

MISSOURI QUALITY JOBS PROGRAM

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

Facilitate the creation of quality jobs by targeted business projects.

AUTHORIZATION

Section 620.1875 to 620.1900, RSMo

ELIGIBLE AREAS

Statewide

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

For-profit and non-profit businesses [except for gambling, retail trade, food and drinking places, public utilities, educational services, ethanol distillation or production facilities, biodiesel production facilities, religious organizations, and public administration companies or business that are delinquent in non-protested taxes or other payments (state, federal or local), or any company that has filed for or has publicly announced its intention to file for bankruptcy.] Headquarters or administrative offices of otherwise excluded businesses that serve a multi-state area may qualify in some cases. The average wage of the new jobs must equal or exceed the county average wage (as published by DED), and the company must offer health insurance and pay at least 50% of the premium for all full-time employees in Missouri.

Average Wage: Total annual payroll of the new jobs divided by the average annual number of new jobs.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The business must create a minimum number of new jobs at the project facility prior to the "deadline" date, based on the type of project:

Small/Existing businesses:

- **Rural areas:** **20** or more new jobs within two years of the date of the DED's approval.
- **Non-rural areas*:** **40** or more new jobs within two years of the date of the DED's approval.

**Non-rural areas would include the counties of Boone, Buchanan, Clay, Greene, Jackson, St. Charles, and St. Louis city and county.*

Technology businesses (classified by NAICS codes):

- **10** or more new jobs within two years of the date of the DED's approval.

High Impact businesses:

- **100** or more new jobs within two years of the date of the hiring of the first new job, and the first new job must be within one year of the date of the DED's approval.

PROGRAM BENEFITS/ELIGIBLE USES

For "Small/Existing" businesses, the benefit of the program is the retention of the state withholding tax of the new jobs.

For "Technology" and "High Impact" businesses, the benefits of the program are: (a) the retention of the state withholding tax of the new jobs; and (b) state tax credits, which are refundable, transferable, and/or saleable. The program benefits are based on a percentage of the payroll of the new jobs. The program benefits are not provided until the minimum new job threshold is met and the company meets the average wage and health insurance requirements.

This tax credit can be applied to Chapter 143 (state income tax, excluding withholding tax) and Chapter 148 (financial institutions tax). Tax credits must be claimed within one year of the close of the taxable year that they were issued. Tax credits can only be applied to tax liability for the year in which they were earned. Any unused balance is refundable. The credits may also be transferred, sold, or assigned.

The program benefits are calculated as follows:

Small/Existing businesses:

Retain 100% of the withholding tax of the new jobs, each year for the benefit period of:

- **Three** years - if the average wage of new jobs is 100-119% of county average wage; or
- **Five** years - if the average wage of new jobs is 120% of county average wage.

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Technology businesses:

5% of the payroll of the new jobs each year for five years; *plus*:

- “Average Wage Bonus”

High Impact businesses:

3% of the payroll of the new jobs each year for five years; *plus*

- “Average Wage Bonus”
- “Local Incentives Bonus”

“Average Wage Bonus” (company average wage as a percentage of county average wage):

- Greater than 120% and up to 140%:
1/2 % bonus of payroll of the new jobs.
- Greater than 140%: **1%** bonus of payroll of the new jobs.

“Local Incentives Bonus” (amount of local incentives provided to the project as a percentage of the amount of new local tax revenues derived from the project, over 10 years):

- 10-24%: **1%** bonus of payroll of the new jobs.
- 25-49%: **2%** bonus of payroll of the new jobs.
- 50% or more: **3%** bonus of payroll of the new jobs.

Each time the business meets the minimum new job threshold, it may start a new benefit period for the net new jobs created. There is no limit on the number of benefit periods a company may use the program, as long as new Notice of Intent is completed and minimum new job thresholds and other program qualifications are met.

“**New Jobs**” are defined as full-time (35 or more hours/week), year-round employees of the company that are employed at the project facility, based on the increase from the “base employment” (*the number of full-time jobs at the facility, or the average number for the twelve-month period prior to the Notice of Intent, whichever is higher on the date DED receives the Notice of Intent*).

In the event the company (or a related company) reduced jobs at another facility in Missouri with related operations, the new jobs at the project facility would be reduced accordingly.

FUNDING LIMITS

There is no annual cap on the retained withholding taxes. The annual cap of tax credits for all projects is \$80,000,000 per calendar year, which is provided on a first-come basis.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

An application (“Notice of Intent”) may be submitted at any time of the year by the business to DED.

Applications may be obtained at www.missouridevelopment.org. DED’s approval will:

- Confirm that the type of project/business is eligible.
- Establish the date “base employment” is calculated.
- Reserve the estimated tax credits for the project.
- Establish the two-year “deadline” date for the creation of the minimum new jobs to be eligible for the program.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

On an annual basis, the business must submit a report documenting the new jobs created, the total payroll, and confirming that the business meets the health insurance requirements for the new jobs. In the event that a company has not maintained the minimum program requirements, benefits will cease for the remainder of the benefit period. A high-impact project may continue as a small/expanding project as long as new jobs and other program requirements are met SB1099, or the Tax Credit Accountability Act Reporting Form must be submitted to DED by June 30th each year the company receives tax credits and for the three years following the end of the benefit period.

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SPECIAL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

A business cannot earn benefits simultaneously at the project facility under this program if earning benefits under any of the following state programs:

- Missouri Enterprise Zone program or Enhanced Enterprise Zone
- Business Facility program
- Rebuilding Communities program
- Brownfield Jobs and Investment tax credits

Special conditions apply when Quality Jobs is used at the same time as other programs that affect state withholding taxes (New Jobs Training, State TIF, MODESA).

Estimated state withholding taxes, based on adjusted gross income (AGI):

- AGI up to \$20,000 1.4%
- AGI of \$20-25,000 1.9%
- AGI of \$25-30,000 2.4%
- AGI of \$30-35,000 2.7%
- AGI of \$35-40,000 2.9%
- AGI of \$40-50,000 3.1%
- AGI of \$50-70,000 3.2%
- AGI of \$70-85,000 3.3%
- AGI of \$85-100,000 3.4%
- AGI of \$100,000+ 4.2%

County average wages (effective until 7/1/12):
Average county wages based on Census of Employment and Wages, MERIC. Updates to be made annually. Use 2,080 hours per year when converting from hourly to annual wages.

County	Annual Average Wage
Franklin	\$32,297
Jefferson	\$30,943
Lincoln	\$30,852
St. Charles	\$37,312
St. Louis County	\$49,918
Warren	\$29,897
Washington	\$21,777
St. Louis City	\$51,508

Statewide average of \$40,856 applicable to any county over the statewide average.

CONTACT

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The St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association (RCGA) is the chamber of commerce and economic development organization for Greater St. Louis, which includes 16 counties in Missouri and Illinois. RCGA markets the St. Louis region nationally and internationally to attract targeted industries to the area. It further spurs economic development by aiding the expansion and startup of companies within the region.

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