



NJDOT NEWS



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Rail Freight Assistance Program applications are being accepted for FY21 grants Funds will improve the existing freight system to promote economic activity

(Trenton) – The New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT) today announced the grant application period for the Fiscal Year 2021 Rail Freight Assistance Program (RFAP) is open with applications being accepted from now through October 9, 2020.

These grants help support economic activity by preserving and improving the existing freight transportation system and by making freight rail service more widely available for businesses throughout the state. Rail freight improvements support the state's clean energy, congestion mitigation, and sustainable development goals.

The Murphy Administration has invested more than \$52.1 million in New Jersey's freight rail services, leveraging an additional \$19.5 million from railroad owners and operators, for a total of more than \$71.6 million in rail freight assistance program investment.

The Rail Freight Assistance Program, administered by the NJDOT [Office of Grants Management](#), provides funding for capital improvements that result in the continuation of economically viable rail freight services in the state. Grant applications are evaluated in part based on their value to improve New Jersey's rail freight system. Factors considered include safety, economic benefit and efficient freight distribution. Sponsors, typically the owner of the railroad, are also required to continue freight service on the improved line for at least five years after completion of the project.

The [New Jersey Rail Freight Assistance Program](#) grants typically provide funding for between 70 and 90 percent of the estimated cost of each project while the sponsor is responsible for providing the remaining amount. Owners, and/or operators of short line railroads in New Jersey that have an existing use and maintenance arrangement with the owner, may apply. All applicants must have an Eligibility Assessment Form approved through the SAGE system prior to submitting an application. An applicant can submit a maximum of two applications per fiscal year. Application **proposals are accepted through [SAGE](#)**, the State's on-line System for Administering Grants Electronically.

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