

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

Advantage Jobs Incentive Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Advantage Jobs Program provides a cash rebate to eligible businesses that create new jobs that meet or exceed the average annual wage of the state or the county in which the company locates.

Eligibility Requirements

The following businesses may qualify for this tax rebate:

1. Businesses, with the exception of retail businesses, gaming establishments or certain service providers, that provide an average annual wage of 110 percent of the average annual county or state wage, whichever is less, and create 25 new, full-time jobs
2. Data and information processing enterprises that provide an average annual wage of 100 percent of the average state or county wage, whichever is less, and create 200 new, full-time jobs

The eligible business must also provide a basic health benefits plan to its employees to be considered for the rebate program.

Application Information

How to Apply for the Incentive:

1. Apply to MDA to be certified for the Advantage Jobs Incentive Program.
2. Complete all requirements set out in the MDA application.
3. Notify the MDOR of the completion of all criteria set forth in the MDA certification by letter detailing the date of completion and appropriate job information.
4. File monthly job information on the Advantage Jobs Incentive Program Jobs Worksheet in an Excel spreadsheet.
5. Stay in compliance for four consecutive quarters.

6. At the end of the compliance period, file a claim for payment with the MDOR including the required information.

[Additional information available from the Mississippi Development Authority.](#)

Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Program (EERLF)

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

This program provides low-interest loans to finance projects for energy-conserving capital improvements and installation of renewable energy technology or equipment.

Eligibility Requirements

Contact the Mississippi Development Authority for more information.

Application Information

Contact the Mississippi Development Authority for more information.

Mississippi Development Authority

Energy Division

501 North West Street

Jackson, MS 39202

Phone: 601-359-3449

[Additional information available from the Mississippi Development Authority.](#)

Existing Industry Productivity Loan Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Existing Industry Productivity (EIP) Loan Program provides loans to existing Mississippi manufacturers to help them retain jobs in the state and improve their productivity.

Eligibility Requirements

“Existing industry” means a manufacturing enterprise that has been operating in this state, including any federal Indian reservation located within the geographical boundary of this state, for not less than two (2) consecutive years that meets minimum criteria established by the Mississippi Development Authority.

“Long-term fixed assets” means assets that:

1. Through new technology will improve an enterprise’s productivity and competitiveness; and
2. Meet criteria established by the Mississippi Development Authority.

Application Information

An existing industry desiring a loan under this section must submit an application to the MDA. The application shall include:

1. A description of the purpose for which the loan is requested;
2. The amount of the loan requested;
3. The estimated total cost of the project;

4. A two-year business plan for the project;
5. Financial statements or tax returns for the existing industry for the two (2) years immediately prior to the application;
6. Credit reports on all persons or entities with a twenty percent (20%) or greater interest in the enterprise; and
7. Any other information required by the MDA.

[Additional information available from the Mississippi Development Authority.](#)

Growth And Prosperity Program

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The Growth and Prosperity (GAP) Program designates specific counties as GAP counties and provides income, franchise, sales and property tax incentives to companies that locate or expand in these areas of Mississippi.

Eligibility Requirements

To be designated as a GAP county, a county must have an unemployment rate that is 200 percent of the state's annual unemployment rate or must have 30 percent or more of its population below the federal poverty rate.

1. GAP-Eligible Counties: Adams, Bolivar, Claiborne, Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Leflore, Noxubee, Oktibbeha, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Washington and Yazoo
2. Counties with GAP-Eligible Districts: Adams – District 4, Amite – Districts 2 and 3, Attala – District 4, Franklin – Districts 1 and 2 and Lowndes – District 4

The following enterprises that create 10 or more jobs are eligible to participate under the GAP Program:

1. Manufacturers, processors and companies that assemble, store, warehouse, service, distribute or sell any product or good, including agricultural products;
2. Research and development enterprises, including, but not limited to, scientific laboratories; or
3. Other businesses or industries that will further the public purposes of the GAP Act as determined on a case-by-case basis by MDA and that create a minimum of 10 jobs.

Retail or gaming businesses or electrical generation facilities are not eligible to participate in the GAP Program.

Application Information

Companies interested in GAP incentives must apply to and be certified by the Mississippi Development Authority, and an agreement must be entered into by the company prior to receiving these benefits. All tax incentives are administered by the Mississippi Department of Revenue and the County Tax Assessor.

[Additional information available from the Mississippi Development Authority.](#)

Jobs Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Jobs Tax Credits are credits that can be applied to state income tax to reduce an employer's income tax liability.

Eligibility Requirements

A company must create and maintain between 10 and 20 jobs, depending on where it is located, to be eligible for the Jobs Tax Credit.

The following types of businesses qualify for these credits:

1. Manufacturers
2. Wholesalers
3. Processors
4. Research and development facilities
5. Distributors
6. Warehouses

In addition, the following businesses qualify upon receiving a designation by the Mississippi Development Authority:

1. Air and transportation maintenance facilities
2. Telecommunications companies
3. Data and information processing companies
4. Computer software development enterprises
5. Recreational facilities that impact tourism
6. Resort hotels having a minimum of 150 rooms
7. Movie industry studios
8. Technology-intensive facilities

Application Information

How to Apply for the Incentive:

When requesting to "lock in" a county's classification, a completed Application for Certification for Economic Incentives must be completed. This application can be completed online within the applicant's Taxpayer Access Point (TAP) account by clicking the "Apply for Economic Incentives" link.

Make sure a detailed explanation of the type of construction or expansion that is being planned is submitted for the regular jobs tax credit. The TAP application contains a link to upload any documentation needed to support the request.

A letter acknowledging the county designation and imposing time deadlines will be issued. This allows a business to retain the county designation and the amount of anticipated credit that was in effect at the time the initial construction or expansion was begun, but the construction or expansion must begin within one (1) year of the approval of the certification, or it is no longer valid. This certification to "lock in" the county's classification will not be granted retroactively. For the other types of jobs tax credit, any additional information required to be attached to the Application for Certification for Economic Incentives will be noted in the bulleted points within that specific paragraph.

How to Claim the Credit:

When filing the state income/franchise tax return claiming the credit, attach:

1. a Jobs Tax Credit Worksheet showing each separate five (5) year period of new job creation;
2. a Mississippi Tax Credit Summary Schedule showing all credits taken and any credit carryforward; and
3. the approval letter, if applicable.

[Additional information available from the Mississippi Development Authority.](#)

MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE LOAN PROGRAM

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Minority Business Enterprise Loan Program provides loans to socially and economically disadvantaged minority and women owned businesses as designated by the Minority and Small Business Development Division of the Mississippi Development Authority.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible uses of loan proceeds include:

1. Land and building acquisitions
2. Working capital
3. Machinery
4. Equipment.

Industries that may apply include:

1. Manufacturers
2. Warehouses and distribution centers
3. Retail.

Application Information

For more information or to apply, contact Mississippi's Development Authority's Financial Resources Division.

Mississippi Development Authority

Financial Resources Division

501 North West Street

Jackson, MS 39202

Phone: 601-359-5081

financial@mississippi.org

[Additional information available from the Mississippi Development Authority.](#)

Minority Business Micro Loan Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Minority Business Micro Loan Program provides loans to socially and economically disadvantaged minority and women-owned businesses as designated by the Minority and Small Business Development Division of the Mississippi Development Authority.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible uses of loan proceeds include:

1. Inventory
2. Working capital
3. Machinery and equipment

Job creation and assistance to minority and women-owned businesses are the goals of the Minority Business Micro Loan Program. Industries that may apply include:

1. Manufacturers
2. Warehouses and distribution centers
3. Retail

Additional Information

Mississippi Development Authority

Financial Resources Division

501 North West Street

Jackson, MS 39202

Phone: 601-359-5081

financial@mississippi.org

[Additional information available from the Mississippi Development Authority.](#)

On-The-Job Training Reimbursement

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

The On-the-Job Training Program provides training for workers while reimbursing employers for wages.

Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for these programs, an employer must:

1. Offer a full time job
2. Have an Internal Revenue Service Identification number
3. Have an active workers' compensation policy
4. Keep accurate employee records

Application Information

Please contact the Mississippi Department of Employment Security for more information.

Mississippi Department of Employment Security

1235 Echelon Parkway

Jackson, MS 39215

Phone: 601-321-6000

[Additional information available from the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.](#)

Sales And Use Tax Exemption For Construction Or Expansion

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

A sales and use tax exemption is available for eligible businesses that construct a new facility or expand an existing facility in the state.

Eligibility Requirements

Eligible businesses include:

1. manufacturers
2. custom processors

3. data/information enterprises
4. technology intensive enterprises

Application Information

Before construction is begun, the business must be certified as eligible for the exemption by the MDOR. To be certified as eligible for the exemption, the business must submit the following:

1. for companies requiring MDA approval, a copy of the approval letter from MDA;
2. a completed Application for Certification for Economic Incentives;
3. a detailed letter with a description of the type of business and the type of construction or expansion or addition to the facility to justify the request for the exemption;
4. include the purpose of the construction or expansion and the expected result;
5. a completed Registration Application for a use tax account (if one has not been issued);
6. a completed Application for Direct Pay Permit (if one has not been issued).

Registration for a use tax account and a Direct Pay Permit can be completed online. Once registered for use tax, the Application for Certification for Economic Incentives can be completed online within the applicant's Taxpayer Access Point (TAP) account by clicking the "Apply for Economic Incentives" link.

The TAP application contains a link to upload the requested documentation. After all the required information has been submitted and the exemption approved, the business will receive a letter acknowledging the county designation, the amount of the exemption and the time period for the exemption. The construction or expansion must begin within one (1) year of the approval of certification. A letter of denial will be sent if the exemption is not approved.

The Direct Pay Permit number should be furnished to ALL vendors so that the retail sales or use tax will not be charged on ANY purchases. The correct tax on all purchases, if any is due, would then be remitted directly to the MDOR. Qualified purchases during the construction or expansion period would be either fully exempted or granted the one-half (50%) exemption. If the one-half (50%) exemption is granted, use either tax code 68 or 78 to report the purchases. For businesses that receive a Direct Pay Permit for the incentive only, the permit will no longer be effective and will stand rescinded when the project is complete. After this date, tax will be remitted to all vendors in the normal course of business.

Other Credits, Incentives and Government Programs

Airport Cargo Charges Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

An income tax credit is available equal to the charges a business pays for utilizing certain Mississippi airport facilities for the import or export of cargo.

Broadband Technology Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

An income tax credit is available for telecommunications businesses based on a percentage of the cost of equipment used in the deployment of broadband technology.

Capital Access Contract Loan Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Capital Access Contract Loan Program assists socially and economically disadvantaged businesses as designated by the U.S. Small Business Act by providing loans to borrowers with contracts with public entities who, for various reasons, might have difficulty in obtaining conventional loans.

Capital Improvements Revolving Loan Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Capital Improvements Revolving (CAP) Loan Program provides loans to municipalities and counties for the improvement of public facilities and infrastructure to assist with business locations and expansions, and with community based projects.

Data Center Enterprises (DCE) Exemption

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Data Center Enterprises (DCE) Exemption is an incentive created to induce companies to locate or expand data centers in Mississippi.

Employer Provided Dependent Care Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

An income tax credit equal to one-half of the expenses of providing dependent day care for employees is available to all types of businesses providing day care which is certified by the Mississippi Department of Health.

Entertainment District Incentive

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

An income tax incentive in the form of a five (5) year accelerated depreciation period is provided for construction and renovation projects of an entertainment facility in a Mississippi entertainment district.

Export Port Charges Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

An income tax credit is available equal to the charges a business pays for exporting cargo through certain Mississippi ports.

Free Port Warehouse Property Tax Exemption

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

An exemption from property taxes is available on finished goods inventory in transit to a destination outside Mississippi.

Historic Rehabilitation Income Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

An income tax credit or rebate is available in an amount equal to twenty five percent (25%) of the total costs and expenses for the rehabilitation of either residential or business property located in Mississippi and qualifying as a certified historic structure or a structure in a certified historic district.

Import Port Charges Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

An income tax credit is available equal to the charges an eligible business pays for importing cargo (except for forest products) through certain Mississippi ports.

Industrial Property Tax Exemption

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

An incentive for new or expanded eligible businesses is available in the form of an exemption from ad valorem taxes on tangible property by application to the local governing authority.

Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Existing manufacturers that have operated in Mississippi for two or more years may be eligible for investment tax credits that can be applied to their state income tax liability.

Minority Surety Bond Guaranty Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Minority Surety Bond Guaranty Program assists socially and economically disadvantaged minority and women

owned businesses as designated by the Minority and Small Business Development Division of the Mississippi Development Authority through surety bond guarantees and technical assistance in internal management.

Mississippi Aerospace Initiative Incentives Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Mississippi Aerospace Initiative Incentives Program provides tax incentives to companies that locate or expand in the state and manufacture or assemble components for the aerospace industry or provide research, development or training services for the sector.

Mississippi Clean Energy Initiative Incentives Program/Clean Energy Enterprises Exemption

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Mississippi Clean Energy Initiative Incentives Program provides tax incentives to companies that manufacture systems or components used to generate clean, renewable or alternative energy, which includes nuclear, solar and wind power and hydrogenation.

Mississippi Equity Investment (New Markets) Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

A credit to Mississippi income or insurance premium tax is available for eligible investments made by Community Development Entities (CDEs) in designated low income census tracts in the state, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. These credits are state credits that act as companion credits to the Federal New Markets Tax Credits (NMTC) Program.

Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Incentive Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Incentive aims to increase the number of health care jobs in the state and expand access to high-quality medical care for Mississippi residents by encouraging health care-related businesses to locate or expand in Health Care Zones in the state.

Mississippi Tourism Sales Tax Incentive Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Mississippi Tourism Sales Tax Incentive Program provides a rebate of the sales tax collected by an eligible tourism project. Any business desiring to participate in this program must first contact MDA to determine its

eligibility. Eligibility will be determined by amount of investment and type of attractions of the tourism project. MDA will issue a certificate when the enterprise is approved.

Motion Picture Production Incentive

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

A rebate is available for a certified motion picture production company that expends at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in base investment, payroll and/or fringes in this state on a production certified by the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA).

National Or Regional Headquarters Tax Credit And Relocation Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

Mississippi's National or Regional Headquarters Relocation Tax Credit offers companies transferring or relocating their national or regional headquarters to the state an income tax credit equal to their actual relocation costs.

Property Tax Exemption

MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS FINANCE CORPORATION

All projects qualified through the Mississippi Business Finance Corporation Incentive Program are eligible for an exemption from property taxes on land, buildings and equipment for up to 10 years. The exemption is offered at the discretion of local governing authorities and may be granted for all local ad valorem taxes except school district taxes. It may not be granted on finished goods or rolling stock.

Property Tax Exemption For Broadband Technology

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

A property tax exemption is available for eligible telecommunications businesses on the purchase of equipment used in the deployment of broadband technology in the state.

Property Tax Fee In Lieu

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

For new or expansion projects in the state that have a private capital investment in excess of \$60 million, a negotiated fee can be set that is paid in place of the standard property tax levy.

Rail Grant Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The program provides grants to public and private railroads to finance railroad projects that promote economic growth and job creation in Mississippi.

Research And Development Skills Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

The Research and Development Skills Tax Credit is an income tax credit that can be used to reduce an eligible business's income tax liability.

Rural Economic Development (RED) Tax Credit

MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS FINANCE CORPORATION

Rural Economic Development (RED) Credits are credits that can be used to reduce Mississippi corporate income tax. These credits are available to companies using industrial revenue bonds issued by the Mississippi Business Finance Corporation (MBFC) and are based on the amount of bond-related debt service paid on MBFC-issued industrial revenue bonds.

Sales And Use Tax Exemption

MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS FINANCE CORPORATION

A 100% sales and use tax exemption is available for eligible businesses that have qualified under the MBFC Incentive Program.

Sales And Use Tax Exemption For Broadband Technology

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

A sales and use tax exemption is available for eligible telecommunications businesses that deploy broadband technology.

Sales And Use Tax Exemption For Regional And National Headquarters

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

A sales and use tax exemption is available for eligible businesses that create their national or regional headquarters in Mississippi, transfer their headquarters to the state or grow their existing headquarters operations in the state.

Small Business And Existing Forestry Industry Loan Program

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Small Business and Existing Forestry Industry Loan Program encourages the extension of conventional financing, and issues letters of credit by private institutions, to qualified enterprises in the state of Mississippi. Through this program, MDA provides low-interest loans to qualified small businesses or existing companies in the forestry industry.

Small Business Loan Guaranty Program (SBLGP)

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Small Business Loan Guaranty Program (SBLGP) provides access to capital for small businesses by providing loan guarantees to banks and other small business lenders.

Strengthening Mississippi Academic Research Through (SMART) Business Act Program

MISSISSIPPI INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

The Strengthening Mississippi Academic Research Through (SMART) Business Rebate is available to investors who incur qualified research costs subject to a research agreement with college or research corporations in the state of Mississippi.

Tax-Exempt Interest Rate Access

MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS FINANCE CORPORATION

Tax-Exempt bonds, also referred to as Industrial Revenue Bonds (IRBs) may be used to finance qualified manufacturing facilities, non-profit 501(c)(3) facilities and solid waste disposal facilities.