

# ENTERPRISE ZONES

Three- to five-year tax abatement for new investment and equipment

Clackamas County & City of Milwaukie economic development staff market and manage the **Milwaukie Enterprise Zone to** encourage investment through property tax exemption for new or expanding non-retail businesses that strive to hire local and create above minimum wage jobs.

#### County Contact:

Cindy Knudsen Zone Manager CKnudsen@co.clackamas.or.us 503-742-4328

Or City of Milwaukie Community Development Department (503) 786-7600 CommunityDevelopment @MilwaukieOregon.gov



Enterprise Zones are designed to encourage business investment through property tax relief in specific areas throughout the state. When locating or expanding into an Enterprise Zone, eligible businesses (generally non-retail) receive an exemption from the property taxes assessed on new investment, including building improvements, construction, machinery and equipment, for a period of three to five years.

Standard incentives are available to eligible businesses locating in an enterprise zone, subject to authorization timely filings, and employment criteria.

Standard incentives include:

- Construction-in-Process Enterprise Zone Exemption—up to two years before qualified property is placed in service, it can be exempt from local taxes. For most authorized businesses this provides broader benefit than the regular exemption for commercial facilities under construction.
- Three to five consecutive years of property tax exemption on qualified property, after it is in service.



#### **BUSINESS ELIGIBILITY**

Prior to building construction/improvements or machinery/equipment installation begin on-site, the **Zone Manager** must receive and approve an *Application for Authorization*, which contains pertinent process information.

Eligible businesses include manufacturers, processors, shippers, and a variety of operations that serve other organizations, as well as call centers and headquarter-type facilities. Hotel/resort businesses are not eligible in the Milwaukie Enterprise Zone; nor are retail, construction, financial, or other defined businesses.

### **QUALIFIED PROPERTY**

A new building/structure, structural modifications or additions, or newly installed machinery and equipment qualify for exemption. Nonqualified items include land, previously used property value, and miscellaneous personal items.

#### **CRITERIA FOR QUALIFYING PROJECTS**

For the standard, **three-year enterprise zone exemption**, the business should meet the following criteria:

- Increase full-time permanent employment by 10%
- Pay employees at least 150% of the State minimum wage (benefits can be used to reach this pay level)
- Maintain minimum employment level during the exemption period
- Enter into a first-source hiring agreement with local job training providers
- Pay an application fee of 0.1% of the proposed total investment.

Criteria for the extended **five-year exemption** the business should meet all criteria for the three-year enterprise zone exemption as well as the following:

- Compensation of new workers must be at or above 150% of the <u>County</u> average wage (benefits can be used to reach this pay level)
- There must be local approval by written agreement with the local zone sponsor
- The Company must meet any additional requirements that the local zone sponsor may reasonably request.

## **APPLICATION**

Businesses or developers interested in locating or expanding in Enterprise Zones within Milwaukie can obtain the State application online at *http:// www.oregon.com/gov/dor/PTD/ docs/303-029.pdf* or from the Zone Manager at Clackamas County:

Cindy Knudsen CKnudsen@co.clackamas.or.us 503-742-4328

