

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015- 35

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A NEW COUNTY DEPARTMENT THE "DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"; CREATING THE SUWANNEE COUNTY BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF COUNTY FUNDS FOR PROVIDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS TO QUALIFIED APPLICANTS; PROVIDING THAT NO ENTITLEMENT IS CREATED FOR THE RECEIPT OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT; PROVIDING THAT THE RESOLUTION SHALL NOT BE CONSTRUED AS A DELEGATION OF DECISION MAKING AUTHORITY FROM THE BOARD TO THE DEPARTMENT; PROVIDING GRANT APPLICATION PROCEDURES; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF GRANT APPLICATIONS; REQUIRING THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND A QUALIFYING BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY AS A CONDITION FOR RECEIPT OF A GRANT; PERMITTING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO DIRECT COUNTY STAFF TO EXPEDITE THE COUNTY'S PERMITTING AND DEVELOPMENT ORDER PROCESS FOR PROJECTS THAT RECEIVE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANTS; PROVIDING PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMING FUNDING AWARDED PURSUANT TO A GRANT AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County, Florida has made economic development a top priority and is committed to the attraction of high quality development in all areas of the county to expand and diversify the commercial tax base and create higher-wage and sustainable jobs for its citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, success in economic development will ensure Suwannee County's long-term financial ability to provide quality services and infrastructure to improve the quality of life for its residential and corporate citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 125.045, Florida Statutes, authorizes the governing body of a County to make grants to private enterprise to encourage the expansion of existing businesses or the attraction of new businesses to a community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to promote its economic development goals through a performance-based program designed to provide economic incentives for both existing businesses desiring to expand and new businesses desiring to locate within the County, and to encourage development of Speculative Space for industrial and office projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to provide access and local financial support as required for qualifying businesses applying for State of Florida economic development incentives, such as, among other things, the Qualified Target Industry incentive program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board desires to create a new County department to, among other tasks, administer the desired program.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners for Suwannee County as follows:

**Section 1. Creation of the Department of Economic Development**

A. Pursuant to Section 2-201(g), Code of Ordinances of Suwannee County, the Board hereby creates a new administrative department to be known as the "Department of Economic Development" to administer and carry out the economic directives and policies of the Board of County Commissioners, including but not limited to, administration of the Program hereinafter created herein to encourage creation, expansion, and relocation of targeted industries within and to the County and to encourage development of Speculative Space for industrial and office projects. The Department shall have no authority with respect to land acquisition, land use, or issuance of development orders or permits, and it shall not have the authority to expend County funds except in compliance with existing county department regulations and authority.

B. The Department of Economic Development initially shall consist of the Suwannee County Director of Economic Development who is hereby designated as the Department Head. The Department shall operate subject to the same provisions of the Suwannee County Code of Ordinances as other existing County departments under the supervision and support of the County Administrator who shall provide such County facilities, equipment, and supplies and support as is reasonably necessary for the Department to carry out its proper and on-going functions pursuant to ordinance.

C. The Department may execute on behalf of the Board Agreements pursuant to Section 288.075(2)(a), Florida Statutes, maintaining the confidentiality of information concerning plans, intentions, or interests of an Applicant seeking to locate, relocate, or expand its business activities within Suwannee County.

D. The Office of the County Attorney shall provide legal counsel to the Department.

E. Present and former employees, attorneys, and staff of the Department shall not disclose any information that they receive in the course of business of the Department where such disclosure is prohibited under Florida law.

**Section 2. No Delegation of Decision-Making Authority**

Nothing contained herein shall be construed as a delegation of decision-making authority from the Board to the Department.

**Section 3. Creation of Suwannee County Business Incentive Program**

The Board hereby creates the Suwannee County Business Incentive Program to be administered by the Department as delineated herein below.

**Section 4. Definitions.**

A. Applicant means a natural person or business entity that submits an application for a County Economic Development Grant pursuant to this Program.

B. Application means an application for a County Economic Development Grant.

C. Board means the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County, Florida.

D. Confidentiality Provisions means the provisions of Section 288.075, Florida Statutes, regarding the confidentiality of information concerning an Applicant's plans, intentions, or interests to locate, relocate, or expand any of its business activities within the County.

E. County means Suwannee County, a political subdivision of the State of Florida

F. County Administrator means the county administrator of the County or the county administrator's designee.

G. Director means the Suwannee County Director of Economic Development.

H. Fiscal Year means the Suwannee County Fiscal Year, which runs from October 1 to September 30 each year.

I. Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Jobs means full-time equivalent positions, as defined by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity for purposes of unemployment compensation tax administration and employment estimation, resulting directly from a Project in the County. This term does not include temporary construction jobs involved in the construction of facilities for the Project or any jobs which have previously been included in any application for tax refunds under Sections 288.1045 or 288.106, Florida Statutes.

J. Grant means an Economic Development Grant awarded pursuant to this Program.

K. Grant Agreement, or Agreement, means a written agreement between the County and the recipient of a County Economic Development Grant.

L. Program means the Suwannee County Business Incentive Program.

M. Project means the creation of a new business within Suwannee County, the relocation of a new business from outside the County, the expansion of an existing business within the County, or the development of Speculative Space for industrial or office projects.

N. Department means the Department of Economic Development created in Section 1 above.

O. Speculative Space means development of a shell building for ultimate use for industrial or office projects.

P. Qualified Target Industry Program, or QTI Program, means the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity's Qualified Target Industry job creation incentive program, in which it is customary for the local governmental entity to provide a participating financial match defined as local financial support, which generally represents 20 percent of the state-approved incentive amount, or due to location, is eligible for local financial support exemption option of QTI Program authorized for Rural Community under Sec.288.106(2)(k), F.S.

Q. Underutilized Business Zone means a specifically defined area to stimulate economic development and employment growth in distressed areas, including HUB Zones, Enterprise Zones, Brownfields and other similar created under federal, state or County designation.

**Section 5. Target Industries.**

A. It is the intention of the Board to encourage new job creation and employment diversification to enhance wealth generation in the County. The Board has from time to time identified target industry sectors that it determines are most likely to provide the greatest opportunity to enhance the economic environment of northcentral Florida, including Suwannee County.

B. The Board also recognizes the industries identified by Enterprise Florida as qualified target industries and the industries.

C. Businesses other than those identified as target industries are eligible for Grants if they meet the minimum requirements defined in the Program as determined by the Department.

**Section 6. Expenditure of Funds Authorized.**

The Board may expend County funds in order to provide Economic Development Grants to approved Applicants as an incentive for their location to or expansion within the County or for the development of Speculative Space. The Board may provide Economic Development Grants for utility connection fees if the Project is located within the County utility service area. If the County approves an Economic Development Grant for a Project located outside of the County Utility service area, the County shall not expend funds for that project's utility connection fees, unless specifically authorized by the Board.

**Section 7. No Entitlement Created.**

A. Nothing herein shall require the Board to budget County funds for the purpose of providing Economic Development Grants to approved qualifying private enterprises.

B. All Applications shall be considered and negotiated on a case-by-case basis. Grants will be considered only as inducements to generate Projects that would otherwise not occur within the County. A Project will not be considered for a Grant pursuant to this Program if a building permit for new construction has been issued, a purchase of an existing building has been executed, or a tenant lease has been executed.

C. Nothing in the Program or otherwise herein creates an entitlement of any kind to any business, industry, or developer of any project, whether new business, expansion of existing business, or the creation of Speculative Space, to any Economic Development Grant of any size, amount or duration from the County. Nothing in the Program or otherwise herein creates a Grant preference or advantage for any particular project over any other project. Even though a Project may meet criteria as set forth in the Program, an Application may be denied at the sole discretion of the Board.

**Section 8. Incentives outside the Scope of Program.**

In order to encourage the retention or expansion of existing business, attract businesses that satisfy a community goal or objective, or meet a special need of the County, the Department may recommend or the Board may grant, on a case-by-case basis, an incentive which does not specifically comply with the minimum requirements set forth in Section 10 herein. This recommendation may involve any other tools permitted under Florida law, including tax increment financing, local sales tax rebates, or other appropriate programs for the benefit of economic development. In making a recommendation pursuant to this section, the Board may consider the Project's generation of new taxable value, creation of new jobs, or any other relevant factors. Notwithstanding any other provision herein the Board may approve a local contribution for a Project that meets minimum standards for state business incentives, even if the Project does not meet the County's minimum requirements for receipt of a Grant under Section 10 herein.

**Section 9. The Application.**

A. An Applicant may apply for an Economic Development Grant by submitting an Application in a form approved by the Board to the Department. In order to be eligible for an Economic Development Grant, the Applicant must be a business entity with a federal tax identification number. If the Applicant wishes to apply for state economic development incentives, such as the Qualified Target Industry Program, the Application shall include a general Project overview detailing sufficient Project parameters for the Department to evaluate the Applicant's eligibility for the state program and submit recommendation to the Board with respect to any proposed financial support.

B. If the Department or the Board determines that an Applicant knowingly provided false material information on the Application, then the Department shall not process the Application any further, and/or any prior Board approval of the Application shall be nullified. If such determination is made, the Applicant will not be eligible for any future Economic Development Grant without the Board's consent.

C. An application fee and other charges may be required for processing the application. The Board shall establish an application fee and charge schedule by separate resolution, from time to time.

**Section 10. Minimum Requirements for Business Incentive Program.**

A. The County may provide financial incentives for Applicants that qualify for an Economic Development Grant. An Applicant's eligibility for incentives, and the amount of incentives awarded by the County, shall be calculated through the accumulation of points upon review of the Applicant's Grant Application.

B. **Existing Business or Industry:** The eligibility of an Application for incentives in connection with an existing business or industry shall be determined as follows:

1. Points shall be awarded based on the Capital Investment (Tangible Business Personal Property) as follows:
  - a. New capital investment of \$2500 – 10,000: 1 point

- b. New capital investment of \$10,001- 50,000: 2 points
- c. New capital investment of \$50,001- 200,000: 3 points
- d. New capital investment of \$200,001 and up: 4 points

2. Points shall be awarded based on the construction of new facilities as follows:

- a. New construction of up to 5,000 square feet: 1 point
- b. New construction of 5,001 - 10,000 square feet: 2 points
- c. New construction of 10,001 - 20,000 square feet: 3 points
- d. New construction of 20,001 square feet or more: 4 points

3. Points shall be awarded based on the creation of new Full-time Equivalent Jobs as follows:

- a. Up to 5 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 1 point
- b. 6 - 15 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 2 points
- c. 16 - 30 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 3 points
- d. Over 30 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 4 points

4. Points shall be awarded based on the payment of above-average wage rates for new Full-time Equivalent Jobs for Suwannee County, according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, as follows:

- a. 100% - 114.9% of the County's average wage rate: 1 point
- b. 115% - 119.9% of the County's average wage rate: 2 points
- c. 120% - 124.9% of the County's average wage rate: 3 points
- d. 125% of the County's average wage rate or greater: 4 points

5. An Applicant that desires to locate or expand within the boundaries of a Community Redevelopment Area or within an Underutilized Business Zone, as designated under federal, state, or County regulation, shall receive 2.0 points.

6. An Application for an Economic Development Grant for existing business or industry may be considered for financial incentives based on the number of points it receives as follows:

a. An Application that receives between 5.0 and 6.0 points may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

- I. 50% of the Project's impact fees;
- II. 50% of the Project's water or sewer connection fees, if the Project is located inside the County utility service area;
- III. Two years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase in Valuation for new construction added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded; and
- IV. Two years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

b. An Application that receives between 7.8 and 8.0 points may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

- I. 75% of the Project's impact fees;
- II. 75% of the Project's water or sewer connection fees, if the Project is located inside the County utility service area;
- III. Three years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase in valuation for new construction added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded; and
- IV. Three years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

c. An Application that receives 9.0 points or higher may be considered an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

- I. 100% of the Project's impact fees;
- II. 100% of the Project's water or sewer connection fees, if the Project is located inside the County utility service area;
- III. Four years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase in valuation for new construction added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.
- IV. Four years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

C. **Speculative Space:** The eligibility of an Application for incentives in connection with Speculative Space shall be determined as follows:

1. Points shall be awarded based on the construction of new square footage available for occupancy as follows:

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| a. New construction of 10,000 - 20,000 square feet: | 1.0 point  |
| b. New construction of 20,001 - 50,000 square feet: | 2.0 points |
| c. New construction of 50,001-100,000 square feet:  | 3.0 points |
| d. New construction of 100,001 square feet or more: | 4.0 points |

2. The construction of new office or industrial facilities shall receive 2.0 points.

3. An Applicant proposing to utilize land that has been vacant for five or more years shall receive 1.0 point.

4. An Applicant that desires to locate or expand within the boundaries of a Community Redevelopment Area or within an Underutilized Business Zone, as designated under federal, state, or County regulation, shall receive 2.0 points.

5. An Application for an Economic Development Grant for Speculative Space may be considered for financial incentives based on the number of points it receives as follows:

a. An Application that receives between 3.0 and 4.9 points may be considered for an award of an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

- I. 50% of the Project's impact fees for shell construction;
- II. 50% of water or sewer connection fees, if the Project is located inside the County utility service area and
- III. Two years of ad valorem tax incentives for increased valuation on newly constructed square footage added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

b. An Application that receives 5.0 points or higher may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

- I. 100% of the Project's impact fees for shell construction;
- II. 100% of water or sewer connection fees, if the Project is located inside the County utility service area and
- III. Four years of ad valorem tax incentives for increased valuation on newly constructed square footage added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

**D. New Industry:** The eligibility of an Application for incentives in connection with new industry locating within the County shall be determined as follows:

1. A company within a target industry, as defined in Section 4 herein, shall receive 2.0 points.

2. Points shall be awarded based on Capital Investment (Tangible Business Personal Property) as follows:

- a. New capital investment of \$10,000-50,000: 1 point
- b. New capital investment of \$50,001-100,000: 2 points
- c. New capital investment of \$100,001-500,000: 3 points
- d. New capital investment of \$ 500,001 and up: 4 points

3. Points shall be awarded based on the construction of new facilities as follows:

- a. New construction of 10,000 - 25,000 square feet: 1 point
- b. New construction of 25,001 - 50,000 square feet: 2 points
- c. New construction of 50,001 - 100,000 square feet: 3 points
- d. New construction of 100,001 square feet or more: 4 points

4. Points shall be awarded based on the creation of new Full-time Equivalent Jobs as follows:

- a. 5- 29 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 1 point

- b. 30 -69 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 2 points
- c. 70- 99 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 3 points
- d. 100 or more new Full-time Equivalent employees: 4 points

5. Points shall be awarded based on the payment of above-average wage rates for New Full-time Equivalent Jobs for Suwannee County, according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, as follows:

- a. 100% -114.9% of the County's average wage rate: 1 point
- b. 115%- 119.9% of the County's average wage rate: 2 points
- c. 120%- 124.9% of the County's average wage rate: 3 points
- d. 125% of the County's average wage rate or greater: 4 points

6. An Applicant that desires to locate or expand within the boundaries of a Community Redevelopment Area or within an Underutilized Business Zone, as designated under federal, state, or County regulation, shall receive 2.0 points.

7. An Applicant who is a County resident in an ownership or executive management position of a target industry business, and who wishes to relocate or expand the business into the County, shall receive 1.0 point.

8. An Application for an Economic Development Grant for new industry may be considered for financial incentives based on the number of points it receives as follows:

a. An Application that receives between 8.0 and 10 points may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

- I. 50% of the Project's impact fees;
- II. 50% of water or-sewer connection fees, if the Project is located inside the County utility service area;
- III. Two years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase in Valuation added after the Economic Development Grant is Awarded; and
- IV. Two years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

b. An Application that receives 11.0 points or higher may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

- I. 100% of the Project's impact fees;
- II. 100% of water or sewer connection fees, if the Project is located inside the County utility service area;
- III. Four years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase III Valuation added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.
- IV. Four years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

E. Any ad valorem or tangible personal property tax incentive awarded in an Economic Development Grant shall apply only to the general county portion of taxes paid by the Grant recipient and shall only be provided on the increase in valuation for the subject property.

F. In addition to the incentives set forth above, an Applicant that is awarded an Economic Development Grant shall be eligible for expedited permit review pursuant to Section 15 herein and application assistance for other state or county incentives.

G. An Economic Development Grant recipient shall only be eligible to receive incentives based on water or sewer connection fees if those services are available at the Project's location. If a Project that is awarded an Economic Development Grant does not have access to water or sewer services at the time the Grant is awarded, the Grant recipient may submit a claim for water or sewer connection fee incentives if such services become available at the Project's location within five years of the date of the Grant Agreement. This subsection shall only apply to Projects located within the County utility-service area.

H. The Board may award an Economic Development Grant to a Project that would not otherwise qualify for a Grant based on points if it finds that the Project will have a net positive impact on the County's economy or otherwise serve as a benefit to the public good. In making such a finding, the Board may consider:

1. The amount of capital investment proposed by the Applicant with respect to the Project;
2. The number of new jobs proposed to be created by the Project;
3. Whether the Project is part of a qualified target industry;
4. Whether the Project is located within an Underutilized Business Zone; or
5. Any other factor that is relevant to the Project's impact on the County's economy.

**Section 11. Application Review and Report.**

A. In determining whether to recommend that the Board approve an Application for an Economic Development Grant, the Department will consider whether the Project meets the minimum standards set forth in the Program guidelines and the Project's fiscal, community, and employment impact on the County. The Department shall perform a cost/benefit analysis to determine the return on public investment based on the level of incentive provided for a Project. If the Department determines that more information is needed in order to make a recommendation, it may request that the Applicant supplement the Application with additional information. The Department will not recommend an Application for approval of other incentives that fall outside the scope of the Program pursuant to Section 8 herein, unless it finds that the Project has a positive net benefit for the County.

B. The Department shall review all Applications. If the Department determines that the Project meets the minimum criteria for incentive consideration as set forth in the Program guidelines, the Department shall submit a report to the Board. The report shall make written findings of fact that compare the Application with applicable portions of the Program and shall contain the Department's recommendation with respect to whether the Application should be approved and the amount and terms of the Grant.

C. If the Department determines that a Project does not meet minimum criteria for incentive consideration based on the information provided in the Application, the Department will provide the Applicant with a written decision specifying the reason for the denial of the Application. The Department shall submit a copy of the decision to the Board as a non-action item. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Department recommends that a Project be approved for other incentives pursuant to Section 8 herein, or if the Department recommends that the Board consider the Project for incentives pursuant to Section 10.H herein, the Department will follow the procedure set forth in subsection B above, even if the Project does not meet the minimum criteria set forth in the Program guidelines.

D. If the Confidentiality Provisions have been requested by an Applicant, the Department's report shall not contain information that would expressly identify the Applicant or disclose the Applicant's interest in expanding, locating, relocating or developing Speculative Space within the County. Except as otherwise provided herein, the Department shall not release or disclose the report to anyone other than the Applicant unless:

1. The Department receives a written request from the Applicant to release the report to the Board;
2. The Application and report are no longer exempt from disclosure under the provisions of Section 288.075, Florida Statutes; or
3. Disclosure of the Application and report is ordered by a court of competent jurisdiction or by any other state or Federal agency authorized under Florida law to order the disclosure of confidential information.

E. If the Confidentiality Provisions have been requested by an Applicant, the Department shall inform each Board member of the identity of the Applicant prior to any Board action being taken so that the Board member can determine whether a conflict of interest exists with respect to the Application. A Board member that receives information regarding the identity of an Applicant who has requested the Confidentiality Provisions shall not release or disclose any information regarding the Application, except as provided in subsection D.

**Section 12. Board of County Commissioners Meeting.**

A. Upon completing a report pursuant to Section 11 and, when necessary, obtaining a written request for release of the report from the Applicant, the Department shall provide copies of the report to the Board and to the Applicant and shall place the report on the agenda for a Board meeting as soon as is reasonably practicable. The Department shall provide the Applicant with at least seven days advance notice of the time and place of the Board meeting.

B. During the Board meeting, the Board shall take action to either deny the Application, instruct the Department to prepare a Grant Agreement between the County and the Applicant for the Board's future consideration, or continue its consideration of the Application to a date certain. The Board's decision on whether to enter into a Grant Agreement with an Applicant is a legislative decision. In making this decision, the Board may consider the Department's recommendation, Program guidelines, the Project's impact on Suwannee County, or any other relevant factors in the Board's sole discretion. Nothing herein or the Program guidelines shall create an entitlement on the part of an Applicant for the receipt of a Grant, even if the Application meets the minimum standards set forth in the Program.

C. If the Board accepts the Department's recommendation that an Application be approved for a Grant, the Board shall provide the Department with sufficient guidance to prepare a Grant Agreement. The Grant Agreement shall not disclose any information that is required to be kept confidential pursuant to state law.

**Section 13. The Grant Agreement.**

Upon the Board's approval of an Application, the Department, through the office of the County Attorney, shall prepare a Grant Agreement between the Applicant and the County. The completed Grant Agreement shall accurately reflect any instructions or guidance provided by the Board at the time the Application was accepted by the Board. The Department shall bring the Agreement back to the Board for consideration within a reasonable time after its completion.

**Section 14. Approval and Execution of Grant Agreement.**

A. The Board may consider the Grant Agreement as part of its regular agenda.

B. Upon approval of a Grant Agreement by the Board, the Department shall notify the Applicant of the Board's approval. The Board Chairman, acting Chairman, or County Administrator shall be authorized to execute two copies of the Grant Agreement on behalf of the County. The Department shall forward both copies of the partially executed Agreement to the Applicant. The Applicant shall execute both copies and deliver one copy of the approved Grant Agreement to the Department within the time provided in the Grant Agreement. The Applicant shall retain the other executed copy for its records.

C. If the Applicant needs additional time to execute the Agreement, it may request an extension from the Department. The Department may approve a single extension of up to 30 days. Additional extensions, or an extension for more than 30 days, shall require Board approval. If the Grant recipient fails to execute the Grant Agreement within the time provided, including any extension, the Grant offer automatically shall be revoked and rescinded. If a Grant offer is revoked or rescinded due to the Applicant's failure to timely execute the Grant Agreement, the Applicant may not reapply for another Grant until one calendar year after the date the offer is revoked or rescinded. Nothing herein shall create an obligation on the part of the Board to approve an Application that was previously rejected pursuant to this subsection or for the Department to recommend approval of any such Application.

**Section 15. Expedited Permitting and Development Order Processing.**

Upon request by a Grant recipient, the County Administrator may direct staff to expedite, to the extent practicable, the County's permitting and development order process for Projects to which the Grant applies throughout the duration of the Agreement. However, nothing in this section shall create an obligation on the part of the County Administrator to expedite any County process for a Grant recipient.

**Section 16. Annual Claim for Grant Payment.**

A. An annual claim for Grant payment is required. No Grant payment shall be made during any County Fiscal Year until the Grant recipient submits a claim for Grant payment and the claim is approved by the Economic Development Director in the manner set forth in this section.

B. A Grant recipient may submit a claim for a scheduled Grant payment to the Economic Development Director once during each County Fiscal Year. The claim for each year's Grant payment shall be made on or after the date specified in the Grant Agreement.

C. The claim for a Grant shall include documentation of the achievement of each performance item specified in the Grant Agreement, including copies of all receipts and any other relevant data. No Grant payment shall be approved by the Economic Development Director and made by the County unless the Grant recipient achieves the performance items specified in the Grant Agreement, unless such payment is expressly permitted by the Board in its sole discretion.

D. Upon receiving a claim for Grant payment the Economic Development Director shall conduct an appropriate evaluation to confirm that the Grant recipient has met and complied with the conditions of the Grant Agreement and that the Board has appropriated the necessary funds to make the payment. If all conditions are fulfilled, the County Administrator shall approve the Grant payment.

E. The County shall not issue a Grant payment for any Fiscal Year before the Grant recipient has paid its ad valorem tax, tangible personal property tax, and all applicable County fees relating to the Project for that current Fiscal Year. The amount paid by the County as a Grant payment may not exceed the amount of impact fees, water and sewer connection fees, and the increase in the general county portion of ad valorem and tangible personal property taxes paid by the Grant recipient during the County Fiscal Year. The payout of the incentive amount will be pro-rated over the term of the grant. The foregoing limitation on the amount of a Grant payment shall not apply to payments made outside the scope of the Program pursuant to Section 8 herein.

F. If the Grant recipient does not file a claim for the Grant payment within one year of the time provided in the Grant Agreement, only the Board may consider and approve an untimely claim for a Grant payment upon written request by the Grant recipient. A Grant recipient may not receive payment for more than one untimely submitted claim during the course of the Grant Agreement. Nothing in this subsection shall create any obligation on the part of the Board to approve an untimely claim for a Grant payment.

G. A Grant recipient shall lose the ability to collect the Grant payment if:

1. The Grant recipient does not apply for the Grant payment within one year of the time provided in the Grant Agreement, except as provided in subsection (F) above; and

2. Either does not submit a written request to the Board for payment of an untimely submitted claim or has its request for payment of an untimely submitted claim denied by the Board.

Unclaimed Grant funds will be released to the County's general fund to be used for any lawful purpose. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Grant recipient that loses the ability to collect a Grant

payment in a particular fiscal year shall not lose the ability to collect Grant payments in subsequent fiscal years if such payments are provided for in the Grant Agreement.

**Section 17. Effective Date**

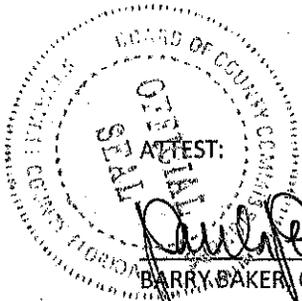
This resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

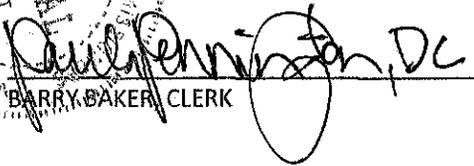
PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this 5th day of May, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA



By: JASON BASHAW  
Its: CHAIRMAN



  
BARRY BAKER, CLERK

SUWANNEE COUNTY

RESOLUTION 2016 – 06

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, AMENDING BOARD RESOLUTION 2015-35 WHICH AUTHORIZED THE CREATION OF THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT THE "DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"; AND THE SUWANNEE COUNTY "BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM"; BY AMENDING SECTION 5 TO IDENTIFY TARGET INDUSTRY SECTORS; AMENDING SECTION 6 TO PROVIDE FOR A SEPARATE UTILITY FEE INCENTIVE PROGRAM; ELIMINATING SECTION 8 REGARDING INCENTIVES OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM; RENUMBERING THE REMAINING SECTIONS; AMENDING SUBSECTIONS OF NEW NUMBERED SECTION 9 REGARDING THE POINT SYSTEM IN THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM AND CLARIFYING THE CLAIM PERIOD FOR FUNDING AWARDED PURSUANT TO A GRANT AGREEMENT; ELIMINATING REFERENCES TO DELETED SECTIONS AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County adopted Resolution 2015-35, creating the County Department the "Department Of Economic Development" and accompanying Suwannee County "Business Incentive Program"; on May 5, 2015;

**WHEREAS**, the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County desires to amend the Suwannee County Business Incentive program to identify Target industry Sectors, to revise the point system in the Minimum Requirements for Business Incentive Program and to clarify the timing procedures for claiming funding.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners for Suwannee County have reviewed and adopted the following amendments to the Suwannee County Business Incentive Program and that such amendments are to be effective as of October 20, 2015.

1. The title to Section 5 and Section 5.A. shall be amended to read as follows:

"Section 5. Target Industry Sectors.

A. It is the intention of the Board to encourage new job creation and employment diversification to enhance wealth generation in the County. The Board has from time to time identified target industry sectors that it determined are most likely to provide the greatest opportunity to enhance the economic environment of northcentral Florida, including Suwannee County. Enumeration of the Target Industry Sectors is attached as Exhibit A to Business Incentive Program."

2. Section 6 shall be amended to read as follows:

"Section 6. Expenditure of Funds Authorized.

The Board may expend County funds in order to provide Economic Development Grants to approved Applicants as an incentive for their location to or expansion within the County or for the development of Speculative Space. By separate resolution regarding utility connection and related service fees, the Board may also provide for a program of Economic Development Grants for utility connection fees if the Project is located within the County utility service area. However, if the County approves an Economic Development Grant for a Project located outside of the County Utility service area, the County shall not expend funds for that project's utility connection fees, unless specifically authorized by the Board."

3. The entirety of Section 8 is deleted and eliminated. All remaining sections 9 through 17 and all references to other sections and subsections in the body of the Business Incentive Program shall be renumbered accordingly.

4. The entirety of former Section 10 (newly renumbered Section 9) is eliminated and replaced by the following:

"Section 9. Minimum Requirements for Business Incentive Program.

A. The County may provide financial incentives for Applicants that qualify for an Economic Development Grant. An Applicant's eligibility for incentives, and the amount of incentives awarded by the County, shall be calculated through the accumulation of points upon review of the Applicant's Grant Application.

B. Existing Business or Industry: The eligibility of an Application for incentives in connection with an existing business or industry shall be determined as follows:

1. A company within a Target Industry Sector as defined in Section 5 above, shall receive 2.0 points.
2. Points shall be awarded based on the Capital Investment (Tangible Business Personal Property) as follows:
  - a. New capital investment of \$10,000 – 50,000: 1 point
  - b. New capital investment of \$50,000 – 100,000: 2 points
  - c. New capital investment of \$100,001- 500,000: 3 points
  - d. New capital investment of \$500,001 and up: 4 points
3. Points shall be awarded based on the construction of new facilities as follows:
  - a. New construction of up to 5,000 square feet: 1 point
  - b. New construction of 5,001 - 10,000 square feet: 2 points
  - c. New construction of 10,001 - 20,000 square feet: 3 points
  - d. New construction of 20,001 square feet or more: 4 points
4. Points shall be awarded based on the creation of new Full-time Equivalent Jobs as follows:

- a. Up to 5 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 1 point
- b. 6 - 15 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 2 points
- c. 16 - 30 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 3 points
- d. Over 30 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 4 points

5. Points shall be awarded based on the payment of above-average wage rates for new Full-time Equivalent Jobs for Suwannee County, according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, as follows:

- a. 100% - 114.9% of the County's average wage rate: 1 point
- b. 115% - 119.9% of the County's average wage rate: 2 points
- c. 120% - 124.9% of the County's average wage rate: 3 points
- d. 125% of the County's average wage rate or greater: 4 points

6. Points shall be awarded based on the proximity to existing utilities as follows:

- a. ¼ of a mile or less: 5 points
- b. greater than ¼ but no greater than ½ of a mile: 2.5 points
- c. greater than ½ but no greater than 1 mile: 1 point

7. An Applicant that desires to expand within the boundaries of a Community Redevelopment Area, Employment Center or within an Underutilized Business Zone, as designated under federal, state, or County regulation, shall receive 2.0 points.

8. An Application for an Economic Development Grant for existing business or industry may be considered for financial incentives based on the number of points it receives as follows:

a. An Application that receives between 7.0 and 9.9 points may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

I. 75% of two years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase in valuation for new construction added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded; and

II. 50% of two years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

b. An Application that receives between 10.0 and 12.9 points may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

I. 75% of three years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase in valuation for new construction added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded; and

II. 50% of three years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

c. An Application that receives 13.0 points or higher may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

I. 75% of four years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase in valuation for new construction added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded; and

II. 50% of four years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

9. At the discretion of the Board, an Applicant that constructs, purchases or makes monetary contribution to the County for a designated project (i.e. infrastructure improvements, capital and/or monetary investments for public facilities) for community benefit may be considered for an increase in the financial incentives enumerated in subsection 8 above up to 100% of ad valorem tax incentive and up to 75% tangible personal property tax incentive for the correspondingly eligible time period.

C. Speculative Space: The eligibility of an Application for incentives in connection with Speculative Space shall be determined as follows:

1. Points shall be awarded based on the construction of new square footage available for occupancy as follows:

a. New construction of 10,000 - 20,000 square feet:	1.0 point
b. New construction of 20,001 - 50,000 square feet:	2.0 points
c. New construction of 50,001-100,000 square feet:	3.0 points
d. New construction of 100,001 square feet or more:	4.0 points

2. The construction of new office or industrial facilities shall receive 2.0 points.

3. An Applicant proposing to utilize land that has been vacant for five or more years shall receive 1.0 point.

4. Points shall be awarded based on the proximity to existing utilities as follows:

a. ¼ of a mile or less:	5 points
b. greater than ¼ but no greater than ½ of a mile:	2.5 points
c. greater than ½ but no greater than 1 mile:	1 point

5. An Applicant that desires to locate or expand within the boundaries of a Community Redevelopment Area, Employment Center or within an Underutilized Business Zone, as designated under federal, state, or County regulation, shall receive 2.0 points.

6. An Application for an Economic Development Grant for Speculative Space may be considered for financial incentives based on the number of points it receives as follows:

a. An Application that receives between 5.0 and 8.9 points may be considered for an award of an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

I. 75% of two years of ad valorem tax incentives for increased valuation on newly constructed square footage added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

b. An Application that receives 9.0 points or higher may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

I. 75% of four years of ad valorem tax incentives for increased valuation on newly constructed square footage added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

7. At the discretion of the Board, an Applicant that constructs, purchases or makes monetary contribution to the County for a designated project (i.e. infrastructure improvements, capital and/or monetary investments for public facilities) for community benefit may be considered for an increase in the financial incentives enumerated in subsection 6 above up to 100% of ad valorem tax incentive and up to 75% tangible personal property tax incentive for the correspondingly eligible time period.

D. New Industry: The eligibility of an Application for incentives in connection with new industry locating within the County shall be determined as follows:

1. A company within a Target Industry Sector, as defined in Section 5 herein, shall receive 2.0 points.

2. Points shall be awarded based on Capital Investment (Tangible Business Personal Property) as follows:

- a. New capital investment of \$10,000-99,999: 1 point
- b. New capital investment of \$100,000-999,999: 2 points
- c. New capital investment of \$1,000,000-9,999,999: 3 points
- d. New capital investment of \$10,000,000 and up: 4 points

3. Points shall be awarded based on the construction of new facilities as follows:

- a. New construction of 10,000 - 25,000 square feet: 1 point
- b. New construction of 25,001 - 50,000 square feet: 2 points
- c. New construction of 50,001 - 100,000 square feet: 3 points
- d. New construction of 100,001 square feet or more: 4 points

4. Points shall be awarded based on the creation of new Full-time Equivalent Jobs as follows:

- a. 5- 29 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 1 point
- b. 30 -69 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 2 points
- c. 70- 99 new Full-time Equivalent employees: 3 points

d. 100 or more new Full-time Equivalent employees: 4 points

5. Points shall be awarded based on the payment of above-average wage rates for New Full-time Equivalent Jobs for Suwannee County, according to the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity, as follows:

- a. 100% -114.9% of the County's average wage rate: 1 point
- b. 115%- 119.9% of the County's average wage rate: 2 points
- c. 120%- 124.9% of the County's average wage rate: 3 points
- d. 125% of the County's average wage rate or greater: 4 points

6. Points shall be awarded based on the proximity to existing utilities as follows:

- a.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile or less: 5 points
- b. greater than  $\frac{1}{4}$  but no greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$  of a mile: 2.5 points
- c. greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$  but no greater than 1 mile: 1 point

7. An Applicant that desires to locate or expand within the boundaries of a Community Redevelopment Area, Employment Center or within an Underutilized Business Zone, as designated under federal, state, or County regulation, shall receive 2.0 points.

8. An Applicant who is a County resident in an ownership or executive management position of a target industry business, and who wishes to relocate or expand the business into the County, shall receive 1.0 point.

9. An Application for an Economic Development Grant for new industry may be considered for financial incentives based on the number of points it receives as follows:

a. An Application that receives between 8.0 and 12.9 points may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

I. 75% of two years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase in valuation added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded; and

II. 50% of two years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

b. An Application that receives 13.0 points or higher may be considered for an Economic Development Grant no greater than:

I. 75% of four years of ad valorem tax incentives on the increase in valuation added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

II. 50% of four years of tangible personal property tax incentives on the increase in valuation for property added after the Economic Development Grant is awarded.

10. At the discretion of the Board, an Applicant that constructs, purchases or makes monetary contribution to the County for a designated project (i.e. infrastructure improvements, capital and/or monetary investments for public facilities) for community benefit may be considered for an increase in the financial incentives enumerated in subsection 9 above up to 100% of ad valorem tax incentive and up to 75% tangible personal property tax incentive for the correspondingly eligible time period.

E. Any ad valorem or tangible personal property tax incentive awarded in an Economic Development Grant shall apply only to the general county portion of taxes paid by the Grant recipient and shall only be provided on the increase in valuation for the subject property.

F. In addition to the incentives set forth above, an Applicant that is awarded an Economic Development Grant shall be eligible for expedited permit review pursuant to Section 15 herein and application assistance for other state or county incentives.

G. An Economic Development Grant recipient shall be required to connect to County water or wastewater facilities if those services are available within ¼ mile of the Project's location. If a Project that is awarded an Economic Development Grant does not have access to water or wastewater services at the time the Grant is awarded, the Grant recipient shall still be required to connect to County water or wastewater facilities if such services become available within ¼ mile of the Project's location within five years of the date of the Grant Agreement. This subsection shall only apply to Projects located within the County's exclusive utility-service area.

H. In its sole discretion, the Board may award an Economic Development Grant to a Project that would not otherwise meet the minimum qualifications for a Grant based on the point system delineated above if the Board finds that the Project will have a net positive impact on the County's economy or otherwise serves as a benefit to the public good. In making such a finding, the Board may consider all factors enumerated above and any other factor that is relevant to the Project's impact on the County's economy.

I. All Economic Development Grants awarded by the Board shall be eligible to be claimed by recipients over a time period to be determined in the sole discretion of the Board, but in no event shall the time period be longer than seven (7) years."

5. The last sentence of former Section 11.A. (newly numbered Section 10.A.) is deleted and eliminated.

6. Former Section 11.C. (newly numbered Section 10.C.) is amended to eliminate references to former Section 8, which was deleted and eliminated in its entirety, and now amended to read as follows:

"C. If the Department determines that a Project does not meet minimum criteria for incentive consideration based on the information provided in the Application, the Department will provide the Applicant with a written decision specifying the reason for the denial of the Application. The Department shall submit a copy of the decision to the Board as a non-action item. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Department recommends that the Board consider the Project for incentives pursuant to Section 10.H herein, the Department will follow the procedure

set forth in subsection B above, even if the Project does not meet the minimum criteria set forth in the Program guidelines.”

7. The entirety of former Section 16.E. (newly renumbered Section 15.E.) is eliminated and replaced by the following:

“E. The County shall not issue a Grant payment for any Fiscal Year before the Grant recipient has paid its ad valorem tax, tangible personal property tax, and all applicable County fees relating to the Project for that current Fiscal Year. The amount paid by the County as a Grant payment may not exceed the amount of the increase in the general county portion of ad valorem and tangible personal property taxes paid by the Grant recipient during the County Fiscal Year. The amounts and term of the payments of the incentive amount will be determined in the sole discretion of the Board.”

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Board of County Commissioners for Suwannee County that the items contained in this Resolution may be re-numbered or re-lettered and typographical errors that do not affect the intent can be corrected with the authorization of the County Administrator, or his designee, without the need for additional Board action.

**PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED** in regular session by the Board of County Commissioners of Suwannee County, Florida, on this \_\_\_ day of October, 2015.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
OF SUWANNEE COUNTY, FLORIDA



JASON BASHAW  
Chairman

(SEAL)

ATTEST:

By:

  
for BARRY A. BAKER  
Clerk

Suwannee County Resolution No. 2016-06

**ESTIMATE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
GRANT CALCULATION  
ACME Manufacturing**

Calculations based on County Resolution 2016-06 and millage rates effective on October 1, 2015

**Category: New Industry**

**POINTS AWARDED**

Target Industry: Manufacturing	2
Capital Investment: \$14,309,000	4
Facility Size: 340,000 SqFt	4
Job Creation: 42 net new positions	2
Wages: Average wage \$38,000	2
Location:	0
County Resident:	0
Proximity to Utilities:	0
<b>Total Points</b>	<b>14</b>

The applicant scored 14.0 points under the New Industry Category. Therefore, this project is eligible for Expedited Permitting and four (4) year's Ad Valorem tax (general county portion) on capital improvements and tangible personal property.

Total Value of Capital Improvements	8,750,000
Multiplied by County Millage rate	0.90000%
Annual Ad Valorem Tax (general county portion)	78750
75% Annual Ad Valorem Tax(gen. county portion)	75%
Total Estimated Rebate Per Year	59062.50
Multiplied by # Eligible Years	4
<b>Ad Valorem Tax (general county portion) Estimate =</b>	<u><u>236250.00</u></u>

Total Estimated Value of New Tangible Assets	809,000
Multiplied by County Millage rate	0.90000%
Annual new tangible business personal property tax (general county portion)	7,281
50% Annual new tangible business personal property tax(gen. county portion)	50%
Total Estimated Rebate Per Year	3640.5
Multiplied by # Eligible Years	4
<b>Tangible Business Personal Property Tax (general county portion)</b>	<u><u>14,562.00</u></u>

**REBATE SCHEDULE & PAYOUT:**

<b>Total Maximum Possible Incentive:</b>	<b>250,812</b>
<b>Rebate will consist of 7 annual installments of:</b>	<u><u>\$ 35,830.29</u></u>

**Project Description: Manufacturing**



# SUWANNEE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

*Florida's New Frontier*

## BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Economic Development is the number one priority of the Suwannee County Board of County Commissioners. The Board shares a unified commitment to attract new business development, to expand and diversify the tax base, and create jobs for local residents. Success in economic development ensures Suwannee County's long-term financial ability to provide ongoing quality services and infrastructure and preserve the quality of life for its residential and corporate citizens.

These objectives are generally served by the enhancement and expansion of the local economy, Suwannee County will give consideration to providing economic development grants as a stimulus for new business development within the County.

As referenced by Resolution 2016-06, Suwannee County has an established point system for determining a base value an applicant could receive for each of these categories: Locating a new industry, expanding an existing business, or developing speculative space within the County.

### **THE ENCLOSED SUMMARIES PROVIDE GUIDELINES FOR THE NEW INDUSTRY CATEGORIES:**

1. Financial incentives are provided herein for new industry locating in the County and calculated through the accumulation of points upon review of the applicant's incentive application.
2. Upon submittal of an Economic Development incentive application to the County, the proposed business or industry may accumulate incentive points as described in the tables within.



# BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR EXISTING INDUSTRY

PROJECT CRITERIA		POINTS
<b>TARGET INDUSTRY</b> a. Companies that are listed as a targeted industry within the Resolution 2015-35.		2.0
<b>Capital Investment</b> Points shall be awarded based on capital investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10,000 - 50,000</li> <li>• \$50,001 - 100,000</li> <li>• \$100,001 - 500,000</li> <li>• \$500,001 - up</li> </ul>	1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0
<b>SIZE OF FACILITY ADDITION</b> b. Points are provided based upon the size of the facility addition or the construction of new facility square footage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 5,000 Sq. Ft.</li> <li>• 5,001 to 10,000 Sq. Ft.</li> <li>• 10,001 to 20,000 Sq. Ft.</li> <li>• 20,001 + Sq. Ft.</li> </ul>	1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0
<b>NEW EMPLOYMENT</b> c. Points are provided based on new full-time equivalent jobs to be created in Suwannee County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Up to 5 new employees</li> <li>• 6 to 15 new employees</li> <li>• 16 to 30 new employees</li> <li>• Over 30 new employees</li> </ul>	1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0
<b>WAGE RATES</b> d. Points are provided for wages paid above the County's average wage rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% to 114.9% avg. wage rate</li> <li>• 115% to 119.9% avg. wage rate</li> <li>• 120% to 124.9% avg. wage rate</li> <li>• 125%+ avg. wage rate</li> </ul>	1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0
<b>LOCATION</b> e. Location within an underutilized business zone or CRA or employment center.		2.0
<b>PROXIMITY TO UTILITIES</b> a. 1/4 of miles or less b. 1/2 of mile c. 1 mile		5.0 2.5 1.0

Financial incentives derived through the accumulation of points based on Paragraph 2 above will be considered to receive the following incentives:

POINT TOTAL RANGE	RANGE	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT
Existing business or industry 7.0 and 9.0 points		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% Two years ad valorem tax**</li> <li>• 50% Two years tangible business personal property tax</li> </ul>
Existing business or industry 10.0 and 12.0 points		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% Three years ad valorem tax**</li> <li>• 50% Three years tangible business personal property tax</li> </ul>
Existing business or industry 13.0 points or higher		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% Four years ad valorem taxes**</li> <li>• 50% Four years tangible business personal property tax</li> </ul>

**Community Benefit:** An Applicant that constructs, purchases, or makes monetary contribution for a designated project (i.e. infrastructure improvements, capital and/or monetary investments for public facilities) for community benefit may be considered for a grant up to 100% of ad valorem tax incentive and up to 75% Tangible Personal taxes.

\*\* Grants are provided for the general County portion of taxes paid on the increase in improvement value added to the tax rolls. Primarily, new construction projects are eligible for ad valorem tax incentives. Capital improvements made to existing buildings may also be considered for a qualifying projects.

# BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR NEW INDUSTRY

PROJECT CRITERIA		POINTS
<b>TARGET INDUSTRY</b> a. Companies that are listed as a targeted industry within the Resolution 2015-35.		2.0
<b>Capital Investment</b> Points shall be awarded based on capital investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$10,000 - 100,000</li> <li>• \$100,001 - 1,000,000</li> <li>• \$1,000,001 - 10,000,000</li> <li>• \$10,000,001 - up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.0</li> <li>2.0</li> <li>3.0</li> <li>4.0</li> </ul>
<b>FACILITY SIZE</b> b. Points are provided based on the construction of new facility square footage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10,000 to 25,000 Sq. Ft.</li> <li>• 25,001 to 50,000 Sq. Ft.</li> <li>• 50,001 to 100,000 Sq. Ft.</li> <li>• 100,001 + Sq. Ft.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.0</li> <li>2.0</li> <li>3.0</li> <li>4.0</li> </ul>
<b>NEW EMPLOYMENT</b> c. Points are provided based on new full-time equivalent jobs to be created in Suwannee County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 to 29 new employees</li> <li>• 30 to 69 new employees</li> <li>• 70 to 99 new employees</li> <li>• 100 or more new employees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.0</li> <li>2.0</li> <li>3.0</li> <li>4.0</li> </ul>
<b>WAGE RATES</b> d. Points are provided for wages paid above the County's average wage rate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 100% to 114.9% avg. wage rate</li> <li>• 115% to 119.9% avg. wage rate</li> <li>• 120% to 124.9% avg. wage rate</li> <li>• 125%+ avg. wage rate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.0</li> <li>2.0</li> <li>3.0</li> <li>4.0</li> </ul>
<b>LOCATION</b> e. Location within an underutilized business zone or CRA or Employ Ctr.		2.0
<b>COUNTY RESIDENT</b> f. Applicant is a County resident and owner or executive manager of target industry business, and wishes to relocate or expand the business into the County		1.0
<b>PROXIMITY TO UTILITIES</b> a. 1/4 of miles or less b. 1/2 of mile c. 1 mile		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5.0</li> <li>2.5</li> <li>1.0</li> </ul>

Financial incentives derived through the accumulation of points based on Paragraph 2 above will be considered to receive the following incentives:

POINT TOTAL RANGE	RANGE	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT
<b>New Industry 8.0 to 12.0 points</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% Two years ad valorem tax**</li> <li>• 50% Two years tangible business personal property tax</li> </ul>
<b>New Industry 13.0 points or higher</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% Four years ad valorem taxes**</li> <li>• 50% Four years tangible business personal property tax</li> </ul>

**Community Benefit:** An Applicant that constructs, purchases, or makes monetary contribution for a designated project (i.e. infrastructure improvements, capital and/or monetary investments for public facilities) for community benefit may be considered for a grant up to 100% of ad valorem tax incentive and up to 75% Tangible Personal taxes.

\*\* Grants are provided for the general County portion of taxes paid on the increase in improvement value added to the tax rolls. Primarily, new construction projects are eligible for ad valorem tax incentives. Capital improvements made to existing buildings may also be considered for a qualifying projects.

# BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR SPECULATIVE SPACE

PROJECT CRITERIA		POINTS
<b>FACILITY SIZE</b> a. Points are provided based on the construction of new facility square footage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10,000 to 25,000 Sq. Ft.</li> <li>• 25,001 to 50,000 Sq. Ft.</li> <li>• 50,001 to 100,000 Sq. Ft.</li> <li>• 100,001 + Sq. Ft.</li> </ul>	1.0 2.0 3.0 4.0
<b>FACILITY TYPE</b> b. Points are provided based on the use of the facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office or Industrial/Manufacturing</li> </ul>	2.0
<b>OWNERSHIP TIMEFRAME</b> c. Land owner has owned the vacant parcel for a minimum of 5 years.		1.0
<b>LOCATION</b> d. Location within an underutilized business zone or CRA or Employment Center.		2.0
<b>PROXIMITY TO UTILITIES</b> a. 1/4 of miles or less b. 1/2 of mile c. 1 mile		5.0 2.5 1.0

Financial incentives derived through the accumulation of points based on Paragraph 2 above will be considered to receive the following incentives:

POINT TOTAL RANGE	RANGE	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GRANT
<b>Speculative Space 5.0 to 8.9 points</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% Two years ad valorem tax**</li> </ul>
<b>Speculative Space 9.0 points or higher</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 75% Four years ad valorem taxes**</li> </ul>
<b>Additional benefits</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualifying project is also eligible for expedited permitting.</li> </ul>
<p>** Grants are provided for the general County portion of taxes paid on the increase in improvement value added to the tax rolls. Primarily, new construction projects are eligible for ad valorem tax incentives. Capital improvements made to existing buildings may also be considered for a qualifying projects.</p>		

*For further information  
on these programs,  
you may contact.....*



**SUWANNEE COUNTY**  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**  
*Florida's New Frontier*

**Dr. Alvin B. Jackson, Jr.**  
*Economic Development Director*

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