



Lee County's Office of Economic Development

BUSINESS INCENTIVES

Each year Lee County designates \$1.5 Million from general funds to be used for the purpose of business incentives. There are two incentives that utilize these funds: the Lee County Job Opportunity Program (LCJOP) and the State Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund Program (QTI) 20% local match.

I. LEE COUNTY JOB OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

Lee County desires to provide an incentive for locating or expanding companies creating high wage employment in targeted industries. Qualified companies may be awarded up to \$6,000 for each full-time, permanent job created, subject to a maximum award amount of \$500,000. The incentives are paid in the form of reimbursements for the Eligible Uses of Funds and as new jobs are created. New employment paying an average wage that exceeds the Lee County average may qualify for an award of up to \$2,000 per job. Businesses paying 115% of the annual average wage may qualify for an award of up to \$3,000 per job; businesses paying 125% of the annual average wage may receive up to \$4,000 per job; and businesses paying 150% or more of the annual average wage may qualify for up to \$5,000 per job.

An additional incentive of up to \$1,000 for each full-time, permanent job may be provided for a company locating or expanding in the Fort Myers/Lee County Enterprise Zone.

CRITERIA

- The company must create at least 10 new full-time, permanent jobs within a twelve month period. Additionally, a company may phase in new employment over a three year period provided that a minimum of 10 jobs is created in each project year. The new job functions should fall within the targeted industries contained in the attached list.
- Wages for new jobs should exceed the Lee County annual average wage.
- The company's share of sales or revenues of products or services derived from out of the region should exceed 50%.
- The company must be financially solid.
- Economic impact analysis demonstrates significant contribution to the area economy, including the indirect jobs created as spin-offs from the company's investment and new jobs.
- The incentive must be an inducement for the company to locate or expand in Lee County; application must be made prior to the company's making a decision.

ELIGIBLE USES OF FUNDS

Incentives will be paid in the form of reimbursements according to job creation milestones in the Performance Agreement for one or more of the following types of costs:

- Payment of impact or permit fees assessed by county, cities and/or special districts
- Infrastructure costs
- Capital machinery and equipment
- Existing facility improvements or rehabilitation
- Selected company relocation costs
- Land improvement costs
- Employee training costs (excluding ongoing staff development training)

Other types of expenses that may be approved by the Lee County Industrial Development Authority.

APPLICATION, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

The Lee County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) administers the Job Opportunity Program. Applications should be submitted to the IDA and approval by the IDA Board will be required for an award to the Company. The Company will sign a performance agreement. The company receiving the award will submit expenses to the IDA for reimbursement and will be paid at the end of each quarter based upon the performance of the company in creating the new jobs and wages agreed upon.

II. FLORIDA QUALIFIED TARGETED INDUSTRIES TAX REFUND PROGRAM(QTI)

The Florida QTI program provides a tax refund incentive for new or existing businesses to create quality value-added jobs. Lee County will provide a 20% match of the total amount awarded. For instance, if the total amount awarded is \$100,000, Lee County will provide \$20,000 while the State of Florida will contribute \$80,000.

Pre-approved applicants who create jobs in Florida receive tax refunds of \$3,000 per new job created. For businesses paying 150 percent of the average annual wage, add \$1,000 per job; for businesses paying 200 percent of the average annual wage, add \$2,000 per job.

APPLICATION, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND APPROVAL PROCESS

The Lee County Industrial Development Authority (IDA) administers the Lee County Qualified Targeted Industries Tax Refund Program (QTI). The application form and administrative regulations for this program have been developed by the State. A completed application form will be submitted to the IDA. The IDA Board will make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners requesting approval of a resolution committing the local 20 percent match as required by the State.

STATE OF FLORIDA & LEE COUNTY TARGET INDUSTRIES

*Only businesses serving **multi-state and/or international markets** are targeted. Business must be able to locate in other states. Retail activities, utilities, mining and other extraction or processing businesses, and activities regulated by the Division of Hotels and Restaurants of the Department of Business and Professional Regulation are statutorily excluded from consideration.*

ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORT SERVICES

Customer Care Centers

*Telephonic & On-line Business Services
Customer & Technical Support
Transaction Processing
Technical Support*

Credit Bureaus

CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

*Corporate, Subsidiary & Regional
Headquarters
Offices of Bank & Other Holding
Companies*

FINANCE & INSURANCE SERVICES

Credit Intermediation & Related Activities

Nondepository Credit Institutions

Securities, Commodity Contracts

Insurance Carriers

Funds, Trusts & Other Financial Vehicles

INFORMATION INDUSTRIES

Film, Video, Sound & Electronic Media

*Production (Excluding temporary "on location" filming)
Postproduction Services
Integrated Record
Production/Distribution*

Data Processing, Hosting & Related Services

Other Information Services

*Internet Publishing & Broadcasting
Web Search Portals*

Publishing Industries

*Software Publishing
Music Publishing*

Telecommunications

Satellite Communications

LIFE SCIENCES INDUSTRIES

*Biotechnology
Medical*

MANUFACTURING FACILITIES

Food & Beverage Products

Textile Mills & Apparel

Wood & Paper Product

Printing & Related Support Activities

Chemicals

*Ethanol & Biodiesel Fuel
Pharmaceutical*

Plastics & Rubber Products

Metal & Non-Metallic Mineral Products

Ultra High Purity Silicon

Machinery Manufacturing

*Electronic Flight Simulator
Optical Instruments
Turbine and Turbine Generator*

Electrical Equipment

Computer & Electronic Products

*Electromedical Apparatus
Laser & Optoelectronics
Semiconductor
Photovoltaic & Hydrogen Fuel Cells
Software Reproducing*

MANUFACTURING FACILITIES (Cont.)

Transportation Equipment

Aircraft

Marine

Aerospace

*Aircraft Maintenance, Repair &
Overhaul*

Furniture & Related Products

Miscellaneous

Surgical & Medical Instruments

PROFESSIONAL, SCIENTIFIC & TECHNICAL SERVICES

Professional, Scientific & Technical

*Computer Programming / Software
Development*

Computer System Design

*Management, Scientific & Technical
Services*

Research and Development

*Scientific and Technical Consulting
Services*

Simulation Training

Testing Laboratories

Space Launch Activities

Flight Training Services

Centralized Corporate Training Services

WHOLESALE TRADE

Merchant Wholesalers, Durable & Non-Durable

Electronic Markets Agents & Brokers