



# ILLINOIS: BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES

**Illinois offers businesses seeking to locate or expand their operations numerous types of financial and non-financial assistance. Below is an overview of Illinois' major assistance programs and resources.**

## **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & JOB CREATION INCENTIVES**

### **Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Program**

- Provides a tax credit equal to 50% of the new full-time employees' payroll withholding tax and 25% withholding credits for retained jobs for 10 years to companies creating new jobs and making a qualifying capital investment.
- For projects located in underserved areas, companies receive credits equal to 75% of the new full-time employees' payroll withholding and 50% withholding credits for retained jobs.
- For startups, companies established less than 5 years before the filing of an application and that have never had any Illinois income tax liability are eligible to retain the payroll withholdings with an approved project.

### **Reimagining Energy and Vehicles (REV) Act**

- Provides incentives to expand in, or relocate to, Illinois for companies that manufacture, in whole or in part, electric vehicles and associated battery, charging infrastructure and recycling products, as well as renewables including solar, wind and energy storage.
- Expands targeted business population by allowing manufacturers of solar, renewables, and energy storage components to also be eligible under REV.
- Depending on project size, benefits of the program can last from twenty to thirty years, and include provisions to retain payroll tax withholding, exemptions on utilities taxes, training credits and grants, and equipment/capital cost exemptions. Local jurisdictions have the ability to provide property tax abatement for the life of agreement.

### **Enterprise Zones (EZ) and High Impact Business (HIB)**

- Provide various benefits including building material sales tax exemptions, utility tax exemptions (natural gas and electricity), and investment tax credits.
- Designed to stimulate economic growth and neighborhood revitalization in economically depressed areas of the state.
- Similar benefits are available to companies making substantial investments and creating or retaining large numbers of jobs in Illinois.

### **Data Centers Investment Program**

- Provides qualifying data center owners and operators (as well as certified tenants) with exemptions from a variety of state and local taxes.
- Program also provides data center owners and operators with a tax credit of 20% of wages paid for construction workers for projects located in underserved areas.

### **Manufacturing Illinois Chips for a Real Opportunity (MICRO)**

- Provides incentives for manufacturers of microchips and semiconductor parts that includes job creation and retention benefits, training cost benefits, credit for construction jobs, and investment credits.
- Program can be used in conjunction with federal CHIPS Act.

## CAPITAL GRANTS

### Invest in Illinois

- Newly created \$400M closing fund that will provide discretionary grant assistance for a large project with significant job creation, retention, and capital investment.

### Prime Sites Capital Grant Program

- Grants assists companies with large-scale investment projects that commit to significant job creation.
- Grants will range from \$250,000 to \$10 million, up to \$5,000 a job, with a 4:1 match.

### Illinois Department of Transportation-Economic Development Program (IDOT-EDP)

- A local government may apply for funding up to \$2,000,000 for roadway improvements or construction necessary for access to industrial, manufacturing or distribution companies.
- Grant funding can be up to \$30,000 for every full-time job created and \$10,000 for every full-time job retained.

## WORKFORCE ASSISTANCE

### Local Workforce Assistance

- Recruitment Services: Illinois' workforce partners provide no-cost human resource services for recruiting, retaining, and hiring qualified employees.
- Training Services: Illinois' local workforce areas offer federally-funded employer-based training programs for increasing skills of existing and new employees.
- Apprenticeship: Federal funding may be available for the classroom or on-the-job training components of Registered Apprenticeships.

### State Workforce Assistance-Employer Training Investment Program (ETIP)

- Training grants for employers, covering 50 percent of the cost for instruction, tuition and educational fees, training material and rent or lease of facility.

## SITE SELECTION ASSISTANCE

- Whether you're looking to expand your operations in Illinois with an additional facility or to establish a new presence in the Midwest, we can connect you with the property or site you need. Discover a variety of properties—from sprawling greenfield sites to state-of-the-art urban facilities—to fit your business needs in Illinois.

## OTHER INCENTIVES AND ASSISTANCE

### Research & Development Tax Credit

- Annual tax credit equal to 6.5% of qualifying research expenditures on in-house and contractual R&D performed in Illinois.

### Apprenticeship Educational Expense Tax Credit Program

- Tax credit for qualified educational expenses associated with training and upskilling apprentices. Employers are eligible for a tax credit of up to \$5,000 per apprentice.

### Advantage Illinois/FAME Participation Loan Program

- Provides low-interest loan participation awards for loans secured through certified approved lenders to provide financing to various small businesses at lower interest rates. Eligible loans can be used to finance the following: equipment, real estate (must be 51% or more occupied by the business), working capital, inventory, leasehold improvements, and accounts receivable.

### Foreign Trade Zones (FTZ)

- Available to companies located in specific areas, foreign and domestic merchandise may be admitted into Zones without being subject to formal Customs entry procedures, the payment of Customs duties or federal excise taxes.

### Personal Property Tax Exemption

- Illinois provides a blanket tax exemption on personal property taxes (equipment and inventory).

For an overview of our programs and to discuss your project, contact us at [CEO.TeamREDinquiries@Illinois.gov](mailto:CEO.TeamREDinquiries@Illinois.gov)