

Proposal for Adoption of Program and Guidelines for the Governors Agriculture and Forestry Industries Program (AFID)  
By the Northampton County JIDA  
October 29, 2019

The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Northampton County supports adoption of the Governors AFID program in Northampton County and agrees that the JIDA will act as the local government agency for the program to attract new and expanding agriculture and forestry businesses to the county. Using the premise that any financial incentive should be granted only if it makes economic sense and conforms to the County's goals, the following set of guidelines shall govern the granting of economic incentives under the AFID program. These guidelines shall be reviewed periodically and revised or eliminated if need be.

Purpose:

The AFID incentive program should be managed to provide a new or expanding agricultural or Forestry business with financial assistance associated with the start-up or expansion in order to provide the additional business capital when it is most critically needed. The business makes an Agricultural investment in the community which benefits by expanded job opportunities and an increased tax base. Thus the level of capital investment and the annual payroll impact will influence the level of incentive provided.

Types of incentives which may be offered:

1. Assistance with utility fees and charges
2. Delivery of infrastructure to a site or building [water, sewer, electric, fiber, etc]
3. Assistance with engineering, site plans, permits
4. Cash grants and combinations with Federal and State programs with up to \$15,000 JIDA contribution per applicant

Guidelines:

1. The incentives shall be available to new and existing businesses.
2. The minimum investment for AFID eligibility shall be as established by the Governors Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund.
3. The minimum number of jobs created or retained shall be established by the Governors Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund.
4. The amount of the incentive will be based upon a three-year projected return on investment.

- a. The projected new tax revenue shall be estimated based upon the company's investment in facility, equipment, vehicles, and other taxable items. It may also include any impact to sales tax revenue increase which may occur.
- b. New jobs provided by the project shall be judged according to the number and quality of the positions and the annual payroll.
- c. The JIDA shall have the flexibility to consider different levels of investment and hiring based upon the particular needs of certain businesses. {Some businesses may have a high capital investment but lower employment numbers, or vice versa.}

#### Eligibility:

This incentive program will be available to agribusiness and forestry businesses provided they reach the appropriate levels of investment and hiring. Applications will be treated on a case by case basis.

#### Incentive Provisions:

The grant or other assistance may be paid in full in the first year or may be phased in over a period of several years at the JIDA's discretion based upon circumstances.

#### Annual Reporting/ Performance Agreement:

A performance agreement will be signed by the company and the JIDA. This agreement shall provide for annual reporting and a provision of recovery of funds in the case of default in accordance with the AFID program guidelines established by the Governor.

#### Incentive Program Funding:

This program may be funded from JIDA reserve funds, grant funding, and supplemental appropriations from the Board of Supervisors. All grants and payments are subject to the availability of funds at any given time

#### Funds Identified:

The IIDA hereby allocates the amount of sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000) for use in AFID Grants from its general fund as an earmarked source of grant funds for implementation of the program.

John Burdis made a motion to adopt the AFID proposal with the \$15,000 max grant per applicant and \$60,000 cap for the program. Bill Payne seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. October 29, 2019