



## SOMERSET COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

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### MEMBERS

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2<sup>nd</sup> Alternate

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Freeholder Alternate

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County Engineer Alternate

Robert P. Bzik, AICP/PPP  
Director of Planning

John M. Lore, Esq.  
Deputy County Counsel  
for Planning

Cynthia Mellusi  
Office Manager

TO: MAYORS, ELECTED OFFICIALS, PLANNING BOARDS AND  
ECONOMIC ADVISORY COMMITTEES

FROM: ROBERT BZIK, PP/AICP, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

RE: NJ ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPUNITY ACT

DATE: MARCH 25, 2014

We wanted to bring to your attention that the New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013 was signed into law on September 18, 2103. The Act streamlines New Jersey's five existing economic development incentive Programs into two; Grow New Jersey Assistance (Grow NJ) will be the State's main job creation and retention Program and the NJ Economic Redevelopment and Grow (ERG) program will be the State's key developer Incentive program.

Incentives are delivered in the form of tax credits over a ten year period. Base Tax credits range from \$ 500 to \$5,000 per job per year, with bonuses that range from \$250 to \$3,000 per year. For projects that retain full jobs, the award incentive is reduced half. Awards are subject to an approval process by NJEDA, including a detailed comprehensive net benefit analysis.

The Act is very complicated, but County staff took the time to analyze the legislation in terms of how it applies to Somerset so our municipalities can promote smart investment here in Somerset County, particularly in the County's Priority Growth Investment (PGIAs) and Local Priority Investment Areas (LPIAs). The attached map captures location based incentive areas and bonus incentives in Somerset County. Also, we have posted a Powerpoint presentation on our website at:

<http://www.co.somerset.nj.us/planweb/learn.htm>

We encourage you to become familiar with these powerful incentives and promote there use to drive both job retention and growth in Somerset County consistent with your local planning objectives. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Supervising Planner Laurette Kratina at [Kratina@co.somerset.nj.us](mailto:Kratina@co.somerset.nj.us) , the Somerset County Business Partnership or myself. Thank you.

Cc: County Planning Board/ Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Board of Chosen Freeholders

- Mission Statement -

The County of Somerset is committed to excellence and innovation in public service, promoting the well-being of all residents and communities by providing effective, efficient and responsive leadership.

*Somerset County Is An Equal Opportunity Employer*

# NEW JERSEY ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2013

## Grow NJ - Location-Based Incentives - Somerset County, NJ

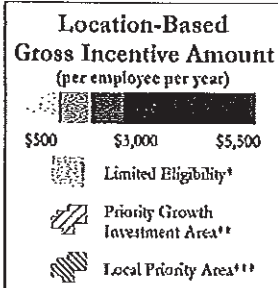
### Summary

This map represents the areas within Somerset County that qualify for tax credits under the Grow NJ Assistance Program following the adoption of the New Jersey Economic Opportunity Act of 2013. Eligibility for incentives is based on multiple factors, including location, project type, and the number of jobs that are created or retained through investment.

Only the location-based eligibility criteria and incentive amounts are displayed on this map. Additional site-specific criteria must be considered for eligibility. All projects are subject to a comprehensive net benefit analysis by the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA) to verify that the revenues the State receives will be greater than the incentive being provided.

For additional information concerning program requirements and eligibility, as well as an online mapping tool and checklist created by the NJ Department of State - Business Action Center (BAC), please visit the following webpage: <http://www.njeda.com/GrowNJ>

Base Category	Base Incentive (per employee per year)	Eligibility Region
Priority Area	\$3,000	Planning Area 1 (Metropolitan)
		Planning Area 2 (Suburban)
		Designated Center
		Port District, Deep Poverty Pocket, or Transit Oriented Development
Qualified Area	\$500	Planning Area 3 (Fringe)
		Planning Area 4A/4B/5 (Rural/Rural Sensitive/Environmentally Sensitive) if in a designated area in need of redevelopment or rehabilitation
		Highlands Planning Area
Bonus Type	Bonus Incentive (per employee per year)	Eligibility Region
Transit Oriented Development	\$2,000	Transit oriented development (within 1/2-mile of NJ Transit train station)
Deep Poverty Pocket	\$1,500	Census tract with at least 20% of population below poverty level
Mixed Use Development	\$500	Mixed use development with moderate income housing for at least 20% of full-time workforce



\* Eligibility limited to any area with an existing or previously existing structure, provided the redevelopment otherwise complies with all applicable federal, state, county, and local permits and approvals.

\*\* The Priority Growth Investment Areas (PGIAs) shown on this map were identified by the County Planning Board in collaboration with the County's municipalities and other stakeholders as part of the development of the County Investment Framework, which was endorsed via resolution by the County Planning Board in October 2013 and supported via resolution by the State Planning Commission in October 2013.

PGIAs are areas where infrastructure and connectivity assets are concentrated, where primary economic growth and community development and redevelopment strategies that enhance quality of life are preferred, and where growth-inducing investments are encouraged.

\*\*\* LPAs are small town and village centers, some of which have been designated by the NJ State Planning Commission, that have limited growth opportunities due to their scale, historic character, environmental and/or access constraints - where investments that support job creation and community sustainability are preferred.

### NOTES

- The map displays the most current data available. The map is subject to change without notice.
- Some of the data used for this map was provided by the following sources:
  - US Census Bureau - 2010 Census Census Tract Data
  - US Census Bureau - 2010 Census Census Tract Data
  - US Census Bureau - 2010 Census Census Tract Data

### DATA SOURCES

- US CENSUS BUREAU
  - 2010 Census Census Tract Data
- NJ OFFICE FOR PLANNING AND ADVOCACY
  - 2010 Census Census Tract Data
- NJ DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
  - State Road
- ENTERPRISE GAS DATA
  - Enterprise Gas
- NJ HIGHLANDS COUNCIL
  - Highlands Planning Area
- NJ DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
  - State Planning Commission
- SOMERSET COUNTY PLANNING DIVISION
  - Priority Growth Investment Areas
  - Local Priority Areas

