



## Financial and Tax Incentives

### **BUSINESS EQUIPMENT TAX EXEMPTION**

This program provides a 100% property tax exemption for “eligible property” first subject to tax in Maine on or after April 1, 2008 with no limit on the term of the exemption.

### **CREDIT FOR EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

Available to employers of college graduates who earn an associate or bachelor’s degree from an accredited Maine or non-Maine college or university and subsequently live and work in Maine.

### **EMPLOYMENT TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (ETIF)**

ETIF assists in the financing of business investment projects that create at least five new, high quality jobs in Maine. An ETIF-approved business may be reimbursed 30, 50 or 75 percent (80% in Pine Tree Zones) of the state income tax withholdings from the net new payroll for up to ten years.

### **FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE**

A quasi-governmental agency with a wide range of financing options available to lending institutions and companies including loan insurance, direct loans, and bonds. These include:

- **MAINE RURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**  
Provides financial assistance to borrowers or communities to help develop/redevelop new or underutilized commercial industrial properties. The program provides funding of up to \$500,000 for these purposes.
- **MAINE SEED CAPITAL TAX CREDIT**  
Equal to 50% of a qualified investor’s investment into a qualified company. A certificate will be issued by FAME to the investor and can be used as a credit to reduce an investor’s state taxes at a rate of 25% of the credit in the year of investment, and 25% in each of the following years until fully utilized. For bona fide Private Venture Funds, investments are refundable (cash).
- **NEW MARKETS CAPITAL INVESTMENT CREDIT**  
An investor making a qualified equity investment in a low-income community business through a qualified Community Development Entity is allowed a credit equal to 39% of the investment over a seven year period. These credits are refundable.

### **MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE**

MTI awards research and development money to companies and non-profit research organizations to support the commercialization of new technology, products and services. Grants and loans are made on a competitive basis and support efforts in technology. Programs require a 1:1 cash match, and are awarded based on scientific or technical merit, commercial feasibility, and potential for economic impact to the state.

### **MAINE VENTURE FUND**

A professionally managed venture capital fund that invests exclusively in Maine companies that demonstrate a potential for high growth and public benefit and employ 50 or fewer or have gross sales of \$5 million or less within the past 12 months.

### **PINE TREE DEVELOPMENT ZONES**

The Pine Tree Development Zone program offers eligible businesses in Maine the chance to greatly reduce, or in some cases, virtually eliminate state taxes for up to ten years. Eligible businesses include firms engaged in biotechnology, aquaculture/marine technology, composite materials technology, environmental technology, advanced technologies for forestry/agriculture, manufacturing, IT and financial services.

### **SALES EXEMPTIONS**

Exemptions are offered in a biotechnology, custom computer programming, fuel and electricity, manufacturing and R & D.

### **STATE OF MAINE EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER**

The EB-5 program Immigrant Investor Program provides legal permanent residence to immigrant investors and their immediate family who invest at least \$500,000 in a new business or to assist a troubled business. The investment also must create or maintain 10 jobs over two years.

### **TECHNOLOGY TAX CREDITS**

Maine has several tax credit programs to encourage the growth of technology companies including the Research Expense Tax Credit and sales tax exemptions.

## **Local Incentives**

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM**

Provides communities with gap funding to assist identified businesses create or retain jobs for low-and moderate-income persons.

### **LOCAL AND REGIONAL REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM**

Throughout the state there are numerous local and regional economic development organizations that administer their own revolving loan programs.

## **Workforce Training Assistance**

### **MAINE QUALITY CENTERS PROGRAM**

Program funds customized workforce training delivered through Maine's seven community colleges. Grants are available to fund pre-hire, post-hire and incumbent training.

### **SAFETY AND EDUCATION TRAINING PROGRAM**

At no cost to the company, Maine's Bureau of Labor Standards provides customized health and safety training, site evaluation and technical support to reduce injuries, illness and worker's compensation costs.

### **MAINE MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP**

Maine MEP helps small and medium sized manufacturers become more efficient, productive and globally competitive by leveraging resources in the application of new ideas to clients, products and processes in pursuit of profits.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**

Program addresses community and business resource needs by providing funding for operating expenses, equipment, and program materials for workforce training that will benefit low/moderate income persons.