

RICHMOND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

I. OVERVIEW

In order to expand economic and industrial development options for Richmond County as well as diversify the tax base, offer improved employment opportunities for its citizens, and promote the economic growth and welfare of the business community, the Board of Commissioners established a Revolving Loan Fund Program (RLFP) to encourage expansions and locations of industry in Richmond County.

The Economic Development Grant Program (EDGP) provides for the use of economic incentives by County Government to encourage expansion and location of industry in Richmond County. This Economic Development Grant Program (EDGP) works in conjunction with any previously enacted policy guidelines.

It shall be the purpose of this program to encourage new investment and job creation in Richmond County. This program shall be available to manufacturing and warehouse/distribution companies only. This program shall not be available to retail or service concerns unless specifically authorized in advance by the Board of Commissioners. (Prior approval by the Board of Commissioners of retail and service companies for the grant program shall be required.) Since it is the intent of this program to stimulate new investments and job creation, any investment by an existing company that either adds no net new jobs or results in a net reduction in jobs will not qualify for the program.

II. PROGRAM PARAMETERS

The Economic Development Grant involves a contractual agreement between the County and a new or existing business that would allow for an annual financial grant based upon the actual value, schedule and payment of local property taxes for a period of up to five consecutive years. The County will require the business to annually “pay in full” property taxes due and to meet specific criteria as outlined in a formal agreement.

Each project would be considered on an individual basis using guidelines established under the direction of the Board of Commissioners. Changing economic conditions may cause the Board of Commissioners to modify, amend, or even terminate the program subject to compliance with any economic development grants in effect at that time.

III. GUIDELINES

Present guidelines for consideration in authorizing an economic development grant may include, but are not limited to:

1. Total financial investment
2. Number of jobs created
3. Payroll
4. Potential for future expansion and increased employment
5. County and local investment required
6. "Spin off" effects of existing and new business
7. Other

QUALIFICATION

In addition to the guidelines listed above, the following shall also apply:

To be considered eligible for an Economic Development Grant Program, a project will be required to meet certain criteria. The Board of Commissioners may determine additional criteria to be applied to a specific project based upon the terms of the agreement between the client and the County. Grants may be awarded up to the amounts listed below:

Minimum property tax value increase to qualify for consideration.

Level I - \$ 1,000,000.00

Level II - \$ 5,000,000.00

Level III - \$ 20,000,000.00

Level IV - \$ 50,000,000.00

Maximum Grants based on property tax value increase

Level I – 50%

Level II – 60%

Level III – 70%

Level IV – 85%

All grants may be provided for a maximum of five consecutive years.

Economic Development Grant Program payments will begin the fiscal year following completion of the first tax year.

Grant payments will not be made unless the applicable business is current in all other required local property tax payments of record within Richmond County.

No Economic Development Grant shall be paid to any business with an active tax appeal. Economic Development Grant benefits may not be transferred or otherwise conveyed to another party without the specific consent of the Board of Commissioners. All Economic

Development Grants are to be conveyed by a formal agreement between the business and the County.

The Richmond County Economic Development Grant Program becomes effective this 2nd day of June 1997 as adopted by the Richmond County Board of Commissioners.