

RURAL SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS



Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund Program

- Higher award maximum; up to \$8,000 per job (\$6,000 base) rather than up to \$5,000 per job (\$3,000 base) in other areas.
- For projects in rural counties, local governments may request an exemption from the required local 20 percent match.
- Average annual wage requirement may be waived for projects located in a rural city or county or an enterprise zone.

(Rural city is defined as a city with a population of less than or equal to 10,000 or a city with a population of greater than 10,000 but less than 20,000 and approved by the Office of Tourism, Trade and Economic Development. Rural county is defined as a county with a population of less than or equal to 75,000 or a county with a population of 100,000 or fewer which is contiguous to a county with a population of 75,000 or fewer.)

Quick Response Training (QRT) Program

- Average annual wage requirement may be waived.
- No minimum job requirement.

Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) Program

Funding priority will be given to:

- Businesses with 25 employees or less;
- Businesses located in rural areas; or
- Businesses whose grant proposals represent a significant upgrade in employee skills.

Rural Job Tax Credit

- A Rural Job Tax Credit is an incentive for eligible businesses located within a rural county to create new jobs.
- The tax credit provides for \$1,000 per qualified employee.
- Can be taken against either the Florida Corporate Income Tax or the Florida Sales and Use Tax.

tion Fund (Road Fund)



Economic Development Transportation Fund (Road Fund)

Flexibility in determining the per job award amount may be granted if at least two of the following are met:

- Unemployment rate exceeds the state's by three percentage points;
- Project is located in a rural county, an enterprise zone or in a targeted area of a community development corporation;
- Poverty rate exceeds the state's by three percentage points or per capita income level is three percentage points below the state's average;
- Capital investment is greater than \$10 million;
- · Project is a recycling project; or
- Local area's comprehensive plan contains an economic development element.



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Enterprise Zone Jobs Tax Credit

- Higher tax credit for businesses located in a rural enterprise zone and whose employees reside in a rural county (30% of wages paid per new employee; 20% in non-rural areas). If 20 percent or more of the employees live in a rural enterprise zone, the job tax credit is increased to 45% (30% in non-rural zones).
- May be applied to either Corporate Income Tax or Sales & Use Tax.

Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program

- · For projects in rural counties;
- Any public purpose project may be acquired, constructed or improved;
- Could be a loan to or guarantee for a unit of local government;
- Financial assistance cannot exceed 10 percent of the project's cost up to a maximum amount of \$400,000.

Rural Infrastructure Fund

- For rural communities in Florida to facilitate the planning, preparation and financing of infrastructure projects which will result in job creation, capital investment, and the strengthening and diversification of rural economies by promoting tourism, trade and economic development;
- There are three types of grants available under this fund:
 - (1) Total Project Participation Grant
 - (2) Feasibility Grant and
 - (3) Preclearance Review Grant.

