

TEXAS BUSINESS
INCENTIVES\$
— AND —
PROGRAMS\$

OVERVIEW



DISCLAIMER: *The material contained in this Summary of State Incentives is provided for informational purposes only and cannot be construed as a commitment. Assumptions are based on creating jobs and providing a capital investment. Total jobs and capital investment have been included as eligible costs for the various incentive programs available. However, actual jobs and capital investment may vary from the assumptions made due to final determination of program eligibility and site location.*



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TEXAS ENTERPRISE FUND

The 78th Texas Legislature established the Texas Enterprise Fund (TEF) to provide financial resources to help strengthen the state's economy. The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and the Speaker of the House must unanimously agree to support the use of TEF for each specific project.

Projects that are considered for TEF support must demonstrate a project's worthiness, maximize the benefit to the state and realize a significant rate of return of the public dollars being used for economic development in Texas. Capital investment; job creation; wages generated; applicant's financial strength; applicant's business history; analysis of the relevant business sector; and federal and local government and private sector financial support of a project are all significant factors in approving the use of TEF.

The Economic Development & Tourism division of the Office of the Governor administers the Texas Enterprise Fund. Contact Nicole Ryf, Economic Development Finance Director, at Nicole.Ryf@gov.texas.gov if you have a project you believe may be a good applicant for TEF or visit <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/texas-enterprise-fund>.

SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Skills Development Fund is an innovative program created to assist Texas public community and technical colleges finance customized job training for their local businesses. The Fund was established by the Legislature in 1995 and is administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. Grants are provided to help companies and labor unions form partnerships with local community colleges and technical schools to provide custom job training. Average training costs is \$1,800 per trainee; however, the benefit may vary depending on the proposal.

For more information, please contact Dale Robertson with the Texas Workforce Commission at (512) 463-8844 or visit <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/partners/skills-development-fund>.

SELF-SUFFICIENCY FUND

The Self-Sufficiency Fund is a job-training program that is specifically designed for individuals that receive Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). The program links the business community with local educational institutions and is administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. The goal of the Fund is to assist TANF recipients become independent of government financial assistance.

The Fund makes grants available to eligible public colleges or to eligible private, nonprofit organizations to provide customized job training and training support services for specific employers. A joint application from the employer and the eligible public college and/or eligible private, nonprofit organization is required to be submitted to the Local Workforce Development Board for review and comment prior to approval.

For more information, please contact Dale Robertson with the Texas Workforce Commission at (512) 463-8844 or visit <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/programs/self-sufficiency-program-overview>.

TEXAS ENTERPRISE ZONE PROGRAM

Under the statewide cap of 105 projects per biennium a community with less than 250,000 in population may have up to six enterprise projects. A community with 250,000 in population or greater may have up to nine enterprise projects.

Upon a community designating a business as an enterprise project, and upon that project's designation being approved by the state, the business would be eligible for the following incentives:

State Sales and Use Tax refunds

An enterprise project is eligible for a refund for all state sales and use taxes paid and used at the qualified business site. The total amount of any refund will continue to be predicated on investment amount and number of jobs created/retained.

The refund for each designation can be an amount ranging from a minimum of \$2,500 per job to a maximum of \$7,500 per job as follows:

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1. Half Enterprise Project:
 - a. If project investment amount is greater than \$40,000 and less than \$400,000, then refund amount is \$2,500 per job based on a minimum of 10 jobs created/retained;
 - b. If project investment amount is equal to or greater than \$400,000 and less than \$1 million, then refund amount is \$2,500 per job up to a maximum of 25 jobs created/retained;
 - c. If project investment amount is equal to or greater than \$1 million and less than \$5 million, then refund amount is \$2,500 per job up to a maximum of 125 jobs created/retained;
 - d. If project investment amount is equal to or greater than \$5 million or more, then refund amount is \$2,500 per job up to a maximum of 250 jobs created/retained;
 2. Enterprise Project: If project investment amount is equal to or greater than \$5 million or more, then refund amount is \$2,500 per job up to a maximum of 500 jobs created/retained;
 3. Double Jumbo Enterprise Project: If project investment amount is equal to or greater than \$150 million and less \$250 million, then refund amount is \$5,000 per job up to a maximum of 500 jobs created;
 4. Triple Jumbo Enterprise Project: If project investment amount is equal to or greater than \$250 million then refund amount is \$7,500 per job up to a minimum of 500 jobs created. Maximum refund available is \$3.75 million;

Receipts for purchases of building materials and machinery and equipment and payroll information are required to be retained as part of the audit process. The refund for sales and use tax must be for all eligible items for use at the qualified business site. For more information, please visit <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/tax-incentives>

GOVERNOR'S UNIVERSITY RESEARCH INITIATIVE

The Governor's University Research Initiative (GURI) was enacted in 2015 by the 84th Legislature with a goal to bring the best and brightest distinguished researchers in the world to Texas. This program is a matching grant program to assist eligible institutions of higher education in recruiting distinguished researchers.

The GURI grant program is operated within the Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism Division. For additional information please visit: <http://gov.texas.gov/ecodev/guri/home>

TEXAS CAPITAL FUND INFRASTRUCTURE / REAL ESTATE PROGRAMS

The Texas Capital Fund Infrastructure Development and Real Estate Programs (INFRA/RE) are economic development tools designed to provide financial resources to non-entitlement communities. Funds from the infrastructure program can be utilized for public infrastructure needed to assist a business that commits to create and/or retain permanent jobs, primarily for low and moderate income persons. Funds from the real estate program must be used for real estate development to assist a business that commits to create and/or retain permanent jobs, primarily for low and moderate-income persons. The real estate and/or improvements must be owned by the community and leased to the business. These programs encourages new business development and expansions.

Eligible applicants are nonentitlement general purpose units of local government including cities and counties. Nonentitlement cities are located predominately in rural areas and are cities with populations less than 50,000 thousand persons; cities that are not designated as a central city of a metropolitan statistical area; and cites that are not participating in urban county programs. Nonentitlement counties are also predominately rural in nature and are counties that generally have fewer than 200,000 persons in the nonentitlement cities and unincorporated areas located in the county. Businesses or individuals may not directly submit applications.

Award Amounts (Minimum/Maximum): \$100,000/\$1,500,000

The Texas Department of Agriculture administers the Texas Capital Fund programs. For more information, please visit <http://texasagriculture.gov/GrantsServices/RuralEconomicDevelopment/TexasCapitalFund.aspx> or contact Chris Reynolds at Chris.Reynolds@TexasAgriculture.gov.

STATE SALES & USE TAX EXEMPTIONS

Manufacturing Machinery & Equipment

Leased or purchased machinery, equipment, replacement parts, and accessories that are used or consumed in the manufacturing, processing, fabricating, or repairing of tangible personal property for ultimate sale, are exempt from state and local sales and use tax. Texas businesses are exempt from paying state sales and use tax on labor for constructing new facilities.

Texas businesses are exempt from paying state sales and use tax on the purchase of machinery exclusively used in processing, packing, or marketing agricultural products by the original producer at a location operated by the original producer.

<https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/tax-incentives>

Natural Gas & Electricity

Texas companies are exempt from paying state and local sales and use tax on electricity and natural gas used in manufacturing, processing, or fabricating tangible personal property. The company must complete a “predominant use study” that shows that at least 50 percent of the electricity or natural gas consumed by the business directly causes a physical change to a product.

<https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/tax-incentives>

Data Center Exemption

Texas provides 100% exemption on sales tax for computers, equipment, cooling systems, power infrastructure, electricity and fuel for Data Centers meeting the minimum thresholds of \$200 million in capital investment, 20 new jobs, and an average salary at least 120% of the county average salary. <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/tax-incentives>

FRANCHISE TAX EXEMPTION & DEDUCTION FOR BUSINESS RELOCATION

Effective Jan 1, 2014 House Bill 500 provides authorization for a company to deduct moving expenses from their apportioned margin while calculating their franchise liability. Companies must relocate their principle place of business from out of State into Texas to obtain the deduction. A taxable entity may deduct relocation costs incurred in relocating the taxable entity’s main office or other principal place of business to this state from another state if the business meets the criteria in Texas Tax Code Section 171.109(b). The taxable entity must take the deduction on the entity’s first annual report described by Rule 3.584(c) (1)(C)(i). The deduction may not reduce apportioned margin below zero, and no carryover of unused deduction is allowed. <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/05-900.pdf> (see item #28)

The bill also makes permanent an exemption for businesses that gross less than \$1 million in revenue while providing a \$1 million deduction for businesses once they pass the gross receipts revenue threshold. The bill also amends the margin calculation accordingly for equity.

CHAPTER 380 /381 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENTS

Chapter 380 (Section 380.001) of the Local Government Code, authorizes municipalities to offer a range of incentives designed to promote state or local economic development. Specifically, it allows for the provision of loans and grants of city funds, as well as the use of city staff, city facilities or city services, at minimal or no charge.

To establish a loan or grant or to offer discounted or free city services, the city must meet the requirements contained in the Texas Constitution and in applicable Texas statutes. Additionally, cities must review their city charters and any other local provisions that may limit the city’s ability to provide such a grant or loan. To determine the latitude of whether a municipality is able to offer a particular incentive or combination of incentives, local communities should consult their city attorney.

Chapter 381 of the Local Government Code allows counties to provide incentives encouraging developers to build in their jurisdictions. A county may administer and develop a program to make loans and grants of public money to promote state or local economic development and to stimulate, encourage and develop business location and commercial activity in the county. The county also may develop and administer a program for entering into a tax abatement agreement. This tool allows counties to negotiate directly with developers and businesses. http://texasahead.org/tax_programs/ch380-381/

TEXAS LEVERAGE FUND

The Texas Leverage Fund (TLF) provides a source of financing to communities that have adopted an economic development sales tax. Communities may leverage future sales tax revenues to expand economic development through business expansions, business recruitment and exporting. Awarding loans from \$25,000 to \$5 million, the TLF is available for interim, long-term or gap financing. TLF loans provide flexible financing terms to match the unique needs of communities. The funds are low-cost loans, providing capital to communities at floating Prime Rate, as published in the Wall Street Journal.

Generally, economic development corporations are eligible to borrow up to \$5 million. Future sales tax revenues serve as collateral for loan repayment with required debt service coverage ratios specified in the Texas Leverage Fund Program Guidelines. Pledged tax collections not needed for actual debt service are available for other projects. Loan proceeds must be used to pay eligible "costs" of "projects" as defined by the amended Development Corporation Act of 1979. Under the Act, examples of eligible projects include land, buildings, machinery and equipment for manufacturing and industrial operations as well as sports, athletic, entertainment and public park purposes and events.

For more information and/or to request an application packet, please contact the Governor's Economic Development Finance department at (512) 936-0100 or visit <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/financing>.

EVENT TRUST FUNDS

The Event Trust Funds applies local and state gains from sales and use, auto rental, hotel and alcoholic beverage taxes generated over a specified period of time. Eligible events are not restricted to sports, but the venue must have been selected through a highly competitive selection process.

The Events Trust Fund can be used to help pay costs related to preparing for or conducting an event, including equipment, or to pay principal and interest on notes used to build or improve facilities to host the proposed event. One hundred percent of allowable expenses can be funded provided sufficient tax receipts are deposited in the trust fund. The state has three separate event trust fund programs (the Events Trust Fund, Major Events Reimbursement Program and Motor Sports Racing Trust Fund), each designed to support different types of events.

For more information regarding the Event Trust Funds , please email the the Governor's Economic Development Finance team at eventsfund@gov.texas.gov or visit <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/event-trust-funds>.

BONDS

Sales Tax Bonds

Sales Tax Bonds do not fall under the volume cap and are eligible to communities that have passed the economic development sales tax (Type A and/or B). Ineligible projects include for-profit hospitals, multi-family projects, and municipal services.

Exempt-Facility Bonds

Bonds can be issued to finance certain facilities such as airports, dock and wharf facilities, mass commuting facilities, high-speed inter-rail facilities, or certain qualified hazardous waste facilities (including certain training and storage facilities). There is no limit on the amount of the issue and these issues do not require a reservation under the volume cap. Although the facility must be governmentally owned, it may be leased or subject to management contracts with the business.

Other types of exempt bonds include projects for water, sewage and solid waste facilities, facilities for the local furnishing of electricity or gas, and local district heating or cooling facilities. These types of exempt-facility issues must reserve a portion of the volume cap. Exempt-facility bonds that are not governmentally owned may reserve up to \$25 million in tax-exempt volume cap allocation each year. However, there is no project size restriction.

Tax-Exempt Industrial Revenue Bonds

Tax-Exempt Industrial Revenue Bonds are designed to provide tax-exempt financing to finance land and depreciable property for eligible industrial or manufacturing projects. The maximum bond amount is \$10 million, and can include certain capital and administrative costs.

On January 1, 2007, the maximum bond amount increased to \$20 million. These issues must receive a reservation under the State's volume limitation ("volume cap") managed by the Texas Bond Review Board. Generally, the reservation of state ceiling issues is allocated by lottery in October of each program year. For more information, contact the Texas Bond Review Board at (512) 463-1741. <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/financing>

DEFENSE ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT (DEAAG)

The Defense Economic Adjustment Assistance Grant Program (DEAAG), created in 1997, is a job creation grant program designed to assist adversely impacted defense communities that are responding to or recovering from a U.S. Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) action, or reductions or termination of defense contracts. The program was later expanded to assist defense communities that have been positively affected by BRAC with new or expanded military missions, as well as qualified job retention.

DEAAG funding is available to local municipalities, counties, defense base development authority, junior college districts and Texas State Technical College campuses, and regional planning commissions representing these communities. Funding is available to meet matching requirements for federal funding or for the purchase of Department of Defense property, new construction, rehabilitation of facilities or infrastructure, or purchase of capital equipment or insurance. Grants awarded may range from \$50,000 to \$2 million per project. For more information please contact Keith Graf with the Office of the Governor at (512) 475-0487 or visit <http://gov.texas.gov/military/grants>.

TEXAS MILITARY VALUE REVOLVING LOAN FUND

Created by the 78th Legislature and signed into law by Governor Rick Perry, the Texas Military Value Revolving Loan Fund, or the "Revolving Loan Fund" as it has become known, is designed to:

- Assist defense communities in enhancing the military value of a military facility in their area.
- Provide financial assistance to defense communities for job creating economic development projects that minimize the negative effects of a defense base realignment or closure decision that occurred in 2005 or later.
- Provide financial assistance to defense communities for an infrastructure project to accommodate new or expanded military missions resulting from a base realignment and closure decision that occurred in 2005 or later.

The Revolving Loan Fund provides a low cost source of revenue to eligible communities who meet the application criteria. The minimum amount of a loan is \$1 million, while the maximum amount of a loan is determined by the availability of funds and the creditworthiness of the applicant, State funding will be obtained through the sale of general obligation bonds. The State may provide up to 100 percent of the cost of the described project, dependent upon the creditworthiness of the applicant.

For additional information please contact Keith Graf with the Office of the Governor's Texas Military Preparedness Commission at (512) 475-0487 or visit <http://gov.texas.gov/military/loans>.

PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT & SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR FUND (PDSBI)

The Texas Product Development and Small Business Incubator Fund, collectively PDSBI, is a revolving loan program financed through original bond issuances. The primary objective of the program is to aid in the development, production and commercialization of new or improved products and to foster and stimulate small business in the state. The fund provides asset-based lending with flexible loan terms, competitive Loan-to-Value (LTV) and interest rates. Loan proceeds can be used for a broad range of capital and operating expenditures. Your company can secure loans with property, plant and equipment which can be amortized over the life of the asset. Communities or individual investors can assist as Guarantors.

To be eligible, applicants must have at least 3 years of operating history and have unencumbered assets available for collateral. Preference for funding is given to the state's defined industry clusters including, but not limited to: nanotechnology, biotechnology, biomedicine, renewable energy, agriculture and aerospace. Texas is interested in creating and retaining high-quality jobs.

The Governor's Economic Development Finance department administers the Texas Product/Business Fund at the direction of the Governor's appointed nine member board. For more information, contact (512) 936-0100 or TexasProduct.Fund@gov.texas.gov.

TEXAS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

In 2013, the 83th Texas Legislature enacted House Bill 800 creating a Research & Development tax credit effective Jan. 1, 2014. Providing companies a choice between a franchise tax credit and a sales tax exemption for materials, software, and equipment used for R&D purposes. Tax Code Chapter 171, subchapter M effectively establishes the qualifications, definitions and eligibility criteria for the credit. <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/tax-incentives>

TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT / CHAPTER 313

In 2001, the 77th Texas Legislature enacted House Bill 1200 creating Tax Code Chapter 313, Texas Economic Development Act, to encourage large-scale manufacturing, research and development, renewable energy, nuclear and integrated gasification combined cycle electric generation facilities and other large capital investment projects in the State of Texas. It requires companies to invest a specified amount of money to qualify for a ten year limitation on the appraised value of a property for the maintenance and operations portion of the school district property tax. The local school district must elect to participate in order for the company to recognize this benefit. The Act also requires that the limitation on appraised value be a determining factor in the applicant's decision to invest capital and construct the project in the state and requires that the Comptroller state in writing the basis for the that determination.

The qualifying investment amount is determined on a sliding scale that begins at \$100 million for large urban areas and \$30 million for rural areas. The qualifying investment amount is reduced for areas with a lower tax base. For more information, please visit http://www.texasahead.org/tax_programs/chapter313/.

AD VALOREM/ PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Freeport Exemption

A community may choose to offer the Freeport exemption for various types of goods that are detained in Texas for a short period of time. Freeport property includes goods, wares, merchandise, ores, and certain aircraft and aircraft parts. Freeport property qualifies for an exemption from ad valorem taxation only if it has been detained in the state for 175 days or less for the purpose of assembly, storage, manufacturing, processing, or fabricating. For certain aircraft parts, a community, by official action, may extend the deadline to 730 days.

For more information, please visit the following links:

- **Texas Constitution Article 8, Section 1-J:** <http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/CN/htm/CN.8.htm>
- **Application for Exemption of Goods Exported from Texas (50-113):** <http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxforms/50-113.pdf>

Goods-in-Transit Incentive

House Bill 621 of the 80th Texas Legislature amends the Tax Code and the Government Code to add an exemption from ad valorem taxation for goods-in-transit.

To qualify for the exemption, personal property used for assembling, storing, manufacturing, processing, or fabricating purposes would have to be acquired in Texas or imported into Texas and stored at a Texas location in which the owner of the goods does not have a direct or indirect ownership interest. The goods-in-transit would have to be transported to another location in Texas or out of state no later than 175 days after the property was acquired in or imported into the state. Oil and gas and their immediate derivatives, aircraft, and dealer's special inventories would not qualify for the exemption.

For more information, please visit the following links:

- <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/BillLookup/BillSummary.aspx?LegSess=80R&Bill=HB621>
- <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/tlodocs/80R/fiscalnotes/html/HB00621F.HTM>

Pollution Control Equipment Incentive

A Texas constitutional amendment providing an exemption from property taxation for pollution control was approved in 1993. The intent was to ensure that compliance with environmental mandates, through capital investments, did not result in an increase in a facility's property taxes. A facility must first receive a determination from the Texas Commission on Environment Quality (TCEQ) that property is for pollution control purposes. That positive use determination is then provided to the local appraisal district, which must accept the TCEQ's decision and grant the property an exemption from property taxes.

To be eligible for a positive use determination, the property must have been purchased, acquired, constructed, installed, replaced, or reconstructed after January 1, 1994, to meet or exceed federal, state, or local environmental laws, rules, or regulations.

For more information, please visit <https://texaswideopenforbusiness.com/services/tax-incentives> or contact David Greer with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality at (512) 239-5344.

RENEWABLE ENERGY INCENTIVES

Wind and Solar Energy Tax Exemptions and Deductions

Tax Code Section 171.056 extends a franchise tax exemption to manufacturers, sellers, or installers of solar energy devices. The state also permits a corporate deduction from the state's franchise tax for renewable energy sources. Business owners may deduct the cost of the system from the company's taxable capital or deduct 10 percent from the company's income.

Wind energy qualifies under the term "solar energy" for the exemption and deduction under Sections 171.056 and 171.107.

For more information on the tax exemption, visit the State Energy Conservation Office's web site at <http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/re/incentives-taxcode-statutes.php> or contact the Comptroller of Public Accounts.

Texas property tax code permits a 100 percent exemption on the appraised value of solar, wind or biomass energy devices installed or constructed for the production and use of energy on-site. See Texas property tax Form 50-123, "Exemption Application for Solar or Wind-Powered Energy Devices" to claim this exemption.

Texas also offers a loan program for eligible efficiency technologies. The "LoanSTAR" program is available to schools, hospitals and local governments. The low interest loans are capped at a \$5 million maximum and are required to meet certain technical guidelines including a detailed energy assessment report.

- **Franchise tax questions:** (800) 531-5441, ext. 5-9952 or (512) 305-9952
- **Property tax questions:** (800) 531-5441, ext. 5-9806 or (512) 305-9806
- **Other Renewable and Conservation Incentives:** <http://www.seco.cpa.state.tx.us/funding/>

PERMIT ASSISTANCE

TCEQ and the Office of the Governor Economic Development & Tourism division have established a relationship to assist companies, which may experience unwarranted delays in their environmental permitting process for projects that could affect job creation or have a high economic impact.

TEXAS MOVING IMAGE INDUSTRY INCENTIVE PROGRAM

In 2007, the 81st Texas Legislature establishing the Texas Moving Image Industry Incentive Program which is administered by the Texas Film Commission under the Economic Development and Tourism Division of the Office of the Governor. The program is designed to provide grants to qualified applicant production companies to promote film, television, video game, animation and commercial industry and workforce growth in Texas.

The incentive is available in the form of a cash grant from 5 to 22.5 % of qualified in-state spending for eligible projects. Commercial and reality television projects are eligible for a cash production grant from 5 to 12.5% of qualified in-state spending. Both live action and animated projects are eligible. Grants are available upon project completion and submission of proof of eligible spending to the Texas Film Commission. There are no maximum grant amounts.

Specific eligibility qualifications for projects including investment thresholds, employment requirements, and content are available thru the Texas Film Commission at <http://governor.state.tx.us/film/incentives/miip/>

CANCER PREVENTION AND RESEARCH GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

On November 6, 2007, Texas voters approved Proposition 15 - HJR 90, the constitutional amendment which allows the State of Texas to establish the Cancer Prevention and Research Institute of Texas (the Institute) and allows the Institute to issue \$3 billion in general obligation bonds over ten years to fund grants for cancer research and prevention. The Institute may invest the grants strategically in cancer research, clinical trials, and laboratory facility construction in Texas. The Institute will continue to implement the Texas Cancer Plan.

For more information, please visit the Institute's web site at www.cprit.state.tx.us or contact the office at (512) 463-3190.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & DIVERSIFICATION IN-STATE TUITION FOR EMPLOYEES

The Economic Development and Diversification In-state Tuition incentive may be offered to qualified businesses that are in the decision-making process to relocate or expand their operations into Texas. The incentive is targeted to assist high impact projects that are linked to the strategic economic clusters identified in the state. The incentive allows employees and family members of the qualified businesses to pay in-state tuition fees if the individual files with a Texas institution of higher education. Without this incentive designation, a student must reside in Texas for a 12-month period to be entitled to pay the tuition fees of a Texas resident. <http://www.collegeforalltexas.com/apps/financialaid/tofa2.cfm?ID=567>



**Office of the Governor
Economic Development & Tourism**

P.O. Box 12428 | Austin, TX 78711
(p) 512.936.0100

www.BusinessInTexas.com

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