

# I. Major Property Tax and Financial Incentives

## A. Cash Payment Programs

### 1. The Oklahoma Quality Jobs Program

(68 O.S. §§ 3601 et seq.)

For more information, contact the Oklahoma Department of Commerce at (800) 879-6552 or [info@okcommerce.gov](mailto:info@okcommerce.gov). For forms, visit [www.OKcommerce.gov/incentives](http://www.OKcommerce.gov/incentives). [Find more info about Quality Jobs here.](#)

The longstanding Oklahoma Quality Jobs Program provides quarterly cash payments of up to 5% of newly created gross taxable payroll to a qualifying company. The company must enter into a contract with the Oklahoma Department of Commerce before it may receive any payments based on salaries of any new direct jobs. Payments are made quarterly during the first three years, provided the new jobs are paid at or above the average wage required. Payments may extend for an additional seven-year period for a total of ten years if a qualified company achieves a \$2.5 million annualized payroll for the new direct jobs for any four consecutive quarters during its first 12 quarters in the program. If this payroll amount is not achieved, payments cease. The payments received do not have to be paid back. All jobs and wages claimed for benefits must be located within the state and be subject to Oklahoma payroll withholding taxes.

In order to qualify for the program, the business must offer basic health insurance coverage to all employees whose pay is included in the new payroll figures. Employees must not be required to pay more than 50% of the healthcare premium. The plan must permit employees to access the health coverage within 180 days of employment. Eighty percent of the employees, whose pay is included in the new payroll, must work at least 30 hours per week. All new jobs must reach an average equal to the average county wage where the project is located. Presently, wage requirements do not exceed \$30,754 in any county regardless of the average county wage. The minimum wage requirements do not apply to participants located in Opportunity Zones, as designated by the Department of Commerce. Under certain circumstances, leased employees may be included in payroll calculations.

In counties where a “negative economic event” has occurred, an applicant company may qualify without regard to the average wage requirement. A negative economic event is defined as a natural or man-made disaster that results in the loss of a significant number of jobs, as defined in Local Area Unemployment Statistics. The applicant must apply to the program within 18 months of the negative economic event.

In order to apply, companies must contact an Oklahoma Quality Jobs Representative from the Department of Commerce at (800) 879-6552. A preliminary cost-benefit analysis will be prepared. This analysis estimates the payments that a project may be eligible to obtain. If the company wishes to pursue application for the program, it must then submit a formal application. A contract offer may follow. The Department of Commerce determines eligibility for the initial contract, but the Oklahoma Tax Commission oversees contract payments. Participants must file their initial claim for