

PINELLAS COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION

Pinellas County's Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemption is authorized under Section 196.1995, Florida Statutes, and provides certain ad valorem tax exemption for qualified businesses at the sole and absolute discretion of the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners.

Taxes Applicable. The Exemption shall apply only to eligible ad valorem taxes levied by the County. The Exemption shall not apply to taxes levied by other taxing authorities, or to taxes levied for the payment of bonds or taxes authorized by a vote of the electors pursuant to Section 9(b) or 12, Article VII of the Florida Constitution. For qualifying Businesses located within a portion of Pinellas County comprising a Tax Increment Finance District for which County ad valorem revenues have been pledged, the Board shall only consider applications for a tangible personal property tax Exemption.

Eligible Improvements. The Exemption may be granted for up to one hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of all Improvements made by or for the use of a qualifying business and/or of all Tangible Personal Property of such business, or up to one hundred percent (100%) of the assessed value of all added Improvements made to facilitate the qualifying Expansion of an Existing Business and/or of the net increase in all Tangible Personal Property acquired to facilitate such Expansion of an Existing Business.

Ineligible Improvements. The Exemption shall not apply to Improvements made and/or Tangible Personal Property added or increased prior to the effective date of an Ordinance specifically granting an Exemption. Property acquired to replace existing property shall not be considered and no exemption shall be granted for land.

Ineligible Applicants. Any Business, Business owner, officer, partner or principal actor acting on behalf of the Business or Applicant, that has been convicted of a felony or released from custody (within the last ten years) or a misdemeanor involving crimes of violence, dishonesty or false statement (within the last five years) of any federal or state law or regulation is not eligible for an Exemption. Any Business in violation of any federal, state, or local law or regulation, including, but not limited to, environmental laws or regulations, will not be eligible for an exemption.

Exemption Period. The Exemption may be for a period of up to ten (10) years from the effective date of the Exemption Ordinance specifically granting an Exemption.

Application. Any eligible person, firm, partnership or corporation which desires an Exemption shall file an Application with the County by February 1st of the year the Exemption is desired to take effect.

Review. The County shall make an initial determination of whether to recommend to the Board that the Applicant qualifies for an Exemption and will submit the application to the Property Appraiser for review. After the property appraiser makes a report as to the fiscal impact of granting the exemption, the project will be scheduled for a public hearing before the Board.

Exemption Ordinance. After consideration of the Application, the Property Appraiser's report, the Exemption Criteria and such other information it deems relevant, the Board may choose in its sole and absolute discretion to adopt an ordinance granting an Exemption to the Applicant.

Agreement. As a condition precedent to receiving an Exemption, a Business will be required to enter into a Written Tax Exemption Agreement with the County to ensure that the Business satisfies all requirements associated with the granting and continuation of the Exemption.

Annual Filings. The ability to receive an Exemption for the period granted shall be conditioned upon the Applicant's ability to maintain the qualified Business throughout the entire period. The Applicant shall be required to submit an annual renewal statement and an annual report to the County on or before February 1st of each year during the period for which the Exemption was granted.

The County shall consider New Businesses or the Expansion of Existing Businesses, as set forth in the chart below:

New Business

<p>Manufacturing</p> <p>A business or organization establishing 10 or more New Jobs to employ 10 or more Full-Time Equivalent Employees in this County, paying a Qualifying Average Annual Wage, which principally manufactures, processes, compounds, fabricates, or produces for sale items of tangible personal property at a fixed location and which comprises an industrial or manufacturing plant.</p>
<p>Targeted Industry</p> <p>A business or organization establishing 10 or more New Jobs to employ 10 or more Full-Time Equivalent Employees in this County, paying a Qualifying Average Annual Wage, which is a Target Industry Business as defined in 288.106 Florida Statutes.</p>
<p>Business with Out-Of-State Sales</p> <p>A business or organization establishing 25 or more New Jobs to employ 25 or more Full-Time Equivalent Employees in this County, the Sales Factor of which, as defined by 220.15(5) Florida Statutes (2013), for the facility with respect to which it requests an economic development ad valorem tax exemption is less than 0.50 for each year the exemption is claimed.</p>
<p>Office</p> <p>An office space in this County owned and used by a business or organization newly domiciled in this State; provided such office space houses 50 or more Full-Time Equivalent Employees of such business or organization; provided that such business or organization office first begins operation on a site clearly separate from any other commercial or industrial operation owned by the same business or organization.</p>
<p>Enterprise Zone or Brownfield Area</p> <p>A Manufacturing Business, a Target Industry Business, a Business with a Sales Factor of less than 0.50 or a High Impact Office Business located in an Enterprise Zone or Brownfield Area that first begins operation on a site clearly separate from any other commercial or industrial operation owned by the same business or organization and meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a minimum Capital Investment in eligible improvements of \$100,000, excluding land; and • Any New Jobs created have an Average Annual Wage of at least 75% of the Qualifying Average Annual Wage.

Expansion of Existing Businesses

<p>Manufacturing</p> <p>A business or organization establishing 10 or more New Jobs to employ 10 or more Full-Time Equivalent Employees in this County, paying a Qualifying Average Annual Wage, which principally manufactures, processes, compounds, fabricates, or produces for sale items of tangible personal property at a fixed location and which comprises an industrial or manufacturing plant.</p>
<p>Targeted Industry</p> <p>A business or organization establishing 10 or more New Jobs to employ 10 or more Full-Time Equivalent Employees in this County, paying a Qualifying Average Annual Wage, which is a Target Industry Business as defined in 288.106, Florida Statutes.</p>
<p>Business with Out-Of-State Sales</p> <p>A business or organization establishing 25 or more New Jobs to employ 25 or more Full-Time Equivalent Employees in this County, the Sales Factor of which, as defined by as defined by 220.15(5) Florida Statutes (2013), for the facility with respect to which it requests an economic development ad valorem tax exemption is less than 0.50 for each year the exemption is claimed; provided that such business increases operations on a site located within the County co-located with a commercial or industrial operation owned by the same business or organization under common control with the same business or organization, resulting in a net increase in employment of not less than 10 percent or an increase in productive output or sales of not less than 10 percent.</p>
<p>Enterprise Zone or Brownfield Area</p> <p>A Manufacturing Business, a Target Industry Business, or a Business with Sales Factor of less than 0.50 or a High Impact Office Business located in an Enterprise Zone or Brownfield Area, that increases operations on a site located within the same Enterprise Zone or Brownfield Area collocated with a commercial or industrial operation owned by the same business or organization under common control with the same business or organization and meets the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a minimum capital investment in eligible improvements of \$100,000, excluding land; and • Any New Jobs created for Full-Time Equivalent Employees have an Average Annual Wage of at least 75% of the Qualifying Average Annual Wage.