

City of Dallas Public/Private Programs

It is the purpose of the following programs to provide assistance only for projects where such assistance is necessary to stimulate private investment. Accordingly, these programs are available when agreements between the City and private parties that are not tax-exempt are approved by City Council prior to private investment occurring. Projects seeking economic incentives must provide written assurance that 'but for' the incentives sought, the proposed project would be substantially altered such that the project would not otherwise occur in the city or the economic returns to the city would be reduced. Projects occurring in Southern Dallas are provided special consideration.

The information contained herein shall not be construed as implying or suggesting that the City of Dallas is offering or is under any obligation to provide tax abatement or other incentives to any applicant, and all applicants shall be considered on a case-by-case basis. Pawnshops, sexually-oriented businesses, bars, truck stops, and truck dealerships are excluded from consideration for incentives provided under this program.

Eligibility Requirements

Each geographic area of the City has a minimum requirement in order to be considered for incentives:

- **Southern Dallas:** Projects must create/retain 25 jobs or provide \$1 million of investment;
- **Northern Dallas and Central Business District:** Projects must create/retain 150 jobs or provide \$10 million of investment; and
- **Non-Conforming Projects:** Projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Tax Abatement

Temporary abatement of either real estate or personal property taxes. Recipient firms must meet primary considerations of capital improvements and job creation/retention. City staff may consider secondary considerations such as Dallas resident employment, efforts to exceed minimum environmental regulations, wage rates, community activities, target industry projects, and M/WBE participation when negotiating this incentive. A firm's tax abatement percentage will be reduced by 25 percent for any single year of the tax abatement term in which secondary considerations included in the agreement are not met unless an alternative method is prescribed by City Council in a project specific resolution. Real property tax abatement is not available in TIF Districts. In limited cases, projects may be considered for a combination of both real and personal property tax abatement when the combined amount does not exceed 90 percent of the City taxes on total new improvement value. All tax abatements must begin by January 1 of the second calendar year following City Council authorization.

Abatement Benefits

- **Southern Dallas:** Real property tax abatement up to 90 percent for 10 years and/or a business personal property tax abatement of up to 50 percent for five years;
- **North Dallas:** Real property tax abatement up to 50 percent for 10 years and/or a business personal property tax abatement of up to 50 percent for five years;
- **Central Business District:** Business personal property tax abatement of up to 75 percent for five years and/or for non-TIF District sites real property tax abatement of up to 90 percent for 10 years; and
- **Non-Conforming Projects:** Projects will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

INCENTIVES NEGOTIATED OR PROPOSED BY CITY STAFF ARE SUBJECT TO SPECIFIC FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL GUIDELINES, FUNDING AVAILABILITY AND CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL. DEPENDING ON THE INCENTIVE, THERE MAY BE ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS BASED ON GEOGRAPHY, PROJECT SIZE AND OTHER FACTORS.

Business Development Chapter 380 Grant Program

Companies considering a relocation/expansion or new commercial development may be eligible for a grant in lieu of tax abatement or to defray project costs such as: land purchase, building costs, public infrastructure costs, development fees, right of way abandonment fees, loan guarantees, training costs, relocation costs, etc. Grants will be considered on a case-by-case basis and are subject to funding limitations and investment/job eligibility requirements. Companies will be required to meet eligibility requirements of the Public/Private Partnership Program.

Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Program

Minimum eligibility for consideration of city incentives through the Public/Private Partnership Program will require a cumulative investment of \$300 million for new mixed-use, commercial, retail and/or residential development in proximity of at least two DART light-rail transit stations (with one or both in Southern Dallas). TOD projects are eligible for consideration for the full complement of necessary and appropriate incentives available through this program including, but not limited to, tax increment financing, tax abatement, grants and loans, and infrastructure cost participation. Residential developments seeking incentives will be required to have a 20 percent affordable housing set aside in North Dallas and mixed-income housing in Southern Dallas. Further, projects must meet the City's established Good Faith Effort guidelines for M/WBE participation.

Economic Development GO Bond Program for Southern Dallas

General Obligation Bond funding may be used as described in this paragraph for private commercial, industrial, retail, residential, and mixed-use development in the Southern area of the city that promotes economic development. Funding may be provided as a catalyst to promote private economic development and may be used for planning, designing, extending, constructing and acquiring land for public streets, utilities and other related infrastructure facilities or uses consistent with this purpose. Funding is also available in support of mixed-use or residential development, for the acquisition of improved and unimproved properties and for the cost of demolition of existing structures. Private developments may be eligible for economic development grants and loans pursuant to Chapter 380 of the Texas Local Government Code. Grants and loans will be considered for infrastructure improvements and/or land acquisition consistent with the scope of funding and other uses described above. Grants or loans will be considered on a case-by-case basis subject to funding limitations and development agreements approved by City Council, which agreements will contain appropriate conditions, safeguards and benchmarks to ensure that the public purpose of economic development will be carried out. Residential developments will be required to have a mixed-income set aside. Further, it is anticipated that resources and other forms of development assistance from other applicable City economic development programs may be utilized to support this program.

Local Government Corporation (LGC) Chapter 380 Grant Program

The City of Dallas will consider making grants from its general fund to a LGC, subject to annual appropriation of funds and the approval of the Dallas City Council. These funds will be restricted to the payment of project costs, including the payment of debt service on any bonds issued by the LGC to finance project costs, and the funding of any necessary reserve fund or capitalized interest accounts and the payment of the cost of issuance of bonds.

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Target Industry Projects

Target Industry projects are provided special consideration for economic incentives and are generally defined as follows: Brownfields or recycling, information technology, building materials and furnishings, company headquarters, logistics, telecommunications, transportation manufacturing and assembly, film/television/media, advanced instruments and food processing/distribution. Due to the temporary nature of film/television production, projects in this industry are not required to meet minimum job or investment eligibility established for the Public/Private Partnership Program. Rather, these projects are considered on a case-by-case basis with consideration given to the positive economic returns projects bring to the City. Target Industry projects must be confirmed in advance by the City in order to receive consideration under this designation.

Non-Conforming Projects

Non-Conforming projects are considered on a case-by-case basis for high impact projects, unique developments and competitive situations where projects may receive competing offers of incentives. These projects require a simple majority vote of City Council in Southern Dallas and a 3/4 vote of City Council in the CBD and in Northern Dallas. High Impact Project - Projects creating/retaining a minimum of 500 jobs with substantial capital investment. In addition, this status may be granted to major projects by Fortune 500, Manufacturers 400, or Global 500 listed firms.

Competitive and Retention Projects

In special cases, companies receiving competing offers of incentives or those currently located in the city of Dallas considering a relocation/expansion are eligible to apply for financial incentives with negotiable terms. Existing firms must expand job base by 25 percent to be eligible for consideration. Incentives may be offered in specific cases to 'match other offers.' Companies may be required to demonstrate competing cities, offers, land/lease costs, taxes at current rates, utility rates, relocation costs, other significant costs and 'gap' to be filled, etc.

Other Sources of Financial Assistance

Tax Increment Districts

Special districts funding public improvements (not services) with increased tax revenues resulting from new private development. Tax rates are the same as elsewhere in the City and no added cost to private parties is incurred.

Public Improvement Districts

Special districts created by petition to privately fund public improvements or special supplemental services over and above those provided by City, when such services are supportive of related City investments in capital improvements.

City of Dallas Regional Center - EB-5

The City of Dallas Regional Center (CDRC) is designed to open a new source of foreign private capital that can be aligned with Dallas' Public/Private Partnership Program to fuel the City of Dallas' economic growth strategy. The CDRC encompasses the entire City of Dallas geographical area, with an emphasis on Target Employment Areas (TEA) such as Southern Dallas. CDRC capital is aggregated from foreign investors into limited partnerships and then invested as debt and/or equity into developments or businesses that meet stringent underwriting

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criteria. The CDRC is structured specifically to attract high net worth investors, who must pass rigorous screening tests in order to receive a conditional investment visa in exchange for investing a minimum of \$500,000 (for investments in a TEA) or \$1,000,000 in businesses or projects that generate real and permanent jobs for the City of Dallas.

New Market Tax Credits

The City of Dallas participates in the New Market Tax Credit Program (NMTC), a federal program operated by the Department of Treasury, that provides opportunities for new development in traditionally underserved areas. The program provides NMTC investors with a 39% federal tax credit payable over seven years. These investments are partnered with additional funds for businesses and real estate development in Low Income Neighborhoods.

Foreign Trade Zone

Allows duty-free importing of foreign-made components into the Zone, where they may be assembled, manufactured, processed or packaged. Duties are charged only when products are subsequently distributed into the U.S. market - if they are shipped to international markets, no duty is levied.

State Incentives

The City of Dallas will facilitate applications for assistance from State programs including Enterprise Zone Projects, Texas Enterprise Fund, and the Texas Emerging Technology Fund.

Contact Us

To obtain more detail on these programs, or to inquire regarding other assistance, contact:
Office of Economic Development, Dallas City Hall, 1500 Marilla Street, Room 5CS, Dallas, Texas 75201,
Phone: (214) 670-1685, Fax: (214) 670-0158.