

122:7-1-01 **Definitions.**

As used in rules 122:7-1-02 to 122:7-1-09 of the Administrative Code:

(A) "Amendment" means any change to the terms and conditions of a tax credit agreement following approval from the authority.

(B) "Authority" means the tax credit authority created pursuant to division (M) of section 122.17 of the Revised Code.

(C) "Consumer price index" means the statistic released by the United States department of labor, bureau of labor statistics. The rate of the index to be considered by the authority is the United States city average percent change for all urban consumers.

(D) "Date of initial operations" means the beginning of the term of the tax credit, as specified in the tax credit agreement.

(E) "Director" means the director of development of the state of Ohio.

(F) "Disadvantaged person" means a resident of Ohio who meets at least one of the following criteria:

(1) Is a person who is currently receiving unemployment compensation or has not held a full-time job for at least the four months immediately preceding the determination of disadvantaged person status;

(2) Is certified as having a disability by the state of Ohio's rehabilitation services commission or bureau of workers' compensation, or who is determined to be disabled by the United States social security administration;

(3) Is eligible for Workforce Investment Act program assistance; or

(4) Is a person whose total gross annual income is less than the annual equivalent of one hundred fifty per cent of the federal minimum wage, or is part of a household of two or more persons whose total gross annual income is less than the annual equivalent of three hundred fifty per cent of the federal minimum wage.

(G) "Executive director" means the executive director of the tax credit authority.

(H) "Extraordinary circumstance" means

(1) The proposed project will encompass asset expenditures that significantly exceed the asset expenditures of similar projects within that industry sector;

(2) The proposed project establishes or enhances a taxpayer's operations within a targeted industry. Targeted industry means an industry sector that the Ohio department of development has then identified as a sector whose growth is

vital to the economic success of Ohio;

- (3) The proposed project utilizes a facility that has been vacant for at least twelve consecutive months immediately preceding the application for the proposed project;
- (4) For a taxpayer with existing operations at the project location, the proposed project will result in a growth in the number of full-time equivalent employees at the project location of at least three hundred per cent;
- (5) The proposed project establishes a company or division national/international headquarters location and the taxpayer will employ a minimum of two-hundred fifty full-time equivalent employees at the project location; or
- (6) After assessing all of the factors included but not limited to those listed in this division and in paragraph (C) of rule 122:7-1-06 of the Administrative Code as well as such other factors regarding the proposed project as an indication of substantial economic impact, the authority determines that the proposed project presents an extraordinary opportunity for the state. Additional consideration will be provided to proposed projects that:
- (a) Plan to generate substantial payroll growth in a distressed city or county. Distress criteria are established by the Ohio department of development and are published in map format at least twice each year to identify "priority investment areas".
- (b) Commit to hire and retain a significant percentage of disadvantaged persons.
- (I) "Fixed-asset investment" means the dollar amount invested in building, land, machinery and equipment, including computers, and infrastructure related to the project. Fixed-asset investment does not include investments in furniture, inventory, working capital, and other operating expenses.
- (J) "Full-time equivalent employees" means the quotient obtained by dividing the total number of hours for which employees were compensated for employment in the project by two-thousand eighty. If the authority determines that full-time employees in a particular industry sector normally work fewer than two thousand eighty hours per year, the authority may reduce the denominator described in the preceding sentence to the number of hours that correspond to full-time employment in the relevant industry sector. The calculation of "full-time equivalent employees" shall exclude any and all hours that are included as part of a tax credit under section 122.171 of the Revised Code.
- (K) "Maintain operations" means the continuation of operations of the taxpayer as described in the tax credit agreement. The tax credit agreement shall describe the type of work performed, the number of full-time equivalent employees to be

created and retained, the level of investment, and other details the authority deems appropriate to measure maintenance of operations.

(L) "Minority" means a resident of Ohio who is a member of one of the following groups: Blacks or African Americans, American Indians, Hispanics or Latinos, and Asians.

(M) "Payroll" means the aggregate taxable income paid to full-time equivalent employees at the project location. Payroll does not include employer contributions to fringe benefits that are provided to employees.

(N) "Payroll increase factor" means a numerical percentage determined by the authority to represent retained payroll growth, and which shall be applied to adjust annually "baseline income tax revenue," as defined in division (A)(2) of section 122.17 of the Revised Code. The payroll increase factor shall be a minimum of one. The payroll increase factor shall be multiplied by the current taxable year's baseline income tax revenue to equal the next taxable year's baseline income tax revenue for each year during the term of the tax credit.

(O) "Post-term reporting period" means the time period a taxpayer must report to the authority and director to verify the maintenance of operations at the project location. The post-term reporting period begins at the conclusion of the tax credit term and continues for a minimum of three years as set forth in the tax credit agreement corresponding to the taxpayer's obligation to maintain operations at the project location.

(P) "Relocated employees" means either of the following:

(1) The full-time equivalent employees or employment positions employed by the taxpayer in a political subdivision in this state other than the political subdivision in which the project is located are relocated to the project location and whose positions are not replaced in the first political subdivision within the same calendar year.

(2) The full-time equivalent employees or employment positions employed by the taxpayer at a location other than the project location within the same political subdivision as the project location that are relocated to the project location, and whose positions are not replaced within the same calendar year.

(Q) "Retail" means operations that include point-of-final-purchase transactions at a facility open to the consuming public, wherein one party is obligated to pay the price and the other party is obligated to transfer title to or possession of the item sold.

(R) "Substantial number of employment positions" means individual employees of the taxpayer for which the aggregate annual gross payroll, excluding amounts paid for fringe benefits, is at least two hundred thousand dollars. In calculating the "substantial number of employment positions" threshold, the taxpayer must

aggregate the payroll from all relocated employees under paragraph (B) of rule 122:7-1-09 of the Administrative Code for each year during the term of the tax credit.

(S) "Tax year" means the calendar year in and for which the tax imposed by sections 5725.18, 5729.03, 5733.06, 5747.02 or 5751.031 of the Revised Code is required to be paid.

(T) "Taxable year" means the annual tax reporting period of the taxpayer prescribed by division (A) of section 5733.031 of the Revised Code with respect to persons subject to the Ohio corporate franchise tax, and prescribed by division (M) of section 5747.01 of the Revised Code with respect to persons subject to individual income tax. With respect to insurance companies taxable year means the calendar year subject to the franchise tax return required pursuant to section 5725.18 of the Revised Code, or subject to the tax required pursuant to section 5729.03 of the Revised Code.

(U) "Taxpayer" means a business entity that has entered into an agreement for a tax credit pursuant to division (D) of section 122.17 of the Revised Code.

(V) "Transferred income tax revenue" means the withholdings attributed to all relocated employees at the project location, if any.

(W) "Transferred payroll" means the payroll attributed to all relocated employees at the project location, if any.

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