



INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

The following incentive programs may be available to qualifying applicants in the City of Clearwater, Florida. Applicants should obtain complete program guidelines. For additional information regarding these programs, or assistance in preparing an application, please contact the City of Clearwater's Economic Development office at 727-562-4220.

INDUSTRY INCENTIVES

Program Name	Type of Program	Program Allocation Guidelines	Program Overview and General Eligibility Criteria	Program Approval
Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program (ED AVTE)	Real and/or Tangible Property Tax Exemption (excluding land) - City portion only	Up to 75% of the increase in Real and/or Tangible Property Taxes for a period of up to 10 years. Approval required in advance.	<p>Must be a qualifying business creating the minimum of jobs required within the specified industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturing- 10 jobs • Qualified Target Industries (QTI) - 10 jobs • Export Sales - 25 jobs • Office- not in targeted industries- 50 jobs <p>Average wages for new jobs created must be above the average wage for Pinellas County as published by Enterprise Florida, Inc. in January of the year in which the application for ED AVTE is filed. \$100,000 minimum capital investment (excluding land). Other conditions and limitations apply.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State of Florida Incentives Average Wage Requirements by County</p>	<p>City of Clearwater City Council</p> 
Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund	Tax Refund	Tax refund of \$3,000 net per new job created; \$6,000 in an Enterprise Zone. For businesses paying 150% of the average annual wage, add \$1,000 per job; for businesses paying 200% of the average annual wage, add \$2,000 per job. New or expanding businesses in selected targeted industries or corporate headquarters are eligible.	<p>Be in a target industry designated by Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI). Submit an application before making a decision to locate or expand in Florida. Demonstrate that the tax refund will make a material difference in the company's decision to locate or expand in the community. Create at least 10 new, full-time equivalent jobs and, if an expansion project, increase employment by at least 10% (whichever is greater). Pay an average annual wage that is at least 115% of the state, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), or Pinellas County average wages. Provide a resolution from the city council and county commission recommending the applicant for the incentive and committing the community to provide a local match equaling 20% of the tax refund. If located in a designated brownfield area, the business may elect to be exempt from the local match and accept a refund for which they would otherwise qualify.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Florida Qualified Target Industries</p>	<p>Enterprise Florida (EFI) / Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), City of Clearwater City Council, and Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners</p> 
Qualified Defense and Space Contractor Tax Refund (QDSC)	Tax Refund	Tax refund of \$3,000 per net new Florida full-time equivalent job created or retained; \$6,000 in an Enterprise Zone. For businesses paying 150% of the average annual wage, add \$1,000 per job; for businesses paying 200% of the average annual salary, add \$2,000 per job.	<p>Florida is committed to preserving and growing its high technology employment base by giving Florida defense, homeland security, and space business contractors a competitive edge in consolidating contracts or subcontracts, acquiring new contracts, or converting contracts to commercial production. Pre-approved applicants creating or retaining jobs in Florida may be eligible to receive tax refunds. Resolution by City Council providing support for the project is also required.</p>	<p>Enterprise Florida (EFI) /Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)/City of Clearwater</p> 

Program Name	Type of Program	Program Allocation Guidelines	Program Overview and General Eligibility Criteria	Program Approval
Economic Development Transportation Fund	Grant to the local government for transportation improvements	The award amount is based on the number of new and retained jobs and the eligible transportation project costs, up to \$3 million.	The Economic Development Transportation Fund, commonly referred to as the "Road Fund," is an incentive tool designed to alleviate transportation problems that adversely impact a specific company's location or expansion decision. The award is made to the local government on behalf of a specific business for public transportation improvements.	Enterprise Florida (EFI) /Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)/City of Clearwater  eflora.com
High Impact Performance Incentive Grant (HIPI)	Grant	HIPI is a negotiated grant provided to pre-approved applicants in certain high-impact sectors designated by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO).	In order to participate in the program, the project must: operate within designated high-impact portions of the following sectors– clean energy, corporate headquarters, financial services, life sciences, semiconductors, and transportation equipment manufacturing; create at least 50 new full-time equivalent jobs (if a R&D facility, create at least 25 new full-time equivalent jobs) in Florida in a three-year period; and make a cumulative investment in the state of at least \$50 million (if a R&D facility, make a cumulative investment of at least \$25 million) in a three-year period. Once recommended by Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) and approved by DEO, the high impact business is awarded 50 percent of the eligible grant upon commencement of operations and the balance of the awarded grant once full employment and capital investment goals are met.	Enterprise Florida (EFI) /Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)/City of Clearwater  eflora.com
Incumbent Worker Training (IWT)	Matching Grant	Reimbursement of training expenses for current employees. Expenses may include Instructor/Trainer salary or tuition costs, textbooks/manuals costs and/or curriculum development costs.	Incumbent Worker Training reimburses existing for-profit businesses for employer-driven training. Through IWT, Florida is able to effectively retain businesses and help them stay competitive through skills upgrade training for existing full-time employees. The program is structured to be flexible to meet the business's training objectives. The business may use public, private or in-house training providers based on the nature of the training.	CareerSource Florida 
Florida Flex	Matching Grant	Reimbursement of training expenses for new employee. Expenses may include Instructor/Trainer salary or tuition costs, textbooks/manuals costs and/or curriculum development costs.	Florida Flex is an employer-driven training program designed to assist new value-added businesses and provide existing Florida businesses the necessary training for expansion. A state educational facility – community college, area technical center, school district or university – is available to assist with application and program development or delivery. The educational facility will also serve as fiscal agent for the project. The company may use in-house training, outside vendor training programs or the local educational entity to provide training. Reimbursable training expenses include: instructors'/trainers' wages, A1 curriculum development, and textbooks/manuals. This program is customized, flexible, and responsive to individual company needs.	CareerSource Florida 

LOCATION INCENTIVES

Program Name	Type of Program	Program Allocation Guidelines	Program Overview and General Eligibility Criteria	Program Approval
Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Refund	Tax Refund	Up to a \$2,500 tax refund is available for each new job created by an eligible business in the designated Brownfields Area. Applicants must meet the program requirements of the Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund.	<p>Florida offers incentives to businesses that locate on a brownfield site with a Brownfield Site Rehabilitation Agreement (BSRA). A Brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. These sites are usually impaired by a negative environmental stigma. Please see Clearwater Brownfield Designated Area map.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">View Clearwater Brownfield Designated Area Map</p>	<p>Enterprise Florida (EFI) /Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)</p> 
HUBZone Program	Federal Contract Assistance	Preference for award of Federal contracts is given to small businesses located within historically underutilized business zones (HUB Zones). The programs is administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration.	<p>To participate in the HUBZone Empowerment Contracting Program, a business must be determined to be a “qualified HUBZone small business concern” if the following four requirements are met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small business by SBA standards • Principal office is located in an “historically underutilized business zone” (HUBZone) • It is owned and controlled by one or more U.S. Citizens, a Community Development Corporation, or Indian Tribe • At least 35% of concerns employees reside in a HUBZone <p style="text-align: center;">View HUB Zone Maps for Clearwater</p>	<p>U.S. Small Business Association (SBA)/City of Clearwater</p> 
Virtual Incubator Program (VIP)	Payment of Program Fees (up to \$6,000)	Incubator/Accelerator Counseling for early- to mid-stage Information Technology (IT)/Software companies located in the City's Technology District to facilitate the retention, growth and attraction of IT-related businesses. All fees paid by the City of Clearwater upon acceptance into the program	<p>Potential Virtual Incubator Program clients must meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A researched, viable technology as determined by TBIC • Located or considering location in the City's Technology District • Interest in growing your business • Review by TBIC Client Services Team • 1-10 employees • Less than \$1,000,000 in revenue <p>Potential Accelerator clients must meet the following additional criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full-time commitment of operating executive • Operating history of at least six months • History of monetary investment <p style="text-align: center;">View City of Clearwater Technology District Map</p>	<p>City of Clearwater Economic Development & Housing Department; Tampa Bay Innovation Center</p> 

COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT
AGENCY (CRA) INCENTIVES

Program Name	Type of Program	Program Allocation Guidelines	Program Overview and General Eligibility Criteria	Program Approval
Cleveland Street District Façade Program	Grant/Loan	Part 1: Design Services - Up to \$4,000 per address. Part 2: Façade Improvement - maximum of \$10,000 grant, 50/50 match. Additional funds (\$25,000) are available as a 0% loan payable upon sale of the building	Funds are for design assistance and façade renovations. Design services applicants must be on Cleveland Street between Osceola and Myrtle avenues. Façade Improvement Grant property must be in Cleveland Street District/CRA (Drew to Pierce streets & Osceola to Myrtle avenues). Tenant or property owners are eligible. Business Tax Receipt (formerly known as an Occupational License) must be current. <u>Application must be approved prior to work being started.</u> Cleveland Street District Façade Program	Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) 
Sidewalk Café Furniture	Grant	Up to 75% of total cost, applicant pays 25%. Up to \$2,500 per grant	Available to property owners or tenants for outdoor furniture (tables, chairs and umbrellas) specified in an approved site plan from the City's Planning Department. Pre-application meeting required with Planning Department. Submittal of a completed Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant Application. Copy of approved Sidewalk Café Permit. Business Tax Receipt must be current. <u>Street furnishings purchased prior to approval are ineligible for reimbursement.</u> Sidewalk Café Furniture Grant Program- Cleveland Street Café District	Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) 
CRA Façade Grant Program		Maximum of \$5,000 grant. 50/50 match.	Funds are for façade renovations to properties within the existing (original) CRA and <u>outside</u> the Cleveland Street District Boundaries. Tenant or property owners are eligible. Business Tax Receipt must be current. <u>Application must be approved prior to work being started.</u> Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Façade Improvement Program	Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) 
East Gateway Façade and Building Lot Improvement Program	Loan-to-Grant	Up to \$35,000 in loan-to-grant funds (property owner that contributes private funds equal to or greater than 20% of the established loan amount).	Project funding assistance to eligible property owners to help offset eligible project costs (e.g. site plan, construction plans, permits, building materials and construction services). Program loans are 0% interest, and they transition to a grant over a 5-year period. Properties must be located either on Gulf to Bay Blvd. or Cleveland Street in the East Gateway District [between Missouri Avenue (west), Highland Avenue (east), Court Street (south) and Drew Street (north)]. Business Tax Receipt must be current and property cannot have current or outstanding code violations. <u>Application must be approved prior to work being started.</u> East Gateway Façade and Building Lot Improvement Program	CRA - East Gateway 

For more information about any of the Clearwater's Business Incentive Programs call 727-562-4220 or visit

myclearwater.com/gov/depts/econ_deve/