



Florida

Tax Benefits and Incentives for Convenience Services Operators



NAMA

This state-by-state guide highlights a range of tax credits and incentive programs specifically relevant to the convenience services industry, offering operators clear application instructions and links to find further information. While this report emphasizes programs tailored to the convenience services industry, you know your business and its unique needs.

Opportunities for Convenience Services Operators

Florida Clean Energy Investment Program

FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY FUND

The Clean Energy Investment Program was created to promote the adoption of energy efficient and/or renewable energy (EE/RE) products and technologies in Florida by providing funding to businesses to increase the use of EE/RE technologies, equipment and materials in the State.

Eligibility Requirements

At a minimum, applicants must be able to demonstrate that a proposed funding opportunity meets the following criteria:

1. Applicants must have existing operations or a significant presence in the State of Florida at the time of Program funding, or must establish such presence concurrent with Program funding.
2. Applicants must have received capital (whether prior to or concurrent with Program funding) of an amount at least equal to the amount of Program funds being requested.
3. The EE/RE products or technology to be implemented using Program funding must be currently commercially available.
4. Demonstration projects must comport with applicable state and federal regulations and be the first such demonstration within the State of Florida.
5. Program funds must be used within the Focus Areas and must be consistent with the activities further described in the Program application.

Application Information

Applicants should reference the Program Overview and Application for additional details regarding permitted activities to ensure comportment of their proposed funding opportunity.

[Application Link](#)

[Additional information available from the Florida Opportunity Fund.](#)

Florida Microfinance Programs

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Florida Microfinance Programs provide Entrepreneurs and Small Businesses in Florida access to credit. The Act consists of two programs: a Loan Program and a Guarantee Program.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligibility for the Microfinance Loan and Microfinance Guarantee programs is limited to businesses and entrepreneurs with 25 or fewer employees and average gross annual revenues of \$1.5 million.

Application Information

Contact the agency for details:

Florida Department of Economic Opportunity

107 East Madison Street

Tallahassee, FL 32399

Phone: 850-245-7105

Incumbent Worker Training Program

CAREERSOURCE FLORIDA

The IWT Program was created for the purpose of providing grant funding for continuing education and training of incumbent employees at existing Florida businesses.

Eligibility Requirements

For the purposes of the IWT program, an Incumbent Worker is defined as follows:

1. At least one employee of the applicant business, working at least 37.5 hours per week and receives a W2;
2. At least 18 years of age
3. A citizen of the United States or a non-citizen whose status permits employment in the United States;
4. A Florida resident working at a physical location in Florida
5. Employed six months before the signature date of the application.

Companies applying for an IWT grant must meet the following criteria:

1. Be a "for-profit" company in the State of Florida
2. In operation for a minimum of one year prior to the application date (as verified on sunbiz.org)
3. Provide a description of how the training is related to the competitiveness of both the business and the employee receiving training.
4. Demonstrate a commitment to retain or avert the layoff of employees receiving training.

Application Information

While not required, priority is given to:

1. Businesses that provide employees with opportunities to acquire new or improved skills by earning a credential on the Master Credentials List.
2. Hospitals operated by nonprofit or local government entities that provide nursing opportunities to acquire new or improved skills.
3. Businesses whose grant proposals represent a significant upgrade in employee skills.
4. Businesses with 25 employees or fewer, businesses in rural areas, and businesses in distressed inner-city areas.
5. Businesses in a qualified targeted industry, or businesses whose grant proposals represent a significant layoff avoidance strategy

While this priority does not include an increased reimbursement percentage, applications that meet one of these conditions will receive priority during times of limited funding.

A full list of required materials and documents are found on the program website.

[Application Link](#)

[Additional information available from CareerSource Florida.](#)

Rural Job Tax Credit Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The Rural Job Tax Credit Program offers an incentive for eligible businesses located within one of 36 designated Qualified Rural Areas to create new jobs.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a tax credit, a business must be physically located within one of the 36 designated Qualified Rural Areas and be predominately engaged in (or headquarters for) activities classified in one of the following SIC Codes:

1. 01 – 09 Agriculture; Forestry; and Fishing
2. 20 - 39 Manufacturing
3. 70 Hotels and Other Lodging Places
4. 422 Public Warehousing and Storage
5. 781 Motion Picture Production/Allied Services
6. 7391 Research and Development
7. 7992 Public Golf Courses
8. 7996 Amusement Parks
9. Call center
10. The list of target industries for the Qualified Target Industry Refund Program (the list can be found in the application)

The list of Designated Rural Areas, the minimum number of qualified employees, as well as the tax credit per employee can be found in the application.

A qualified employee is any employee of an eligible business who performs duties in connection with the operations of the business on a regular, full-time basis for an average of at least 36 hours per week for at least 3 months within the qualified rural area in which the eligible business is located. An owner or partner of the eligible business is not a qualified employee.

Application Information

[Application Link](#)

[Additional information from the Florida Department of Commerce.](#)

Urban High-Crime Area Job Tax Credit Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Urban Job Tax Credit Program offers an incentive for eligible businesses located within one of the 13 designated urban areas to create new jobs.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for a tax credit, a business must be physically located within one of the 13 designated urban high-crime areas and be predominately engaged in (or headquarters for) activities classified in one of the following SIC Codes:

1. 01 – 09 Agriculture; Forestry; and Fishing
2. 20 – 39 Manufacturing
3. 50 – 57 Retail: Gen. Merchandise.; Food; Apparel, etc.
4. 59 Misc. Retail (No Eating/Drinking)
5. 70 Hotels and Other Lodging Places
6. 422 Public Warehousing and Storage
7. 781 Motion Picture Production and Allied Services
8. 7391 Research and Development
9. 7992 Public Golf Courses
10. 7996 Amusement Parks
11. Call center

A list of the designated urban areas, tiers, and urban area numbers, as well as the minimum number of qualified employees and the tax credit allowed can be found in the application.

A qualified employee is any employee of an eligible business who performs duties in connection with the operations of the business on a regular, full-time basis for an average of at least 36 hours per week for at least 3 months within the qualified high-crime area in which the eligible business is located. An owner or partner of the eligible business is not a qualified employee.

Application Information

[Application Link](#)

[Additional information available from the Florida Department of Commerce.](#)

Other Credits, Incentives, and Government Programs

Black Business Loan Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Black Business Loan Program provides loans, loan guarantees, or investments through Loan Administrators to black business enterprises that cannot otherwise obtain capital through conventional lending institutions but who could otherwise compete successfully in the private sector.

Bond Financing

FLORIDA DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

Florida Development Finance Corporation (FDFC) offers tax-exempt, low-interest bond financing to qualified, financially sound small manufacturers and 501(c)(3) organizations. The minimum transaction size is approximately \$1,000,000 in order to make the closing costs financially viable to the Borrower.

Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus Fund

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Brownfield Redevelopment Bonus is available to encourage redevelopment and job creation within designated brownfield areas. A pre-approved applicant may receive a tax refund equal to 20 percent of the average annual wage of the new jobs created in a designated brownfield area up to a maximum of \$2,500 per new job created.

Capital Investment Tax Credit

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

The Capital Investment Tax Credit is used to attract and grow capital-intensive industries in Florida.

Community Contribution Tax Credit Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Community Contribution Tax Credit Program provides a financial incentive (up to 50 percent tax credit or sales tax refund) to encourage Florida businesses to make donations toward community development and housing projects for low-income persons.

Contaminated Site Rehabilitation And Hazardous Waste Facility Tax Credit (Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit)

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The Voluntary Cleanup Tax Credit encourages participants to conduct voluntary cleanup of certain dry cleaning solvent contaminated sites and brownfield sites in designated brownfield areas.

Economic Development Transportation Fund

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

The Economic Development Transportation Fund, commonly referred to as the Road Fund.

Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program

GrowFL

The Florida Economic Gardening Technical Assistance Pilot Program (GrowFL) was created to stimulate investment in the Florida economy by providing technical assistance to expanding businesses. The University of Central Florida Economic Gardening Institute implemented the program using state funding.

Energy Sales and Use Tax Exemptions

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Sales and use taxes related to energy are exempted.

Export Assistance and Financing

FLORIDA EXPORT FINANCE CORPORATION

The FEFC will assist exporters and lenders in arranging loans exceeding the FEFC limits in order to complete an export sale of any size including Ex-Im Bank product and project loans and SBA loans. The FEFC, as a holder of an Ex-Im Bank Umbrella Insurance Policy, will assist exporters and lenders in obtaining credit insurance to mitigate foreign risk.

Florida Defense Support Task Force Grants

SELECT FLORIDA

The Florida Defense Support Task Force is the main body of support for the defense industry in Florida, awarding grants and guiding the future of military operations in the state.

Florida Entertainment Industry Sales Tax Exemption

FLORIDA OFFICE OF FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT

Any qualified production company producing motion pictures, made for television motion pictures, television series, commercial advertising, music videos, or sound recordings in Florida may be eligible for a sales-and-use tax exemption on certain production related purchases in Florida.

Florida First Business Bond Pool

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Florida First Business Bond Pool reserves 20 percent of Florida's total annual private activity bond allocation for large industrial projects making significant contributions to Florida's economy.

Florida Fund of Funds Program

FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY FUND

The Fund of Funds program was created to realize significant long-term capital appreciation by identifying and investing in a diversified, high-quality portfolio of seed and early-stage venture capital funds that target (in whole or in part) investment opportunities within Florida.

Florida Growth Fund

FLORIDA STATE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

The Florida Growth Fund manages capital dedicated to prudent investment in technology and growth-related businesses with a significant presence in the state of Florida.

Florida Minority Business Loan Mobilization Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Florida Minority Business Loan Mobilization Program promotes the development of minority business enterprises to increase the ability to compete for state contracts.

Florida New Market Development Program

FLORIDA GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF TOURISM, TRADE, & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The program encourages capital investment in low-income communities by allowing taxpayers to earn credits by investing in qualified Community Development Entities (CDEs) that make investments in active low-income community businesses.

Florida Recycling Loan Program

FLORIDA FIRST CAPITAL FINANCE CORPORATION

The Florida Recycling Loan Program provides Florida businesses with low-cost, long-term, fixed interest rate loans for the purchase or refinance of equipment and machinery used to expand industrial recycling activities throughout the state.

Florida Venture Capital Program

FLORIDA OPPORTUNITY FUND

In connection with the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 and the State Small Business Credit Initiative, the Florida Venture Capital Program was created to provide funding to emerging Florida companies (or companies locating in Florida) with perceived long-term growth potential.

High Impact Business Performance Incentive Grant

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

The High Impact Business Performance Incentive Grant is a negotiated incentive used to attract and grow major high impact facilities in Florida.

Permit Streamlining Initiatives

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Florida has developed permit streamlining procedures to assist existing, expanding or new-to-Florida businesses.

Qualified Targeted Industry Tax Refund Program

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

The Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund program provides an incentive for target industries to locate new facilities in Florida or to expand existing facilities in Florida.

Quick Action Closing Fund

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

The Quick Action Closing Fund (QACF) is an incentive used to close the deal when Florida faces severe competitive disadvantages for high impact economic development projects of existing or new businesses. The program is designed to be flexible, allowing a quick response to meet the unique needs of the respective businesses. The terms and conditions of each contract are individually structured.

Quick Response Training Program

CAREERSOURCE FLORIDA

The program is a state-funded grant program that provides funding to qualifying businesses to train their net new, full-time employees.

Rebuild Florida Business Loan Fund

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Rebuild Florida Business Loan Fund assists existing and new small businesses that were impacted directly or indirectly by a disaster with rebuilding and expanding.

Renewable Energy Technologies Investment Tax Credit

ENTERPRISE FLORIDA

Research and Development Tax Credit

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Florida provides a corporate income tax credit available to eligible businesses for certain qualified research expenses.

Rural Community Development Revolving Loan Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Rural Community Development Revolving Loan (RCDRL) Program was created to facilitate the use of existing federal, state, and local financial resources by providing local governments with access to financial assistance to further promote the economic viability of rural communities.

Rural Economic Development Initiative

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) was established to better serve Florida's economically distressed rural communities by providing a more focused and coordinated effort among state and regional agencies that provide programs and services for rural areas.

Salary Tax Credit

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

This tax credit provides a credit against insurance premium taxes of the salary of employees of the insurer.

Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Research or Development Costs

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Research or development costs are exempt from sales tax.

Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Machinery and Equipment

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Sales and use taxes are exempt on the purchase of machinery and equipment.

Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan program provides short-term, zero-interest working capital loans that are intended to bridge the gap between the time a disaster impacts a business and when a business has secured longer term recovery funding such as federally or commercially available loans, insurance claims or other resources.

Sports Development Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

This program provides funding for the proposed construction, reconstruction, renovation, or improvement of a facility or the proposed acquisition of land to construct a new facility and construction or improvements for state-owned land necessary for the efficient use of the facility.

Veterans Florida Workforce Grant

VETERANS FLORIDA

The Veterans Florida Workforce Grant reimburses qualified employers 50% of industry skills-based training costs for new or current employees.

Weatherization Assistance Program

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) annually provides grant funds to community action agencies, local governments, Indian tribes and non-profit agencies to provide specific program services for low-income families of Florida.