

General Explanation of EZ Program

The Empire Zones Program is enacted by the NYS Legislature and provides NYS Tax incentives for businesses that are creating jobs and/or making capital investments. Businesses need to be located within an Empire Zone then apply for and receive certification. 200 State Street in the Village of Brockport is a located in the Empire Zone of Monroe County, Inc.

A certified business can access benefits through their NYS Income Tax. A business completes its income taxes, and then calculates various “tests” relating to Empire Zone Benefits. If the business passes the tests, additional income tax forms are completed which allow the business to access benefits. All benefits are received after jobs are created and/ or investment made. Certain tests look back at historic employment level of up to four years. Tests must be met each year. Under the current program, benefits run from three to ten years when a company meets the annual employment test relating to that benefit. The program is very complicated. We advise all businesses contemplating application to review potential benefits with accountants experienced in Empire Zones, as timing is critical in the program.

Under current legislation, the taxing jurisdictions are not impacted by these benefits or credits as they flow to a business via their income taxes. **Benefits are governed by New York State Law. The ability of a company to obtain benefits is dependent upon that company’s facts and circumstances, relative to qualifying for available benefits.** The Empire Zone of Monroe County, Inc. designates the land to be in the Zone, reviews certification applications with the confines of the legislation and Monroe County Development Policy, and forwards certification applications to the appropriate authorities.

Monroe County Empire Zone

The Monroe County Empire Zone offers special incentives to encourage economic development, business investment and job creation. A certified business located in the Monroe County Empire Zone may be eligible to receive significant tax credits and benefits.

A business can qualify if it expands in, or relocates to, the Monroe County Empire Zone. The Zone program gives companies increasing their employment the opportunity to access benefits for up to 10 years. Businesses must apply for certification and are subject to an approval process.

Certified businesses in the Monroe County Zone may qualify for the following benefits:

- Sales Tax Exemption
- Credit for Real Property Taxes
- Tax Reduction Credit
- Wage Tax Credit
- Investment Tax and Employment Incentive Credits
- New Business Refund
- Utility Rate Savings

For more information:

585-753-2000

mcplanning@monroecounty.gov