

ESCAMBIA COUNTY LAND PURCHASE INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The program allows Escambia County to discount property prices for economic development projects that locate in county-owned commerce parks.

Sec. 78-318. - Minimum incentive eligibility criteria.

The following criteria may be applied as a basis for determining land purchase incentives for qualifying businesses in the form of discounts to the purchase price of certain county-owned industrial property:

(a) Minimum average wage:

New or expanding businesses = 100 percent or more of Escambia County's average annual wage. Benefits are not included as part of the wage.

Exceptions to the minimum average wage requirement may be approved on a case-by-case basis by the board of county commissioners.

(b) Minimum number of jobs created or retained:

Expanding business = 10 new jobs within one year;

New business = 10 new jobs within two years.

(c) The grantee must be designated as a target industry or business by the board of county commissioners pursuant to an adopted resolution.

Nontargeted industries may be eligible for consideration if proposed expansion or relocation is scheduled to occur within targeted areas (i.e., CRA areas, enterprise zones, other areas identified by the board of county commissioners) pursuant to an adopted resolution.

(d) New jobs created must be permanent, full-time positions with employer paid benefits including, but not limited to, health insurance and retirement benefits, or the option to purchase health insurance and retirement benefits.

(e) New jobs must be created and retained for a period of at least three years from grant award.

(f) Business must generate at least 51 percent of its revenue outside of Escambia County.

(g) Business must either provide and fund employee health insurance and retirement benefits or provide employees the opportunity to purchase said benefits.

(Ord. No. 2009-36, § 1, 10-15-2009)

Sec. 78-319. - Amount of incentive.

(a) *Amount.* The amount of the land purchase incentive shall be determined using the "incentive matrix" set forth in Table 1 [attached to Ordinance No. 2009-36 and incorporated herein by reference].

(b) *Incentive matrix.* The incentive matrix shall provide a weighted point system for determining land purchase incentives for qualifying businesses in the form of discounts to the purchase price of certain county owned industrial property.

(c) *Fiscal year.* All calculations shall be based on the county's fiscal year.

(d) *Bonuses.* A business may be eligible to increase the incentive amount by meeting one or more bonus conditions as set forth in Table 2 [attached to Ordinance No. 2009-36 and incorporated herein by reference].

(e) *[County not obligated.]* Nothing herein shall be construed to obligate Escambia County to provide land purchase incentives as set forth herein. The Escambia County Board of County Commissioners shall have the sole discretion to determine the eligibility of each applicant including the appropriate incentive amount.

(Ord. No. 2009-36, § 1, 10-15-2009)