The Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Act, administered by the Mississippi Development Authority, is a program designed to provide incentives to qualified applicants of new healthcare related projects within the State of Mississippi. The Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Act allows sales and property tax exemptions to eligible healthcare industries to encourage location in Mississippi healthcare corridors.

MDA Contact:
David Ramsey
Economic Development Projects
Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone
dramsey@mississippi.org
601-359-2491
ELIGIBLE HEALTHCARE PROJECTS

Eligibility to receive assistance through the Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Act will be determined by location, capital investment, job creation, and business service, pursuant to House Bill 1537, Mississippi Legislature Regular Session 2012 and House Bill 722, Mississippi Legislature Regular Session 2013. To qualify, a project must be certified as an eligible “Health Care Industry Facility” and also locate in an eligible “Health Care Industry Zone.” To receive incentives, the project must apply and be certified before the facility is in operation.

Eligible Health Care Industry Facilities must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Must be a business engaged in one of the following activities:
  - Medical supply
  - Biologics
  - Laboratory testing
  - Medical product distribution
  - Diagnostic imaging
  - Biotechnology
  - Pharmaceutical research and development
  - Medical service providers
  - Nursing and assisted living facilities
  - Medical equipment or medicine production and related manufacturing or processing

  AND:

- Must create 25 new full-time jobs AND/OR invest $10,000,000; or
- Be on land owned/leased from an academic health science center with an accredited medical school and hospital; and
- Creates at least 25 new jobs and/or invests $20 million.

Eligible Health Care Industry Zones must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Must locate within a county where a combination of three contiguous counties jointly have certificates of need for 375 or more acute care hospital beds, OR in a county with a minimum investment of $250,000,000 in a hospital after July 1 2012, and before July 1, 2017
- Must locate within a 5-mile radius of:
  - A facility with a certificate of need for hospital beds
  - An accredited university or college that trains workers for jobs in the health care or pharmaceutical fields and is located along or near MS Highway 67 within a master planned community.
- Local zoning, if applicable must allow the construction and operation of the health care industry facility.

INCENTIVES PROVIDED

Certified Health Care Industry Facilities are eligible to receive the following incentives through the Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Incentive Program:

- An accelerated, 10-year state income tax depreciation deduction; and
- A sales tax exemption for equipment and materials purchased from the date of the project’s certification until three months after the facility is completed.

In addition, the program allows counties and cities to grant a property tax “fee in lieu” for 10 years for any certified project with an investment of more than $10,000,000 OR a 10-year ad valorem tax exemption, subject to approval by the city and/or county.

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

All Mississippi Health Care Industry Facilities must apply for certification. Application documents may be obtained from MDA. The applicant must submit a completed application to MDA to initiate the certification process. Items that must be submitted with the application are:

- A summary of the anticipated project;
- A map showing the exact location of the proposed Health Care Industry Facility, as well as the CON facility that is located within five miles of the proposed site; and
- A letter of support from the facility with a CON that is within five miles of the proposed site that recommends the Health Care Industry Facility and acknowledges the benefit the industry will bring to the healthcare area.

APPROVAL PROCESS

Upon determination that all program requirements are met, a Mississippi Health Care Industry Zone Certificate will be issued. This certification must be provided to the Department of Revenue and the local units of government in order to obtain the statutory tax incentives.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information related to the program and these program guidelines may be obtained by contacting:

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Health Care Industry Zone Act
Financial Resources Division
Post Office Box 849
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
(601) 359-3552

Ask us about State of Mississippi Health Care Master Plans for Mississippi communities.