

New Castle County CARES Act: Innovation Grant

Notice of Funding Opportunity

Summary

Pursuant to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump on March 27th, 2020, New Castle County is implementing an Innovation Grant program. The Innovation Grant is a New Castle County opportunity seeking technology solutions to problems that stem from COVID-19. The solutions must attempt to create an increased local/regional tech impact, create new jobs and attract new tech companies and talent to the region.

Applications Available: August 24, 2020

Deadline for Transmittal of Applications: September 11, 2020

Pre-Application Information: All documents and updates pertaining to the NCC CARES Innovation Grant will be located using the New Castle County website. <https://www.nccde.org/2036/CARES-Act>

Purpose of Program

The Coronavirus pandemic created a unique opportunity to develop innovative solutions to problems that stem from COVID-19. The impact of the pandemic infiltrated every aspect of daily life. This grant seeks solutions to problems and adapting to the new normal. Priority will be given to solutions that will create an increased regional tech impact, create new jobs and attract new tech companies and talent to the region. This application process is open to any entity that qualifies to do business in Delaware. All solutions must meet the Federal Treasury guidelines for the CARES Act funding.

Proposed Use of Funds

Applicants must provide explanation of solution consistent with allowable uses of the CARES Relief Act funding as described by the [U.S. Department of Treasury](#).

- Solutions must address a problem that specifically stems from COVID-19
- Recipients must comply with sub-recipient requirements set forth in 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.303 and .330-.332.

Nonexclusive examples of ineligible expenditures:

The following is a list of examples of costs that *would not* be eligible expenditures of payments from the Fund.

- Expenses for the State share of Medicaid
- Damages covered by insurance
- Payroll or benefits expenses for employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Expenses that have been or will be reimbursed under any federal program, such as the reimbursement by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act of contributions by States to State unemployment funds
- Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services
- Workforce bonuses other than hazard pay or overtime
- Severance payments
- Legal settlements
- Items budgeted prior to March 2020
- Income reimbursement

Funding Restrictions

Any proposals that do not meet CARES Relief Act federal guidelines will be declined. Incomplete submissions will be delayed or declined.

Recommended Page Limit

The application narrative (Part III of the application) is where you, the applicant, address the selection criteria that reviewers use to evaluate your application. We recommend that you (1) limit the application narrative to no more than 25 pages and (2) use the following standards:

- A "page" is 8.5" x 11" with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and both sides.
- Double space (no more than three lines per vertical inch) all text in the application narrative, including titles, headings, footnotes, quotations, references, and captions.
- Use a font that is either 12 point or larger or no smaller than 10 pitch (characters per inch).
- Use one of the following fonts: Times New Roman, Courier, Courier New, or Arial.

Review and Selection Process

The New Castle County CARES Innovation Grant is a competitive application process. Submission does not guarantee approval. The Application Review Committee (ARC) will consider all completed applications submitted by the deadline. Applications are scored using a metrics. The amount of the grant will be determined by the ARC. The ARC reserves the right to request an interview if further clarification is required. Status of applications will be posted online and accessible to the applicant in real time through the NCC Portal. If your application is successful, notification will be sent via email containing a link to register for the electronic payment. If your application is not successful, notification will be sent via email.

The ARC will utilize the Likert Scale and Application Scoring Metrix below to rank applications. The grant award amount will be determined based on market research. The lowest scoring applications will be placed on hold until after the initial awards are distributed. If additional funding is available, the applications on hold will be reconsidered.

Eligibility Minimums:

- Delaware based company/organization
- Company/organization must qualify to conduct business in Delaware
- Solution is unique/novel
- Companies/organizations are permitted to submit only 1 proposal

Examples of unique solutions:

- Automated surface cleaning technology
- Assistance program for parents with virtual learners at home
- Virtual learning daycare/tutoring/in person support for students with parents working outside the home
- Contact Tracing

Auditing & Reporting:

Program updates and requests for reporting will be provided by the NCC CARES Act Audit Committee.

Application assistance & technical support:

New Castle County has partnered with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) to assist applicants with questions and provide technical assistance.

Delaware Small Business Development Center
1 Innovation Way, Suite 301, Newark, DE 19711
302-831-1555

Please call in advance to discuss COVID-19-social distancing protocols

Likert Scale	1-10
Creates local economic impact	
Creates new jobs	
Attracts technical companies and talent to the region	
Creates long term impact on local economy	
Demonstrates past success implementing programs	
Problem statement aligns with priorities	
Solution is sustainable	
Creates a regional or global presence	
Innovative: solution is unique/novel	

Scoring Metrix			
0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20
Application did not include adequate information to make a determination	Potential is explained, but analysis supporting this conclusion is insufficient	Proposal provides a compelling argument and aligns with priorities	Proposal provides a compelling argument, aligns with priorities and does not already exist
Job Creation			
0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20
Does not provide any job growth goals	Proposal outlines job creation goals	Proposal provides compelling data to support job creation goals (1-2 jobs)	Proposal provides compelling data to support job creation goals (3+ jobs)
Local/Regional Impact			
0-5	6-10	11-15	16-20
Proposal does not provide an explanation of local/region impact	Some explanation is given regarding local/regional impact	Solution is sustainable	Solution is sustainable and could attract tech companies and/or talent to Delaware