



JAKE'S LAW PLAYGROUND FUNDING FACT SHEET

[Jake's Law](#) (P.L. 2018, c. 104) was passed in 2018 to encourage the construction of inclusive playgrounds designed with standards exceeding those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) adopted regulations for Jake's Law that establish standards for Completely Inclusive Playgrounds ([N.J.A.C. 5:23-7.19 & 11.2](#)).

Green Acres has always funded inclusive, accessible playgrounds through its park development grants and loans, and will continue to do so. For the 2024 funding round, however, Green Acres is incentivizing such projects by making available 75% matching grants to counties and municipalities for Completely Inclusive Playgrounds. Awards are anticipated to be between \$750,000 - \$1,000,000 for counties and \$500,000 - \$750,000 for municipalities, subject to demand.

DCA's regulations include a number of specific requirements for Completely Inclusive Playgrounds, some of which may make the project more expensive than a standard playground. The intention of these rules and Jake's Law is to ensure that all children have access to playgrounds and recreational amenities, regardless of their physical abilities or neurodiversity. Please be assured that the costs associated with all requirements of a Completely Inclusive Playground can be included in your Green Acres application. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure compliance with DCA's rules. Applicants unable to meet DCA's requirements are encouraged to apply for Green Acres park development funding; applications can be found [here](#).

Frequently asked Jake's Law funding questions:

Why is fencing required? What type of fencing is needed?

Fencing is required around the entirety of the Completely Inclusive Playground as an added safety measure for children of all abilities. Traditional fencing materials are permitted, as well as natural barriers such as hedges.

What is required for the quiet play areas?

DCA regulations state that quiet play areas must be provided within Completely Inclusive Playgrounds. These quiet play areas likely will vary from playground to playground. Green Acres recommends that applicants engage with potential Completely Inclusive Playground users within their communities to solicit quiet play area suggestions and requests.

How much of the total playground must be shaded? How should the shading be provided?

A minimum of 20% of the total area of the Completely Inclusive Playground must be shaded. This 20% can be divided into smaller areas throughout the Playground, as long as the shaded percentage adds up to 20% of the total area. Shading may be provided by natural (e.g. existing mature trees) or man-made means (e.g. sun canopies).

Are restrooms required as part of a Completely Inclusive Playground?

The DCA regulations do not require construction of new restroom facilities in locations where restrooms are not already provided. In other words, if there currently are no restrooms servicing the area where the Completely Inclusive Playground will be located, you are not required to provide restrooms. Green Acres encourages applicants to provide appropriate restrooms at Completely Inclusive Playgrounds to promote a more positive user experience, but it is not a requirement of our funding.

If there currently are restrooms that service the area where the Completely Inclusive Playground will be, but they consist only of separate-sex and/or unisex restrooms, then a family/assisted use toilet room must be installed. The DCA regulations state that at least one restroom facility shall be a family/assisted-use toilet room installed in accordance with Section 1109.2.1.1 of the building subcode (excerpt below). A separate stall is not sufficient; per the DCA regulations, the family/assisted-use toilet room is a separate room with securable door and sufficient floor space. Please note that lower-cost options, such as a restroom trailer, may serve to meet the restroom requirement. Please consult with your local code official to ensure compliance.

1109.2.1 Family or Assisted-Use Toilet and Bathing Rooms

1109.2.1.1 Standard

Family or assisted-use toilet and bathing rooms shall comply with Sections 1109.2.1.2 through 1109.2.1.7.

1109.2.1.2 Family or Assisted-Use Toilet Rooms

Family or assisted-use toilet rooms shall include only one water closet and only one lavatory. A family or assisted-use bathing room in accordance with Section 1109.2.1.3 shall be considered to be a family or assisted-use toilet room.

Exception: The following additional fixtures shall be permitted in a family or assisted-use toilet room:

1. A urinal.
2. A child-height water closet.
3. A child-height lavatory.

1109.2.1.3 Family or Assisted-Use Bathing Rooms

Family or assisted-use bathing rooms shall include only one shower or bathtub fixture. Family or assisted-use bathing rooms shall also include one water closet and one lavatory. Where storage facilities are provided for separate-sex bathing rooms, accessible storage facilities shall be provided for family or assisted-use bathing rooms. [Green Acres Note: Bathing rooms are not expected to be part of a Completely Inclusive Playground project.]

1109.2.1.4 Location

Family or assisted-use toilet and bathing rooms shall be located on an accessible route. Family or assisted-use toilet rooms shall be located not more than one story above or below separate-sex toilet rooms. The accessible route from any separate-sex toilet room to a family or assisted-use toilet room shall not exceed 500 feet (152 m).

1109.2.1.5 Prohibited Location

In passenger transportation facilities and airports, the accessible route from separate-sex toilet rooms to a family or assisted-use toilet room shall not pass through security checkpoints.

1109.2.1.6 Clear Floor Space

Where doors swing into a family or assisted-use toilet or bathing room, a clear floor space not less than 30 inches by 48 inches (762 mm by 1219 mm) shall be provided, within the room, beyond the area of the door swing.

1109.2.1.7 Privacy

Doors to family or assisted-use toilet and bathing rooms shall be securable from within the room.