



MISSOURI QUALITY JOBS PROGRAM

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

Facilitate the creation of quality jobs by targeted business projects.

AUTHORIZATION

Section 620.1875-620.1900, 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 businesses 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/Expanding businesses:**
 - Rural areas: 20 or more new jobs within two years of the date of DED's approval.
 - Non-rural areas: 40 or more new jobs within two years of the date of DED's approval.
- **Technology businesses (classified by NAICS codes):**
 - 10 or more new jobs within two years of the date of 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 DED's approval.

PROGRAM BENEFITS/ELIGIBLE USES

For "Small/Expanding" 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/Expanding 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 at least 120% of county average wage.

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 a new Notice of Intent is completed and minimum new job thresholds and other program qualifications are met.

"New jobs" are defined as full-time (average 35 or more hours/week each year) 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. Tax credits issued for the entire program shall not exceed \$80,000,000 per calendar year, and are provided on a first-come basis.

Revised June 2011

APPLICATION/APPROVAL PROCEDURE

An application ("Notice of Intent") may be submitted to DED at any time of the year by the business. 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 2-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 the Department of Economic Development by June 30th each year the company receives tax credits and for the three years following the end of the benefit period.

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 program
- 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 \$40-45,000 3.1%
- AGI OF \$45-50,000 3.2%
- AGI OF \$50-55,000 3.3%
- AGI OF \$55-65,000 3.4%
- AGI OF \$65-70,000 3.5%
- AGI OF \$70-75,000 3.6%
- AGI OF \$75-\$100,000 3.7%
- AGI OF \$100,000+ 4.2%

CONTACT

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County average wages (effective until 7/1/12):

Average county wages are based on Census of Employment and Wages, MERIC Updates to be made annually. Use 2,080 hours per year when converting from annual to hourly wages.

County	Average Annual Wage	County	Average Annual Wage	County	Average Annual Wage
ADAIR	\$25,389	GREENE	\$34,676	OZARK	\$19,220
ANDREW	\$25,673	GRUNDY	\$30,306	PEMISCOT	\$26,568
ATCHISON	\$25,063	HARRISON	\$21,522	PERRY	\$30,077
AUDRAIN	\$30,673	HENRY	\$29,154	PETTIS	\$30,561
BARRY	\$30,975	HICKORY	\$18,277	PHELPS	\$28,390
BARTON	\$25,552	HOLT	\$26,486	PIKE	\$28,462
BATES	\$24,239	HOWARD	\$23,171	PLATTE	\$38,505
BENTON	\$24,172	HOWELL	\$28,380	POLK	\$25,857
BOLLINGER	\$26,516	IRON	\$35,160	PULASKI	\$25,165
BOONE	\$31,727	JACKSON	\$46,111	PUTNAM	\$22,603
BUCHANAN	\$35,979	JASPER	\$33,530	RALLS	\$33,249
BUTLER	\$28,849	JEFFERSON	\$30,943	RANDOLPH	\$30,339
CALDWELL	\$31,124	JOHNSON	\$26,679	RAY	\$28,099
CALLAWAY	\$38,043	KNOX	\$23,816	REYNOLDS	\$26,966
CAMDEN	\$26,875	LACLEDE	\$28,516	RIPLEY	\$19,896
CAPE GIRARDEAU	\$34,298	LAFAYETTE	\$26,588	ST. CHARLES	\$37,312
CARROLL	\$28,966	LAWRENCE	\$28,327	ST. CLAIR	\$20,526
CARTER	\$19,808	LEWIS	\$25,921	STE. GENEVIEVE	\$36,252
CASS	\$28,941	LINCOLN	\$30,852	ST. FRANCOIS	\$26,343
CEDAR	\$23,521	LINN	\$30,422	ST. LOUIS CO.	\$49,918
CHARITON	\$26,601	LIVINGSTON	\$28,842	SALINE	\$29,881
CHRISTIAN	\$26,531	MCDONALD	\$26,423	SCHUYLER	\$24,638
CLARK	\$22,153	MACON	\$27,207	SCOTLAND	\$19,971
CLAY	\$45,798	MADISON	\$24,548	SCOTT	\$29,553
CLINTON	\$26,665	MARIES	\$29,105	SHANNON	\$16,378
COLE	\$35,971	MARION	\$31,632	SHELBY	\$24,443
COOPER	\$27,979	MERCER	\$28,980	STODDARD	\$28,214
CRAWFORD	\$29,520	MILLER	\$27,185	STONE	\$23,548
DADE	\$25,594	MISSISSIPPI	\$25,058	SULLIVAN	\$34,083
DALLAS	\$21,907	MONITEAU	\$25,422	TANEY	\$25,402
DAVIESS	\$22,686	MONROE	\$26,313	TEXAS	\$24,276
DEKALB	\$27,756	MONTGOMERY	\$25,502	VERNON	\$30,874
DENT	\$27,665	MORGAN	\$22,983	WARREN	\$29,897
DOUGLAS	\$23,458	NEW MADRID	\$35,586	WASHINGTON	\$21,777
DUNKLIN	\$21,894	NEWTON	\$33,321	WAYNE	\$21,098
FRANKLIN	\$32,297	NODAWAY	\$30,332	WEBSTER	\$27,173
GASCONADE	\$25,552	OREGON	\$19,167	WORTH	\$20,437
GENTRY	\$25,706	OSAGE	\$25,955	WRIGHT	\$24,972
				ST. LOUIS CITY	\$51,508

- Statewide average of **\$40,856** applicable to any county over the statewide average when determining program eligibility.
- The wage represents an average for all private industries.
- If a project is moving from one Missouri county to a county with a lower county average wage, the company must obtain endorsement from the governing body of the community where the jobs are located, or the higher county average wage will be used for calculations.