



Purpose

The Strategic Fund is a cash incentive program; businesses must create and maintain permanent net new jobs for one year before receiving an incentive. More generally, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) supports recruitment, retention and economic growth throughout the state, offering a variety of financial resources including financing programs, incentives, grants and tax credits.

Program Description

- The Strategic Fund provides a cash incentive commitment to businesses that have met certain requirements under the Economic Development Commission’s (EDC) Strategic Fund.
- Business decisions clearly moving forward without assistance from the EDC will not be considered for funding if an announcement is made prior to an introduction to the EDC.
- A business must undertake a job creation project for which Colorado is competing with at least one other state for the project, and where the project would not occur in Colorado without this program.

Requirements/Eligibility Rules

- A business may receive funding consideration if it proposes to create net new full-time permanent jobs in Colorado that are maintained for at least one year.
- In addition, companies must materially meet the circumstances noted below:
 - Strong level of local matching commitments (\$1:\$1)
 - Potential for significant economic “spinoff” benefits such as: high prestige companies, large expansion initiative, attracting suppliers, generating tourism/travel activity
 - Headquarters in Colorado
 - Significant capital Investment (i.e. at least \$100,000 per employee)
 - Responds to a special local economic event, such as replacing recent layoffs
 - Inter-state competitive factors
 - Other unique conditions

Other Program Elements

The following tables reflect potential incentive levels per eligible job based on the annual average wage rate for the net new full-time permanent jobs compared to the county average wage rate.

Non-Enterprise Zone	
Annual Average Wage Rate %	\$ Incentive / Eligible Job
100%	\$2,500
120%	\$3,500
140% or >	\$5,000

Enterprise Zone	
Annual Average Wage Rate %	\$ Incentive / Eligible Job
100%	\$2,500
110%	\$3,000
120%	\$4,000
130% or >	\$5,000

Additional consideration may be given to businesses that do not meet the EDC’s minimum 100% annual average wage rate requirement if the following criteria are met:

- The business is located in a designated Enhanced Rural Enterprise Zone;
- The local community provides rationale to the EDC outlining the businesses’ economic importance; and
- The local community requests consideration for use of an alternative wage rate source and provides documentation that supports that the businesses’ annual average wage rate is higher than the annual average wage rate paid by private employer’s within their jurisdiction.

Application Process

Businesses interested in requesting a Strategic Fund job creation incentive should work with their local economic development representative and contact OEDIT’s Corporate Business Development Staff (303-892-3840 or michelle.hadwiger@state.co.us)

The EDC reserves the right to approve, deny or vary from these guidelines as necessary and appropriate, and delay any decision due to budgetary constraints.

Learn more at www.choosecolorado.com/strategic-fund.