



# 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.

*\*Non-rural areas 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 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 2010

## 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](http://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 7/1/11):

*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	\$24,713	GREENE	\$33,924	OZARK	\$18,490
ANDREW	\$24,610	GRUNDY	\$28,752	PEMISCOT	\$25,743
ATCHISON	\$24,508	HARRISON	\$20,915	PERRY	\$29,557
AUDRAIN	\$30,100	HENRY	\$28,870	PETTIS	\$29,343
BARRY	\$30,109	HICKORY	\$17,680	PHELPS	\$28,381
BARTON	\$25,455	HOLT	\$25,796	PIKE	\$28,258
BATES	\$23,578	HOWARD	\$22,572	PLATTE	\$38,610
BENTON	\$23,100	HOWELL	\$26,913	POLK	\$25,567
BOLLINGER	\$22,566 *	IRON	\$36,845 *	PULASKI	\$25,196
BOONE	\$31,523	JACKSON	\$45,979	PUTNAM	\$21,350
BUCHANAN	\$34,321	JASPER	\$32,461	RALLS	\$35,154
BUTLER	\$27,500	JEFFERSON	\$30,743	RANDOLPH	\$29,274
CALDWELL	\$28,803	JOHNSON	\$25,075	RAY	\$26,725
CALLAWAY	\$36,284	KNOX	\$23,333	REYNOLDS	\$24,670
CAMDEN	\$25,886	LACLEDE	\$27,417	RIPLEY	\$19,366
CAPE GIRARDEAU	\$33,330	LAFAYETTE	\$26,001	ST. CHARLES	\$36,562
CARROLL	\$29,186	LAWRENCE	\$27,628	ST. CLAIR	\$21,675
CARTER	\$17,464	LEWIS	\$25,406	STE. GENEVIEVE	\$36,015
CASS	\$28,666	LINCOLN	\$31,301	ST. FRANCOIS	\$25,769
CEDAR	\$22,165	LINN	\$28,812	ST. LOUIS CO.	\$49,281
CHARITON	\$24,107	LIVINGSTON	\$27,839	SALINE	\$28,834
CHRISTIAN	\$25,838	MCDONALD	\$25,794	SCHUYLER	\$24,539
CLARK	\$21,528	MACON	\$27,072	SCOTLAND	\$20,514
CLAY	\$42,019	MADISON	\$23,497	SCOTT	\$29,469
CLINTON	\$28,353	MARIES	\$26,692	SHANNON	\$17,805
COLE	\$35,123	MARION	\$29,945	SHELBY	\$23,361
COOPER	\$26,487	MERCER	\$28,853	STODDARD	\$27,226
CRAWFORD	\$28,696	MILLER	\$26,491	STONE	\$23,580
DADE	\$24,922	MISSISSIPPI	\$23,839	SULLIVAN	\$33,026
DALLAS	\$21,599	MONITEAU	\$25,422	TANEY	\$24,995
DAVIESS	\$22,104	MONROE	\$25,801	TEXAS	\$23,576
DEKALB	\$24,061	MONTGOMERY	\$25,052	VERNON	\$26,101
DENT	\$25,103	MORGAN	\$22,105	WARREN	\$30,350
DOUGLAS	\$25,474	NEW MADRID	\$34,808	WASHINGTON	\$21,421
DUNKLIN	\$21,636	NEWTON	\$33,474	WAYNE	\$21,241
FRANKLIN	\$31,105	NODAWAY	\$30,338	WEBSTER	\$26,097
GASCONADE	\$23,769	OREGON	\$19,743	WORTH	\$18,766
GENTRY	\$25,050	OSAGE	\$28,117	WRIGHT	\$23,892
				ST. LOUIS CITY	\$50,181

- \* An anomaly in data was removed from the average wage data for Bollinger and Iron counties.
- Statewide average of **\$40,168** 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.