City of Tifton
Opportunity Zone

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The benefit to a business locating within the boundaries of a designated Opportunity Zone, where the business creates eligible net new jobs to Georgia, is the Georgia Job Tax Credit.

Eligible industries: Any lawful business may qualify for eligible net new jobs created at a business location within the boundaries of a designated Opportunity Zone.

Threshold Job Creation: Minimum of two (2) eligible net new jobs within a single tax year, but if only two jobs are created the persons in those jobs cannot be married to each other.

Net new jobs must meet three (3) criteria to be eligible for the Job Tax Credit:

- Must be permanent full-time jobs working a minimum of 35 hours per week;
- Must pay in excess of the lowest average wage of any county in the state; and
- Must be offered health insurance upon employment, although the employer is not required to pay for such insurance.

If the business meets the eligibility criteria, then the allowable Job Tax Credit is $3,500 per eligible net new job.

The job tax credit is first applied against any income tax liability on the Georgia Corporate Income Tax Return, with any excess job tax credit eligible to claim against Georgia payroll withholding taxes if the proper steps are taken with the Department of Revenue. The credit is available to be claimed for five (5) years, as long as the jobs are maintained. Therefore, a small business which creates two (2) eligible net new jobs and then maintains those jobs for five (5) full years should be able to claim a $7,000 tax credit each year ($3,500 per job x 2 jobs) for five years, for a total tax credit of $35,000 ($7,000 tax credit x 5 years).

The tax credit has a ten (10) year carry forward provision from the year in which the jobs are created. The carry forward period is the same for job tax credit claimed against either income taxes or payroll withholding taxes.

There is no limit on the number of jobs that may be claimed under the Program, only that the jobs meet all eligibility requirements under Code and regulation.

To determine if an area has an Opportunity Zone designation, you can access a listing of current designations and maps specific to the designations here.

A listing of local contacts for each area can be found in the Fact Sheet area of this page. The local contact person can assist in verifying the address. If the address is within the designated Opportunity Zone boundary, then the local person will certify the location for purpose of the Opportunity Zone Certification form, which can be accessed in the Forms section below.