



MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

**Frank Miles, Administrator
FACT SHEET**

Enterprise Zones in Madison County

An enterprise zone is a specific area designated by the State of Illinois on cooperation with a local government to receive various tax incentives and other benefits to stimulate economic activity and neighborhood revitalization. The Gateway Commerce Center, Riverbend, Southwestern Madison County, and Madison County Discovery Enterprise Zones are specific areas that have been designated by the State of Illinois, Madison County, and participating municipalities to provide special tax incentives to encourage businesses to locate, expand, and retain their operations within the enterprise zones. The Gateway Commerce Center Enterprise Zone, which was designated through the assistance of the Southwestern Illinois Development Authority (SWIDA), is comprised of portions of the city of Edwardsville, village of Pontoon Beach and unincorporated Madison County. The Riverbend Enterprise Zone is comprised of portions of the cities of Alton, Bethalto, East Alton, Hartford, Wood River, Roxana, South Roxana, and parts of unincorporated Madison County. The Southwestern Madison County Enterprise Zone is comprised of portions of Granite City, Madison, Venice, and parts of unincorporated Madison County. The Madison County Discovery Enterprise Zone is comprised of Collinsville, Glen Carbon, Highland, Maryville, Troy, St. Jacob, and parts of unincorporated Madison County.

Adding New Territory to Enterprise Zones in Madison County

To start the process, a community that wants to sponsor an addition to the Enterprise Zone contacts Madison County Community Development (MCCD) to set up an Enterprise Zone Management Committee (Mayors and County Board Chairman of the designating units of government that are within the joint Enterprise Zone) which is chaired by the County Board Chairman

In order to set up the meeting, there needs to be enough background information on the project to meet Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

DCEO's requirement under Option 1 to demonstrate that it is a viable project that will occur within 2 years

At the Management Committee meeting the project representative and the sponsoring government make their case to the Enterprise Zone Management Committee as to why the project should be added to the Zone

If the vote is unanimous, MCCD has permission to start the application process outlined in the attached DCEO document.

MCCD first arranges the public hearing

After the public hearing, MCCD prepares the draft ordinances and works with the project representative and the designating units of local governments in the joint enterprise zone to complete the attached application.

Once the draft ordinances are completed, MCCD works with all the designating units of government to get the ordinances passed. All the designating units of government in the joint zone must pass their ordinances amending their original Enterprise Zone ordinance to include the new territory.

After all the ordinances are passed and MCCD completes the required DCEO application to add territory to an Enterprise Zone, MCCD sends it to DCEO for their review and approval.

DCEO reviews and makes a decision regarding the Enterprise Zone. If it is favorable they send out a letter indicating the date the new territory is officially in the Zone. The project can receive benefits after that date. Activity before that date is not eligible for Enterprise Zone assistance.