours, no expenses

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

N/A.

23. Add any item, issue, or comment not covered in previous sections but deemed pertinent to monitoring program:

a) IM Response

None.

b) Recovery Program Participant Comments

None.

Name of Integrity Monitor:	K2 Integrity
Name of Report Preparer:	Oluwayomi "Yomi" Togunde Pierce
Signature:	<i>Oluwayomi Togunde</i>
Date:	03/31/2025