

## **BASIC INDUSTRY GROWTH PROMOTION INCENTIVE PROGRAM DESCRIPTION & OVERVIEW**

The Basic Industry Growth Promotion Incentive recognizes Collier County's desire for near term job growth opportunities through the expansion of local companies and recruitment of new companies which may necessarily not qualify for the State of Florida's Qualified Targeted Industries (QTI) program. "Basic industries," also referred to as "export industries," even those with wages under QTI thresholds, tend to export a significant percentage of their product and as a result create net new wealth and net new spending power in a local economy. Growth in those industries will help the community's economic recovery.

### **Basic Industry Growth Incentive Program**

Qualified applicants are eligible to participate in the Basic Industry Growth Incentive. The incentive is a grant of \$1,500 per job for projects creating at least 10 new jobs within 12 months in a Targeted Industry, and with wages meeting or exceeding the Collier County average of the applicant's specific 3 digit North American Industry Classification System industry code. Only 5 jobs are required for projects located in officially-designated distressed areas, and wage requirements are waived. There is no minimum capital investment required for participation. An additional \$500 per-job bonus is available for businesses that create jobs that meet the definition of "Collier Clean Quality Jobs," which includes jobs that demonstrate energy efficiency, reduction of pollution, or environmental sustainability in either the firm's operational process or final products for sale. (See full definition below.) Grants will be paid in installments over four years.

To become eligible, applicants must apply prior to commitment of intent, or change in land use or permitting applications are submitted. Employers must meet Collier County's program requirements regarding reporting compliance of average wage and job levels. The BOCC must approve all applicants, with all application forms, administrative procedures and required proof of performance compliance developed by the County Manager or designated staff. Only official forms and procedures are deemed sufficient for application to this program.

To participate, applicants must execute a formal agreement with the County stipulating the terms of the award, which must include, but is not limited to: the award amount, the monitoring and evaluation schedule, and the payment schedule. The applicant must agree to annual verification and certification of job creation for each of the 4 years it receives payments under the award. The first performance verification is due 14 months following the execution of an agreement between the applicant and the County. Failure to maintain the required new jobs and the average aggregate wage at any point over the four year payment period will result in the applicant forfeiting program eligibility.

### **General Program Requirements**

- Applications must be submitted in advance of public announcements or any permit applications changing usage or building occupancy related to the projected jobs.
- The new jobs and business must be a for profit business operating within Collier County and qualified under the State's listed Target Industries, creating 10 new jobs within 12 months of the BCC application approval. In addition, for existing firms, the net new jobs must be reflected as the increase of full-time equivalents over the latest quarter prior to application.

- In officially designated economically distressed areas the wage requirement is waived and job eligibility is reduced to 5 qualified industry jobs.
- “Collier Clean Quality Jobs” is defined to mean jobs that produce goods that improve energy efficiency, including energy-efficient equipment, appliances, vehicles, or other such products, and products that facilitate pollution reduction and removal, greenhouse gas reduction, and recycling and reuse, including products that reduce or eliminate the creation or release of pollutants, greenhouse gas emissions, or reduce or eliminate the creation of waste materials. The definition also includes jobs in which the the establishment’s production processes have been made significantly more environmentally friendly than previous industry standards. This includes generating energy from renewable sources, using technologies that increase energy efficiency within the establishment, or reduce or remove pollution, greenhouse gases, and waste products from the environment.
- Each new employee hired must be either a full time employee working an average of 36 hours per week, or business will be allowed to count two employees working a minimum of 20 hours per week as one full time equivalent employee as long as these employees are eligible to receive full benefits.
- The level of new jobs and wages comprising the grant must be maintained and documented to be eligible for the annual payment over the four (4) year term of the program. In addition, the applicant must agree to provide sufficient evidence the new job and wage levels were maintained.
- Grant disbursements in four equal installments over four years as compliance for each year is verified. Method of evidence verification will be based on records such as: IRS Form 941, Payroll Records, and a Florida Department of Revenue Employer’s Quarterly Report (UCT-6) Form for each new employee or an acceptable equally reliable substitute.
- The program is administered by the County Manager or his or her designee.
- The County Manager is responsible for developing all required forms, including the BIGP Program application form.
- Job creation beyond commitment within the four year payment term is eligible for extra per job awards.
- Award payments are subject to annual appropriations.

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>BASIC Industry Growth Promotion</b>
<b>Type</b>	Grant
<b>Award Made to Whom</b>	Qualified Target Industry Employers
<b>Wage requirement</b>	Pegged to the Collier County Avg Wage for the 3 Digit North American Industry Code (NAICS)
<b>Number of Jobs Required</b>	10
<b>Capital Investment Requirement</b>	No
<b>Expandable for Later Year Jobs</b>	Yes, up to two times the number of jobs applied for during the initial four year participation term.
<b>Available to Existing Industry</b>	Yes each of the new Jobs lasting Four years are eligible.
<b>Available to New Industry</b>	Yes each of the new Jobs lasting Four years are eligible.
<b>Available for Retention</b>	No
<b>Amount of Award</b>	\$1,500 base, with a \$500 Green Collier Quality Clean Job Bonus
<b>Agreement</b>	Required.

<b>Payout Schedule</b>	Paid in installments over four (4) years
<b>Specified Use of Funds</b>	None
<b>Local Support Required</b>	Yes - 100% paid by the County if jobs are located in Unincorporated Collier County.
<b>"But For" Incentive</b>	Applications must be submitted in advance of public announcements or any permit applications changing usage or building occupancy related to the projected jobs
<b>Eligible Industries/Business Activities</b>	Economic Base Industries defined as Qualified Targeted Industries by Enterprise Florida Inc.
<b>Ineligible Activity</b>	Any retail activities, elect. utility company, or phosphate or solid minerals severance, mining or processing operation.
<b>Distressed Area Exception</b>	Wage requirement waived and job eligibility is reduced to 5 qualified industry jobs in designated economically distressed areas.