

Governor Phil Murphy

ICYMI: DCA Now Accepting Applications for School Regionalization Efficiency Program

Posted on - 12/22/2025

Grants Help School Districts to Conduct Feasibility Studies to Explore Merging with Neighboring Communities

TRENTON – The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) today announced that its Division of Local Government Services (DLGS) is now accepting applications from public school districts and eligible governing bodies for School Regionalization Efficiency Program (SREP) funding. The grant program covers eligible costs associated with feasibility studies that explore how school districts could merge, including forming countywide and regional school districts, and if a potential merger would result in cost savings or other efficiencies and benefits to students and taxpayers.

“It wasn’t that long ago that school districts interested in exploring how to regionalize their resources and programs were blocked from doing so because of the costs involved,” **said DCA Commissioner Jacquelyn A. Suárez**. “The School Regionalization Efficiency Program grants remove this cost barrier so that school communities can research if regionalization is right for them. We invite local school officials to take advantage of this opportunity while it’s available.

“Many school districts throughout New Jersey want to explore ways that regionalization would provide students with greater academic opportunities and to identify ways to reduce costs,” **said Department of Education Commissioner Kevin Dehmer**. “The School Regionalization Efficiency Program is a tool that can help communities explore these options. Through successful regionalization, communities can see real savings and efficiencies that benefit taxpayers, while schools can expand and elevate the educational programming offered to their students.”

New Jersey boards of education of local school districts, consolidated school districts, and non-operating school districts, and boards of education of a limited purpose or all-purpose regional districts are eligible to apply for grant funding. Governing bodies of school districts that do not have a board of education, or a municipality constituting part of a consolidated school district, and the governing body of a municipality constituting a constituent district of a limited purpose or all-purpose regional district, are also eligible to receive SREP grant funding.

Funding is available to support K-12 regionalization and countywide school district consolidation studies for the following three types of projects:

1. Preliminary approval feasibility studies to form an all-purpose regional district by expanding an existing limited-purpose regional district through consolidation with some or all the constituent or sending school districts, or to form a countywide school district.
2. Newly proposed feasibility studies for school district regionalization and those studies in the process of being conducted.
3. Previously conducted feasibility studies for school district regionalization.

All feasibility study projects seeking SREP funding must meet the following criteria:

- Reflect the potential for meaningful and implementable regionalization plans to advance an enhanced learning environment for participating school districts;
- Coordinate curriculum across schools and grades throughout the proposed consolidation/regionalization;
- Reflect the potential for improved efficiency and cost savings;
- Demonstrate that the proposed regionalization does not, and is not foreseeably likely to, increase or exacerbate the segregation of students by racial, socioeconomic, disability, or English language learner status as determined by the number and percentage of students enrolled in the school districts seeking to consolidate or, as applicable, in the school districts from which a school district is seeking to withdraw;
- Lead to the establishment of a limited purpose or all-purpose regional district to the maximum extent practicable;
- Consolidate school districts that are in close geographic proximity of each other; and
- Reflect a documented commitment from participating boards of education, and municipal governing bodies to make good faith efforts to implement study recommendations and subsequent execution of a regionalization plan that promotes efficiency and quality of education.

Factors like enrollment, facility utilization, contiguous districts with small enrollment, existing send/receive relationships, administrative staffing, class size, diversity enhancement, debt and contractual obligations, faculty needs and attrition, and other factors will be evaluated in the feasibility studies.

The amount awarded for any school consolidation feasibility study may account for up to 100 percent of study costs, depending upon application quality and outcome.

Once a study has been completed, the school districts may follow through with service sharing agreements but are not obligated to do so.

This is a rolling application process, and applications must be submitted through the DCA SAGE Portal at

<https://dcasage.intelligrants.com/portal.asp> (<https://dcasage.intelligrants.com/portal.asp>). It is recommended that applications be submitted as soon as possible due to SREP funding availability in the FY 2026 state budget appropriation.

For further details, the program guidelines and application are posted at

https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/srep_grants.shtml (https://www.nj.gov/dca/dlgs/programs/srep_grants.shtml) on the DCA website. To request information about SREP grants, school district officials can email

DLGS.SREPGRANT@dca.nj.gov

([https://urldefense.com/v3/https://t.e2ma.net/click/vd07on/nrddit/zo3krdb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!KKFKQqALLzmw4R7cJfLar7xQb67iRLPSxg1U0VGOhYmtykU-BBoCBVC_fjab3RTGuf-Qx35xv9FK0EzLT4RTMliZLPOB\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://t.e2ma.net/click/vd07on/nrddit/zo3krdb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!KKFKQqALLzmw4R7cJfLar7xQb67iRLPSxg1U0VGOhYmtykU-BBoCBVC_fjab3RTGuf-Qx35xv9FK0EzLT4RTMliZLPOB$)).

. For information on shared services more broadly, they can email

sharedservices@dca.nj.gov

([https://urldefense.com/v3/https://t.e2ma.net/click/vd07on/nrddit/fh4krdb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!KKFKQqALLzmw4R7cJfLar7xQb67iRLPSxg1U0VGOhYmtykU-BBoCBVC_fjab3RTGuf-Qx35xv9FK0EzLT4RTMGHg0Kd1\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/https://t.e2ma.net/click/vd07on/nrddit/fh4krdb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtbA!KKFKQqALLzmw4R7cJfLar7xQb67iRLPSxg1U0VGOhYmtykU-BBoCBVC_fjab3RTGuf-Qx35xv9FK0EzLT4RTMGHg0Kd1$)).

DLGS serves as an advocate for local government interests and provides technical and financial assistance in budgeting, financial reporting, joint services, purchasing, and management issues. It is responsible for the financial integrity of all local government units and reviews and approves all municipal, county, and fire district budgets. The Division also reviews many local government financial actions and governs and guides the conduct of local government officials.

DCA offers a wide range of other programs and services, including affordable housing production, fire safety, building safety, disaster recovery and mitigation, rent and utility assistance, local planning services, historic preservation, and information privacy.

For more information about DCA, visit <https://nj.gov/dca/> (<https://www.nj.gov/dca/>) or follow the Department on social media.

Governor Phil Murphy

[Home \(/governor/\)](#)

Administration

[Governor Phil Murphy \(/governor/admin/about\)](#)

[Lt. Governor Tahesha Way \(/governor/admin/lt\)](#)

[In memoriam of Lt. Governor Sheila Y. Oliver \(/governor/admin/lt-sheila-y-oliver\)](#)

[Senior Staff \(/governor/admin/staff\)](#)

[Cabinet \(/governor/admin/cabinet\)](#)

[Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy \(/governor/climateaction/\)](#)

[Office of Equity \(/governor/admin/equity/\)](#)

[Office of Health Care Affordability and Transparency \(/governor/admin/affordablehealthcare/index.shtml\)](#)

[Boards, Commissions & Authorities \(/governor/admin/bca\)](#)

[New Jersey Puerto Rico Commission \(https://www.nj.gov/puertoricocommission/\)](https://www.nj.gov/puertoricocommission/)

[Internship Opportunities \(/governor/admin/internship.shtml\)](#)

[Governor's Fellows Program \(/governor/admin/fellows\)](#)

[Governor's Residence - Drumthwacket \(http://drumthwacket.org/\)](http://drumthwacket.org/)

Key Initiatives

[Economy & Jobs \(/governor/initiatives/#Economy\)](#)

[Education \(/governor/initiatives/#Education\)](#)

[Environment \(/governor/initiatives/#Environment\)](#)

[Health \(/governor/initiatives/#Health\)](#)

[Law & Justice \(/governor/initiatives/#Justice\)](#)

[Transportation \(/governor/initiatives/#Transportation\)](#)

News & Events

[Press Releases \(/governor/news/news/562024/approved/news_archive.shtml\)](#)

[Photos \(https://www.flickr.com/photos/govmurphy\)](https://www.flickr.com/photos/govmurphy)

[Public Addresses \(/governor/news/addresses\)](#)

[Executive Orders \(/infobank/eo/056murphy/approved/eo_archive.html\)](#)
[Administrative Orders \(/governor/news/ao/approved/ao_archive.shtml\)](#)
[Direct Appointments \(/governor/news/appointments\)](#)
[Advice and Consent Appointments \(/governor/news/acappointments\)](#)
[Statements on Legislation \(/governor/news/statements/approved/statements_archive.shtml\)](#)
[Administration Reports \(/governor/news/adminreports/approved/archive.shtml\)](#)
[Transition Reports \(/governor/news/reports/approved/reports_archive.shtml\)](#)
[Press Kits \(/governor/news/press\)](#)

Social

[Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/governorphilmurphy/\)](https://www.facebook.com/governorphilmurphy/)
[Twitter \(https://twitter.com/GovMurphy\)](https://twitter.com/GovMurphy)
[Instagram \(https://www.instagram.com/govmurphy/\)](https://www.instagram.com/govmurphy/)
[Snapchat \(https://www.snapchat.com/add/philmurphy\)](https://www.snapchat.com/add/philmurphy)
[YouTube \(https://www.youtube.com/njgovernorsoffice\)](https://www.youtube.com/njgovernorsoffice)
[Bluesky \(https://bsky.app/profile/govmurphy.bsky.social\)](https://bsky.app/profile/govmurphy.bsky.social)

Contact Us

[Scheduling Requests \(/governor/contact/scheduling/\)](#)
[Contact Us \(/governor/contact/all/\)](#)

Statewide

[NJ Home \(/www.nj.gov\)](#)
[Services A to Z \(/www.nj.gov/nj/gov/njgov/alphaserv.html\)](#)
[Departments/Agencies \(/www.nj.gov/nj/gov/deptserv/\)](#)
[FAQs \(/www.nj.gov/faqs/\)](#)
[Contact Us \(/www.nj.gov/nj/feedback.html\)](#)
[Privacy Notice \(/www.nj.gov/nj/privacy.html\)](#)
[Legal Statement & Disclaimers \(/www.nj.gov/nj/legal.html\)](#)
[Accessibility Statement \(/www.nj.gov/nj/accessibility.html\)](#)

[\(/nj.gov/opra/\)](#)

[\(https://my.nj.gov/\)](https://my.nj.gov/)

[\(https://tech.nj.gov/\)](https://tech.nj.gov/)