



## **LEE COUNTY 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 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**