

## CAMDEN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

### I. Program Overview

- a. The Camden County Economic Development Incentive (EDI) Grant Program formalizes guidelines for the use of economic incentives to increase and diversify the tax base, offer improved employment opportunities for its citizens, and promote economic growth and welfare for the business and industrial community. The EDI program assists Camden County in remaining competitive with surrounding counties and states by promoting the area as an excellent site for new industrial and business locations, as well as, encouraging the expansion of existing industries and businesses within the county. This EDI Grant Program replaces any previously enacted policies established by the County.

### II. Program Description

- a. The EDI grant involves a contractual agreement between the County and any new or existing industry and/or business, which would allow for a financial incentive grant up to five (5) years. If the business has met and continues to meet specific criteria as outlined in a formal agreement, the County will make an economic development grant to the company for a period of up to five (5) consecutive years.
- b. Each individual grant will require a separate contract agreement approved by the company and the County following a properly noticed public hearing.
- c. Under this incentive policy, companies may qualify for, but are not guaranteed, a financial incentive grant. The County reserves complete discretion in determining which eligible projects warrant a financial incentive grant. The County will use criteria outlined in this document and other policy documents to accept, reject or modify the grant amount
- d. Each development project will be evaluated utilizing a point system with a varying number of points allocated among twelve (12) categories of community benefits with a maximum 100 possible points. The resulting total points will determine which of five (5) incentive levels the project is eligible.
- e. The monetary value of each financial incentive grant shall be calculated as a percentage of annual property taxes paid by the company. For each year of the grant, the company will receive an award based on a percentage of property taxes paid that year. The percentage is determined by the project's score, as detailed below, and the percentage will decrease each of the five years. **Grant awards shall only be made after the company has paid its annual property tax and presented evidence of compliance with performance measures of the agreement.**

- f. All incentive grant programs must be inspected and confirmed by a representative of Camden County appointed by the Board of Commissioners or County Manager during the five (5) year grant period as to job retention, property value investment, wages paid and all other performance measures by which the project benefits are determined. Failure to annually meet the projected agreed upon benchmark evaluation thresholds shall result in a reduction or termination of grant award for that year as set forth in the executed grant agreement.

### **III. General Program Guidelines**

- a. This policy only addresses one form of incentive that the County may offer: financial grant awards determined by property tax amounts. The County may, at its discretion, offer other kinds of incentives to companies in addition to—or instead of—this type of financial incentive.
- b. The guidelines for the program shall be subject to periodic review. Changing economic conditions or state incentive programs may cause the Board of Commissioners to modify, amend, or even terminate the program subject to compliance with any industrial or business development incentive grants in effect at that time. However any project that has been provided an incentive grant prior to any program changes shall continue to receive an annual award for the period of the agreement as long as it remains compliant with the terms of the agreement.
- c. Economic development incentive grant benefits may not be transferred to another party without the specific written consent of the Board of Commissioners.
- d. The Economic Development Incentive Grant Program will be under the purview of the County Manager or his designee with assistance from other county departments (i.e., Planning, Tax, Finance, etc.) and the Camden County Economic Development Commission.
- e. Applications from businesses or industries that otherwise may qualify for incentive grants may be rejected if that business or industry is judged to be detrimental to the quality of life, degrade the environment, use excess resources (water, etc.), or project a negative image of the county.

### **IV. Application for Participation**

- a. Applicants may also pre-qualify for participation by submitting a letter-of-intent followed by a formal application. Satisfying this requirement does not guarantee approval for participation in the EDI Grant Program.
- b. **The letter of application must specifically include the following:**

- i. A statement formally requesting approval by the Camden County Board of Commissioners authorizing the business's or industry's participation in the Camden County Economic Development Incentive Grant Program;
- ii. A complete description of the business or industry including the mailing address, telephone number and specific location of the business or industry within Camden County, the business's or industry's tax identification number, the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) code and the names, titles and addresses of all owners of the business or industry, or corporate officers for an incorporated entity;
- iii. A categorical summary of the qualifying capital investment made (or projected) in Camden County.
- iv. A non-refundable application fee of \$250.00.

**V. Approval Process**

- a. Following receipt of the application letter and fee, the County Manager or his designee will meet with applicant to identify additional materials required to evaluate the company.
- b. The company will be asked to provide the county with certain specific information regarding wages, payroll, and accounting records in order to complete the evaluation. This information will be maintained confidentially by the county to the fullest extent allowed by state and federal law.
- c. Following evaluation and final discussions with the applicant a standard grant contract will be prepared and submitted to the Board of Commissioners for consideration following a properly noticed public hearing.

**VI. Businesses interested in participating in the Program must submit a letter of application to:**

Chairman  
Camden County Board of Commissioners  
c/o: Camden County Manager: Michael Renshaw  
P.O. Box 190  
Camden, NC 27921

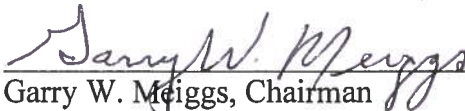
**Program adoption and effective date**

The Camden County Economic Development Commission on MARCH 11, 2014 endorsed these guidelines and qualification for the Camden County Economic Development Incentive Grant Program.

The effective date of implementation of the EDI Grant Program will be APRIL 7, 2014 for agreements related to new projects locating, and existing industrial or business expansions, occurring in the Camden County subject to agreements approved by the County Commissioners.

Adopted by the Camden County Board of Commissioners, this 7<sup>TH</sup> day of APRIL 2014.

CAMDEN COUNTY

  
Garry W. Meiggs, Chairman  
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk to the Board  
(SEAL)

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

JOBS	Points
<b>Number of jobs created</b>	
1-5	8
6-15	10
16-25	12
26-35	14
36-45	16
46 - 100	18
Over 100	20
<i>Maximum points</i>	<i>20</i>
<b>Hiring Camden County residents (number of positions company seeks to fill in county through approved local hiring process)</b>	
1-4	3
5-9	5
10-14	7
15-19	9
20 and above	11
<i>Maximum points</i>	<i>11</i>
<b>Wage level of new jobs</b>	
100% of county average or more	5
Greater than the lower of county average or state average	7
Greater than the higher of county average or state average	9
<i>Maximum points</i>	<i>9</i>
<b>Quality of new jobs</b>	
Partial employer paid health insurance	2
Total employer paid health insurance	4
Retirement benefits	2
Paid vacation	2
<i>Maximum points</i>	<i>8</i>

CAPITAL INVESTMENT	Points
Level of capital investment	
\$50,000 – \$249,000	3
\$250,000 - \$500,000	5
\$500,001 - \$750,000	6
\$750,001 - \$999,999	8
\$1,000,000 - \$2,999,999	10
\$3,000,000 - \$4,999,999	11
\$5,000,000 - \$10,000,000	12
Over \$10,000,000	13

<i>Maximum points</i>	<b>13</b>
<b>INDUSTRY CLUSTERS AND BUSINESS TYPE</b>	<b>Points</b>
Company's in-county purchases and/or sales as percentage of total purchases and/or sales	
10-20%	7
20-30%	9
30% and above	11
<i>Maximum points</i>	<b>11</b>
<b>Target clusters</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Company headquarters located in county</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Woman/minority owned business</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>	<b>Points</b>
<b>Environmental features</b>	
Green facility	4
Green operations	4
<i>Maximum points</i>	<b>8</b>
<b>Building re-use</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Location in target area</b>	<b>3</b>

#### Summary of Points

Category	Number of points available
<b>Jobs</b>	48
<b>Capital Investment</b>	13
<b>Industry Cluster/Business Type</b>	25
<b>Environmental impact</b>	14
<b>Total points</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Number of points needed for each incentive level

Total points	Incentive Level
<b>25-39</b>	1
<b>40-49</b>	2
<b>50-59</b>	3
<b>60-69</b>	4
<b>70-79</b>	5
<b>80 and above</b>	6

**Incentive award as percentage of property tax**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Level 4</b>	<b>Level 5</b>	<b>Level 6</b>
<b>Year 1</b>	50%	70%	75%	80%	90%	90%
<b>Year 2</b>	40%	60%	65%	70%	80%	80%
<b>Year 3</b>	30%	50%	55%	60%	70%	75%
<b>Year 4</b>	20%	40%	45%	50%	60%	75%
<b>Year 5</b>	30%	35%	40%	50%	60	60%