

similar business entity, including entities qualifying as Small Business Investment Companies under applicable federal law. The primary function of the Quality Jobs

Investment Program is to use private and public resources to build a more comprehensive and efficient financing infrastructure for businesses expanding or relocating in the state of Oklahoma.

E. Infrastructure

1. Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

For more information, contact Scott Myers at the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, Office of Community Development, at (405) 815-5356.

Non-entitlement cities, towns, and counties may apply for grants toward the creation of jobs for targeted income groups. Local units of government apply to the Oklahoma Department of Commerce on behalf of a business. The use of the CDBG resources is for the development of publicly owned infrastructure that is directly related to the business location or expansion. Projects financed through CDBG must create one new job for each \$35,000 of investment by CDBG. Local infrastructure projects may be funded up to a maximum of \$500,000 that supports an existing Oklahoma business or \$1,000,000 that supports a new business moving to the State.

2. Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development Infrastructure Financing (CDBG-EDIF)

The Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development Infrastructure Financing (CDBG-EDIF) program provides financing for the development of publicly owned infrastructure to support a business' job creating efforts. The program can provide grant financing to a city, town, or county to a maximum of \$1,000,000 to support new companies to the State, or a maximum of \$500,000 to support the growth of an existing business in Oklahoma. Grant maximums are based upon job creation forecasts, wages to be paid the new employment positions, and other evaluation criteria set out in the CDBG-EDIF application guide available online at http://www.okcommerce.gov/Libraries/Documents/2011-CDBG-EDIF-Guidelines-Appl_2736.pdf or by calling Scott Myers at (405) 815-5356.

F. Workforce Assistance

1. Advanced Degree Programs

For more information, contact Tony Hutchison, Vice Chancellor of Workforce & Economic Development and Strategic Planning & Analysis, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education, at (405) 225-9100.

Oklahoma's Higher Education system includes 25 colleges and universities. Associate, bachelor, and advanced degree programs are tailored on an ongoing basis to respond to business and industry needs. In addition, Oklahoma colleges and universities have established numerous alliances and partnerships with business and industry to ensure that Oklahoma graduates are prepared to compete in today's job market. New funds