

Local Government Economic Development Incentives Survey for FY 2015-16

1. Overview

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Before starting the online survey, you may find it useful to print this document and gather the required data. This survey questionnaire can be printed as a PDF from the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) website via the following link.

<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/local-government/economic-development-incentives/index.cfm>

Please note that all county governments are required by law to report annually to EDR the economic development incentives in excess of \$25,000 given to businesses during the previous fiscal year. Only those municipal governments having annual revenues or expenditures greater than \$250,000 are required by law to report annually to EDR the economic development incentives in excess of \$25,000 given to businesses during the previous fiscal year.

The fiscal year referred to in this survey is the local government fiscal year that ended September 30, 2016.

Please note that the survey response deadline has been extended to Tuesday, January 31, 2017.

Please direct any questions regarding this survey to Steven O'Cain, EDR Analyst, at ocain.steve@leg.state.fl.us or (850) 717-0470.

Once you have submitted the survey, you will NOT be able to edit your responses. If you find that you need to make revisions, please contact e-mail or phone Steven O'Cain using the above-listed contact information.

2. Survey Introduction

During the 2010 Regular Session, the Florida Legislature enacted Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1752, relating to economic development, which was later codified as Chapter 2010-147, Laws of Florida. The law amended Sections 125.045 and 166.021, Florida Statutes, to impose new economic development reporting requirements on county and municipal governments.

Section 125.045(4), Florida Statutes, specifies that a contract between a county's governing body or other entity engaged in economic development activities on behalf of the county and an economic development agency must require the agency or entity receiving county funds to submit a report to the county's governing body detailing how the county funds were spent and the results of the economic development agency's or entity's effort on behalf of the county. By January 15th of each year, the county must file a copy of the report with the Florida Legislature's Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR) and post the report on the county government's website.

Section 166.021(8)(d), Florida Statutes, specifies that a contract between a municipality's governing body or other entity engaged in economic development activities on behalf of the municipality and an economic development agency must require the agency or entity receiving municipal funds to submit a report to the municipality's governing body detailing how the municipal funds were spent and the results of the economic development agency's or entity's efforts on behalf of the municipality. By January 15 of each year, the municipality must file a copy of the report with EDR and post the report on the municipal government's website.

EDR has reviewed the annual reports of various economic development agencies or organizations (EDO's) to determine recurring items of interest and recommended items of interest that should be included in the EDO's report. These recommended items of interest, along with other pertinent information, can be found on EDR's website via the following link.

<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/local-government/economic-development-incentives/index.cfm>

The local government should file a copy of their report with EDR at the following address.

Steven O'Cain
Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR)
111 West Madison Street, Suite 574
Tallahassee, FL 32399-6588

E-mail: ocain.steve@leg.state.fl.us

3. Survey Introduction - cont.

Sections 125.045(5) and 166.021(8)(e), Florida Statutes, impose additional local government economic development reporting requirements. By January 15th of each year, if a municipal or county government has given economic incentives in excess of \$25,000 in total during a fiscal year, then each municipal government having annual revenues or expenditures greater than \$250,000 and each county government shall report to EDR the economic development incentives, by class of incentive, given to businesses during the local government's previous fiscal year. Pursuant to law, the county or municipal government must report its economic development incentives in the format specified by EDR. This survey questionnaire serves as the specified format for these reporting requirements. For purposes of this questionnaire, each individual economic development incentive given by a local government should be categorized into the one of the following classes.

1. DIRECT FINANCIAL INCENTIVES - Direct financial incentives of monetary assistance provided to a business from the county or municipality or through an organization authorized by the local government. Such incentives include, but are not limited to, grants, loans, equity investments, loan insurance and guarantees, and training subsidies.

2. INDIRECT INCENTIVES - Indirect incentives in the form of grants and loans provided to businesses and community organizations that provide support to businesses or promote business investment or development.

3. FEE OR TAX-BASED INCENTIVES - Fee-based or tax-based incentives, including, but not limited to, credits, refunds, and exemptions.

4. BELOW MARKET RATE INCENTIVES - Below-market rate leases or deeds for real property.

EDR will compile the data submitted by local governments in a manner that summarizes the total of each class of economic development incentive provided by each individual county and municipal government and a total of all counties and all municipalities, respectively. EDR will also prepare and provide a report to the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Department of Economic Opportunity. The completed report will be posted to EDR's website via the following link.

<http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/local-government/reports/index.cfm#incentives-report>

With the exception of references to the fiscal year, please note that this survey is unchanged from last year's version.

LET'S BEGIN!

4. Local Government Type

* 1. Are you completing this survey on behalf of a county or municipal government?

- County
- Municipality (i.e., city, town, village)

5. County Government Identification

* 1. Which county government do you represent?

Please Select

County Government

6. Municipal Government Identification

* 1. What is the name of the municipal government (i.e., city, town, village) that you represent?

7. Who is Required to Respond?

Next, you will be asked a qualifying question to determine if the local government is required to respond to this survey.

If your county or municipality has given businesses, either directly or indirectly, economic development incentives totaling more than \$25,000 during Local Fiscal Year 2015-16, you are required to respond.

This total should include any local contributions, which match state incentives offered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (such as Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund or Quick Action Closing Fund) or in combination with other local governments.

This total should include only those funds paid to recipients of economic development incentives. The total should NOT include funds awarded but not yet paid.

8. Qualifying Question

* 1. During Fiscal Year 2015-16, did your county or municipal government give businesses, either directly or indirectly, economic development incentives totaling more than \$25,000?

Yes

No

9. Reporting Requirements

1. If the total incentives granted were less than \$25,000, you are not statutorily required to report. However, we would encourage you to continue the survey and provide additional information about those incentives granted by your local government.

If you would like to continue the survey, please select "Yes" below. If not, please select "No" to be redirected to the final page of the survey asking for your contact information.

Do you wish to continue to report?

Yes

No

10. What qualifies as direct financial incentives?

We will now ask you about the types of incentives your county or municipal government granted during the previous fiscal year. The first category is direct financial incentives.

Direct financial incentives are provided through grants, loans, equity investments, loan insurance and guarantees. These programs generally address business financing needs but also may be invested in workforce training, market development, modernization, and technology commercialization activities. Direct financial incentives are generally project-specific, contingent on pre-award review and evaluation, and typically performance-based.

Direct financial incentives also include contributions in combination with state incentives negotiated by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (such as Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund or Quick Action Closing Fund) or in combination with other local governments.

For our purposes, direct financial incentives do not include payments or benefits to businesses from local Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRAs), Industrial Development Authorities (IDAs), or any state or federal funds (i.e., CDBG funds, etc.), which the local government has the discretion to distribute.

11. Direct Financial Incentives

* 1. Were any Direct Financial Incentives of monetary assistance provided to one or more businesses from your local government or through an organization authorized by your local government during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Yes

No

12. Direct Financial Incentives Description

1. Please give the total value for each direct financial incentive type granted during Fiscal Year 2015-16. If none, please enter 0.

Grants

Loans

Equity Investments

Loan Insurance

Loan Guarantees

Training Subsidies

State Match (QTI, QACF, etc.)

Other

2. Please indicate the number of businesses that received each direct financial incentive type during Fiscal Year 2015-16. If none, please enter 0.

Grants

Loans

Equity Investments

Loan Insurance

Loan Guarantees

Training Subsidies

State Match (QTI, QACF, etc.)

Other

* 3. How many total businesses received a direct financial incentive of monetary assistance during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Enter numerical value.

* 4. What is the total amount of the direct financial incentives granted during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Enter numerical value.

5. If you chose "Other", please describe the type of incentive(s) offered.

13. Have you granted indirect financial incentives?

We will now ask you about indirect financial incentives.

Indirect financial incentives include grants and loans to local government entities, nonprofits, and organizations to support business investment or development. The recipients include communities, financial institutions, universities, community colleges, training providers, venture capital investors, and business incubators. Funds are provided to the intermediaries in the form of grants, loans, and loan guarantees.

Indirect financial incentives are generally contingent on pre-award review and evaluation, and such incentives may be performance-based.

General payments to Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) do not qualify as an Indirect Financial Incentive, unless payments are specifically for training of an expanding or relocating business, or part of a specific economic development initiative.

While many jurisdictions do business marketing and recruitment "in-house," some contract with a private Economic Development Organization (EDO), or contribute dues to a regional EDO which provides such services to local governments across a defined region. Some EDOs also develop incentive agreements, subject to local government approval. These funds should be identified.

14. Indirect Financial Incentives

* 1. Were any Indirect Financial Incentives provided to one or more businesses from your local government or through an organization authorized by your local government during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Yes

No

15. Indirect Financial Incentives Description

1. Please give the total value for each indirect financial incentive type granted to businesses and community organizations that provide support to businesses or promote business investment or development during Fiscal Year 2015-16. If none, please enter 0.

Grants

Loans or Loan Guarantees

Value of contract with or dues paid to EDOs

2. Please indicate the number of businesses and community organizations that provide support to businesses or promote business investment or development that received each incentive type during Fiscal Year 2015-16. If none, please enter 0.

Grants

Loans or Loan Guarantees

Number of EDOs

* 3. How many total businesses and community organizations that provide support to businesses or promote business investment or development received an indirect financial incentive during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Enter numerical value.

* 4. What is the total amount of the indirect financial incentives granted during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Enter numerical value.

5. If you granted indirect financial incentives that are not listed above, please describe the type of incentive(s) offered and the value of the incentive.

16. Have you granted fee or tax-based economic development incentives?

We will now ask if you have granted fee or tax-based economic development incentives.

Tax-based incentives use the tax code as the source of direct or indirect subsidy to qualified businesses. In most instances, tax-based incentives are awarded upon verification of eligibility and may not be subject to pre-award review and evaluation like direct incentives.

Florida's counties and municipalities are limited in their ability to offer tax-based incentives, either for economic development or for other purposes. With the exception of ad valorem taxes, Florida's Constitution preempts all taxing authority to the state. Local taxes authorized by the constitution or by the Legislature may only be levied pursuant to the specifications in the governing statute. Unless specifically authorized, relief from these local taxes (credits, refunds, or exemptions) may not be granted.

Of all the local taxes, current law authorizes counties or municipalities to offer relief (specifically, exemptions) for only the following:

- The Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption for new or expanding businesses that meet certain job-creation and other requirements, pursuant to s. 196.1995, F.S.;**
- The Local Business Tax (formerly known as the Occupational License Tax) exemption of 50 percent for "any business, profession or occupation" with a permanent business location in an Enterprise Zone, pursuant to s. 205.054, F.S.; and**
- The Public Service Tax (also known as the Municipal Utility Tax) exemption for residential and agricultural uses, public bodies, nonprofit corporations, industrial consumers, and electrical energy used by qualified businesses located in Enterprise Zones, pursuant to ss. 166.231-.234. F.S.**

Fee-Based Incentives use "Home-Rule" revenues as the source of direct or indirect subsidies to qualified businesses. Counties and municipalities have broad authority to levy proprietary and regulatory fees and special assessments within their jurisdictions. Unless restricted by law or contract (such as bond provisions), they may also grant exemptions or waivers, or provide refunds or credits from these levies, either as an economic development incentive or for any other purpose.

- Proprietary Fees may include Admissions Fees, Franchise Fees, User Fees, and Utility Fees.**
- Regulatory Fees may include Building Permit Fees, Impact Fees, Inspection Fees, and Stormwater Fees.**
- Special Assessments are "based on the special benefit accruing to such property from such improvements when the improvements funded by the special assessment provide a benefit which**

is different in type or degree from benefits provided to the community as a whole,” pursuant to s. 170.01(2), F.S.

17. Fee-Based or Tax-Based Incentives

1. Were any Fee-Based or Tax-Based Incentives provided to one or more businesses from your local government or through an organization authorized by your local government during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Yes

No

18. Fee-Based or Tax-Based Incentives Description

1. Please give the total value for each fee-based or tax-based incentive provided by your local government during Fiscal Year 2015-16. If none, please enter 0.

Property Tax Exemptions for Economic Development (Please show the value of the exemption in tax dollars, not the reduction in assessed value)

Public Service Tax Exemptions

Business Tax Exemptions

Proprietary Fees (Credits, Refunds, Exemptions, Waivers, or Rate Differentials)

Regulatory Fees (Credits, Refunds, Exemptions, or Waivers)

Special Assessments: (Credits, Refunds, Exemptions, or Waivers)

2. Please provide the number of businesses that received the fee-based or tax-based incentives during Fiscal Year 2015-16. If none, please enter 0.

Property Tax Exemptions for Economic Development

Public Service Tax Exemptions

Business Tax Exemptions

Proprietary Fees (Credits, Refunds, Exemptions, Waivers, or Rate Differentials)

Regulatory Fees (Credits, Refunds, Exemptions, or Waivers)

Special Assessments: (Credits, Refunds, Exemptions, or Waivers)

3. Please describe the type of fee-based or tax-based incentive if not included in the categories above and the amount granted.

* 4. How many total businesses received fee-based or tax-based incentives during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Enter numerical value.

* 5. What is the total value of the fee-based or tax-based incentives granted during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Enter numerical value.

19. Below-Market Rate Leases or Deeds for Real Property

* 1. Were any Below-Market Rate Leases or Deeds for Real Property provided to one or more businesses from your local government or through an organization authorized by your local government during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Yes

No

20. Below-Market Rate Leases or Deeds for Real Property Incentives Description

1. Please give the total value for below-market rate leases or deeds for real property incentives provided by your local government during Fiscal Year 2015-16. If none, please enter 0.

Below-market rate leases for real property

Below-market rate deeds for real property

2. Please provide the number of businesses that received below-market value rate incentives during Fiscal Year 2015-16. If none, please enter 0.

Below-market rate leases for real property

Below-market rate deeds for real property

* 3. How many total businesses received below-market rate leases or deeds for real property incentives during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Enter numerical value.

* 4. What is the total value of the below-market rate leases or deeds for real property incentives granted during Fiscal Year 2015-16?

Enter numerical value.

21. Incentives - Geared Towards Certain Industries?

1. Are the incentives granted by your local government geared towards attracting specific industries?

Yes

No

22. Industry types

1. What type of industries are your economic development incentives geared towards attracting? Please check all that apply.

- Manufacturing
- Corporate Headquarters
- Professional Services
- Research and Development
- Information Technology
- Financial Services
- Multi-state / Multi-national Distribution
- Business Services
- Other

2. If you chose "Other", please describe (for example: sports, agriculture, and tourism).

23. Survey Respondent - Contact Information

Thank you for taking the time to report the economic development incentives granted by your county or municipal government. To finish, please fill out your contact information below. Once you select Done, your survey response will be submitted and you will be re-directed to EDR's home page. The tabulated results will be made available on EDR's website in 2017. Thank you!

* 1. How may we contact you?

Name:

Government Entity:

Address:

City/Town:

State:

ZIP:

Email Address:

Phone Number: