

LOUISIANA WINS BUSINESS INCENTIVE GUIDE


THIS IS LOUISIANA NOW



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Customized Workforce Training Program: LED FastStart
Business Facilities, 2026



#2
Foreign Direct Investment per capita
Financial Times, 2025



#3
Lowest Industrial Electricity Rates—Lowest in the South
U.S. Energy Information Administration, 2025




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Cost of Doing Business
CNBC, 2025



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U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2025



#10
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Tech Talent Pipeline
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\$200M
State Investment for Economic Site Development: Louisiana FastSites
Site Investment and Infrastructure Improvement Fund



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Manufacturing Talent Pipeline
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First state ever to earn back-to-back Business Facilities Platinum Deal of the Year

2024
Meta
\$10B
 AI Data Center



2025
Hyundai Steel
\$5.8B
 Steel Mill





The Bayou State is staging a revival that could see it emerge as the more dynamic and influential Gulf Coast hub over the coming decades, thanks to a development blueprint that could be described as being all things to all people.



—Reuters, April 2025

Whether you're expanding, relocating, or starting up, Louisiana will position your business to win.

Welcome to the **Louisiana Wins Business Incentive Guide**, an overview of the programs and resources Louisiana Economic Development (LED) offers that will give your company a competitive edge.

Beyond the programs included, companies investing in Louisiana may also be eligible for tailored support to accelerate project execution, including **LED FastStart**, one of the nation's top-ranked workforce development programs, and **performance-based grants** that are awarded based on job creation, investment, and/or expansion goals.

Louisiana is also taking site readiness to the next level with **Louisiana FastSites**. Anchored by a **\$150 million investment**, FastSites is a game-changing tool to deliver development-ready sites with infrastructure in place—reducing risk, lowering costs, and accelerating speed to market.

Connect with Louisiana Economic Development to learn more:
LED@la.gov

Louisiana Economic Development INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

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DIGITAL INTERACTIVE MEDIA AND SOFTWARE PROGRAM

Provides a 25% tax credit for Louisiana resident W2 labor expenditures and an 18% tax credit on qualified production expenditures for companies producing digital interactive media products or platforms in Louisiana.

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HIGH-IMPACT JOBS PROGRAM

Provides reimbursable grants of up to 22% on wages for newly-created jobs that pay a certain percentage above the parish (county) average wage, for up to five years.

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INDUSTRIAL TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM

Provides an 80% property tax abatement on a manufacturer's qualifying capital investments for up to 10 years.

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

Provides an up to 30% tax credit on qualified research expenditures incurred in Louisiana with no minimum spending requirement.

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Provides up to a 10-year property tax abatement for the rehabilitation of existing commercial structures and owner-occupied residences located within economic development districts, downtown development districts, historic districts, and Opportunity Zones.

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TAX COMPETITIVENESS

Anchoring Louisiana's powerhouse suite of incentives is a tax code that now ranks among the most competitive in the nation, marking the most business-friendly environment in the state's history.

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LOUISIANA SITE SELECTION CENTER

Enhancing speed to market, LED's Site Selection Center delivers the data and tools needed to rapidly identify, evaluate, and secure development-ready sites across Louisiana.

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Louisiana's statewide business directory connecting major projects to more than 80,000 in-state vendors, subcontractors, and suppliers.

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FEATURE: LOUISIANA FASTSITES

Proactively investing in critical infrastructure to deliver a strong portfolio of development-ready sites.



DIGITAL INTERACTIVE MEDIA AND SOFTWARE PROGRAM

Louisiana's Digital Interactive Media and Software Program (DM)—one of the strongest of its kind in the nation—helps innovative digital media and software development companies of all sizes gain a competitive edge. DM provides a 25% tax credit on qualified payroll for resident labor and 18% for qualified production expenditures. If the amount of tax credits exceeds the business' state income tax liabilities, the business receives the balance as a refund or applicants can opt for 85% of the value earned as a rebate any time during the year.

ELIGIBILITY

Open to all companies producing digital interactive media products or platforms in Louisiana. Certain exclusions apply, such as static internet websites or software primarily designed for internal use. Only work physically performed in Louisiana and direct development equipment purchased through Louisiana businesses qualifies for the incentive.

QUALIFYING DEVELOPMENT PRODUCTS

Digital media and games

Web-based and mobile applications

Consumer software

Entertainment software

Business and enterprise software

Interactive devices and consoles

Embedded systems



Louisiana's Digital Media & Software Development program has dramatically lowered the cost of building software for our company. That kind of leverage is rare—and powerful. By offsetting key development expenses, we've been able to bring more developers onto our Louisiana team, build products faster, and get them to market at a lower cost. It's not just a tax credit—it's a multiplier. Add to that the speed and professionalism of the LED team, and you've got a government partnership that genuinely drives innovation.



—Susco, June 2025

ELIGIBLE LABOR EXPENSES

- ▶ Project managers
- ▶ Quality assurance
- ▶ Engineers
- ▶ Programmers
- ▶ Game designers
- ▶ Industrial designers
- ▶ Composers
- ▶ Artists

ELIGIBLE PRODUCTION EXPENSES

- ▶ Production equipment directly related to development (hardware/software)
- ▶ Allocated rent for where direct development occurs
- ▶ Office supplies (related to development)
- ▶ Licenses/permits for development

MORE INFORMATION/TO APPLY

OpportunityLouisiana.com/incentive/digital-interactive-media-and-software-program

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Digital Interactive Media and Software Tax Credit Program, R.S. 47:6022



HIGH-IMPACT JOBS PROGRAM

Louisiana's High-Impact Jobs Program (HIP) offers qualifying companies up to five years of reimbursable grants for the creation of new jobs that pay above the parish (county) average wage, based on the parish where the project is located. Companies can benefit from grants administered directly from Louisiana Economic Development, with higher wages yielding higher grants. HIP is designed to benefit businesses of all sizes—qualifying companies creating at least one new job can apply. Sole proprietorships are ineligible.

BENEFIT TIERS

Grants are awarded as a **percentage of wages paid**, with an initial contract term of three years and the option to renew for an additional two years:

18% grant
for new jobs paying at least
125%
of the parish average wage

22% grant
for new jobs paying at least
150%
of the parish average wage

Jobs created in **distressed areas** are eligible at a lower wage threshold:

8% grant
for new jobs paying at least
110%
of the parish average wage or the regional average wage, whichever is lower

Distressed areas are defined as:

- ▶ 25% of parishes with lowest average annual wage (per Bureau of Labor Statistics)
- OR
- ▶ Areas identified as “deeply distressed” by the federal New Markets Tax Credit Program

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is largely defined by wages paid above the parish average, except in industries that are ineligible.

INELIGIBILITY

Companies primarily engaged in the following sectors are statutorily ineligible:

Gaming

Retail sales

Professional sports teams

State/political subdivision enterprises

Automotive rental and leasing

Local solid waste disposal

Local sewage systems

Local water systems

Certain industry sectors, such as professional services, may be subject to additional limitations or exclusions. Visit LED's [High-Impact Jobs Program](#) page for more information.

JOB REQUIREMENTS

Qualifying jobs must not have existed in the state for an employer prior to the effective date of the contract. Jobs must also meet the following requirements:

- ▶ Full-time, at-will employees (does not include seasonal or temporary positions)
- ▶ Employed by the company or a named subsidiary
- ▶ Filled onsite or remotely by Louisiana residents
- ▶ Include a basic health benefits plan

MORE INFORMATION/TO APPLY

OpportunityLouisiana.com/incentive/high-impact-jobs

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INDUSTRIAL TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM

The Louisiana Industrial Ad Valorem Tax Exemption Program (ITEP) offers an 80% property tax abatement for up to 10 years on a manufacturer's new investment. The program is open to manufacturers new to Louisiana and to existing manufacturers in Louisiana making new investments to existing facilities.

BENEFIT STRUCTURE

An 80% ad valorem tax exemption is the base rate under an initial contract term of five years, with the option to renew for an additional five year renewal term. Expansion or additions at a manufacturing establishment with a minimum of \$500 million in capital expenditures may be considered a "mega-project," and may be eligible for an increased exemption rate of 93-100%.

ELIGIBILITY

Businesses must be a manufacturer or be related to the manufacturing at the project site in order to receive ITEP benefits. Manufacturers must have a North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code that begins with 31, 32 or 33. The NAICS code is used as a preliminary qualification criterion. A detailed, planned project description of manufacturing activities must be provided by the company.

Only assets directly related to the manufacturing process at the site are eligible. Land is not eligible.



An executive order streamlined ITEP by eliminating job requirements and simplifying local approval procedures. ... These modifications reflect the state's efforts to make ITEP more accessible and efficient for manufacturers investing in Louisiana and more closely align the application rules for prospective ITEP projects.



—*Deloitte Tax Alert, May 2025*

2025 PROGRAM UPDATES

In 2025, LED issued new rules that streamline the ITEP Project Application Process. Project Applications are first reviewed by LED, then by the Local ITEP Committee, the Louisiana Department of Revenue (LDR), and the Louisiana Workforce Commission (LWC) simultaneously. Project Applications are then presented to the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry (BC&I) for consideration followed by ITEP contract submission to the Governor for approval. Additionally, there are no longer job creation nor payroll requirements to receive ITEP benefits.

WHAT IS THE LOCAL ITEP COMMITTEE?

Parishes may choose to establish a Local ITEP Committee—composed of one voting member representative from each of the following local governmental entities: the parish council or police jury, as applicable; the school board; the sheriff; and the mayor, if applicable—for the purpose of providing recommendations on ITEP Project Applications. Local ITEP Committee recommendations are non-binding. Ultimately, the Board of Commerce and Industry, with the approval of the Governor may enter into ITEP contracts.

MORE INFORMATION/TO APPLY

OpportunityLouisiana.com/incentive/industrial-tax-exemption

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RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

Louisiana's Research and Development (R&D) Tax Credit encourages existing businesses with operating facilities in Louisiana to establish or continue research and development activities within the state by providing up to a 30% tax credit on qualified research expenditures incurred in Louisiana, with no minimum spending requirement.

ELIGIBILITY

The R&D Tax Credit is open to companies who have incurred research and development expenditures in Louisiana and who meet certain requirements. Only research and development conducted in Louisiana qualifies.

QUALIFICATIONS

Research activity qualifies if it meets all of the following requirements:

- ▶ Qualifies as a business deduction under Internal Revenue Code §174
- ▶ Be undertaken to discover information that is technological in nature
- ▶ Be undertaken to discover information intended to be useful to develop a new or improved business component of the taxpayer
- ▶ Substantially all activities involve a process of experimentation—"substantially all" means 80% or more of research activities involve a process of experimentation

QUALIFIED RESEARCH EXPENSES

Qualified research expenses (QRE) includes wages, supplies and contract research costs:

- ▶ **Wages:** For qualified services that directly relate to the research activities and are paid or incurred by the taxpayer.
- ▶ **Supplies:** Tangible property consumed directly by the research activity or utilized in the development of a prototype—must be used in the conduct of qualified research.
- ▶ **Contract research:** Amounts paid to outside consultants to perform qualified research. For research conducted within and outside of Louisiana, only Louisiana expenditures qualify. Only 65% of the Louisiana expense qualifies for the credit.

MORE INFORMATION/TO APPLY

OpportunityLouisiana.com/incentive/research-and-development-tax-credit

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RESTORATION TAX ABATEMENT

Louisiana's Restoration Tax Abatement (RTA) program revitalizes communities by providing an up to 10-year property tax abatement on renovations and improvements of existing commercial structures and owner-occupied residences located within economic development districts, downtown development districts, historic districts and Opportunity Zones.

BENEFIT STRUCTURE

Offers an initial five-year abatement term, with the option to renew for five years with approval from the local governing authority, the Louisiana Board of Commerce and Industry (BC&I), and the Governor.

ELIGIBILITY

RTA is available to all Louisiana businesses and homeowners with existing structures to be expanded, restored, improved, or developed in qualifying locations, and as approved by the local governing authority. However, if property taxes have been paid on improvements, a business or homeowner is not eligible to apply for the exemption.

QUALIFYING LOCATIONS

- ▶ Downtown development districts
- ▶ Economic development districts (different from Economic Development Zones)
- ▶ Historic districts (including properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places)
- ▶ Opportunity Zones

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- ▶ Building and materials
- ▶ Machinery and equipment (only that which becomes an integral part of the structure)
- ▶ Labor and engineering

MORE INFORMATION/TO APPLY

OpportunityLouisiana.com/incentive/restoration-tax-abatement

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TAX COMPETITIVENESS

Building Business. Driving Growth.
**Louisiana Delivers a Top 10
Corporate Tax Climate**

—Tax Foundation, 2026 State Tax Competitiveness Index

Louisiana offers one of the most attractive business tax climates in the country. With no corporate franchise tax, a flat 5.5% corporate income tax rate, a \$20,000 standard deduction, and permanent full expensing for capital investments and research and development, Louisiana delivers a low-cost, pro-growth environment for companies to start, expand, and succeed.

Building on this strong foundation, Louisiana also offers a flat 3% personal income tax rate and a state sales tax exemption on manufacturing machinery and equipment, with an optional local exemption—further strengthening the state’s appeal for employers, investors, and talent alike.

Louisiana now offers a single-rate income tax structure, reducing administrative and compliance costs and encouraging expansion and investment:

Flat corporate income tax rate of 5.5%

with a standard deduction of \$20,000

Eliminated the corporation franchise tax

effective January 1, 2026

Flat personal income tax rate of 3%

with a standard deduction of \$12,500 for single filers and \$25,000 for taxpayers who are married filing jointly

PERMANENT FULL EXPENSING

Louisiana is now one of three states where businesses can benefit from permanent full expensing, a policy that allows deduction of the entire cost of certain capital investments in the year they are placed in service. Full expensing reduces up-front costs of new investment, helps businesses avoid complicated depreciation schedules and frees up capital to reinvest in the workforce and/or scaling and modernization efforts, proving especially beneficial in years of expansion or relocation.

WHAT QUALIFIES FOR FULL EXPENSING?

- ▶ **Qualified Property:** Most business equipment and machinery (e.g., manufacturing machinery, computers, vehicles, and office furniture)
- ▶ **Qualified Improvement Property:** Most upgrades to the inside of commercial buildings (e.g., new HVAC systems, electrical work, plumbing, or interior renovations)
- ▶ **Research and Experimental Expenditures:** Money spent developing new products, technology, or software

MORE INFORMATION

[OpportunityLouisiana.com](https://www.opportunitylouisiana.com)

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Louisiana Department of Revenue, [2024 Third Extraordinary Session Legislative Summaries](#)



LOUISIANA SITE SELECTION CENTER

Your next move starts here. Louisiana Economic Development's (LED) **Site Selection Center** showcases a statewide inventory of more than **120** shovel-ready **LED Certified Sites**, plus a dynamic pipeline of additional assets across the state. Built for speed to market, this database brings detailed property analyses to your fingertips, enabling projects to move swiftly from concept to construction with confidence.

LED's Certified Sites Program eliminates guesswork by ensuring rigorous due diligence, including: utility/infrastructure review, environmental studies, soil analysis, surveys, and more.

ADVANTAGES OF LED CERTIFIED SITES:

- ▶ Development ready, backed by substantial due diligence
- ▶ Rigorous review by LED and independent third-party engineering firm
- ▶ Extensive technical documentation available on demand

Explore the **Site Selection Center** and lock in your future location—LED Certified Sites are marked with a special logo:



Beginning in 2026, LED Certified Sites are being assessed with updated costs, infrastructure data, and due diligence aligned to current industry standards. Built to deliver speed, certainty, and clarity for decision-makers, Louisiana is providing real data, real readiness, right now.

The state's available sites and buildings combine with an unrivaled logistics infrastructure:

- ▶ **6 Interstate Highways**
Connecting sites with regional assets
- ▶ **6 Class 1 Railroads**
Louisiana is one of only two states in the country where all six of North America's Class I railroads converge
- ▶ **8 Deep Water Ports**
Connecting your business globally
- ▶ **50,000 Miles of Pipeline**
Criss-crossing the state

MORE INFORMATION

LouisianaSiteSelection.com

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**SOURCE
LOUISIANA**

*Find who you need, **faster.***

Source Louisiana is Louisiana Economic Development's statewide network connecting prime contractors and major projects to Louisiana vendors, subcontractors, and suppliers of all sizes.

The platform provides a centralized, searchable directory of more than 80,000 Louisiana-based businesses—making it easy to quickly identify local partners.

The connections you need are already here.

LOUISIANA BUSINESSES: Register and connect with new customers and opportunities.
Get started at SourceLouisiana.com

SOURCE LOUISIANA

ADVANTAGES OF SOURCE LOUISIANA:

- ▶ Access a statewide network of 80,000+ Louisiana businesses at no cost
- ▶ Accelerate speed to market with faster access to local suppliers
- ▶ Build and strengthen local partnerships that drive long-term growth

MORE INFORMATION

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LOUISIANA FASTSITES

HOW LOUISIANA IS BUILDING THE FOUNDATION
FOR FUTURE GROWTH



This isn't economic development as usual. FastSites turns site preparation into a revolving investment and ensures public dollars don't disappear, but instead work, return and work again

—Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry



Louisiana is winning major investments at a pace and scale that is driving unprecedented growth, marked by a historic year with the highest level of investment and job creation in state history. But Louisiana's record-breaking momentum isn't just about landing projects; it's about **proactively building the infrastructure to win the next generation of investment.**

To meet the growing demand for speed to market, Louisiana launched **FastSites**, a **\$150 million, first-of-its-kind program** designed to prepare sites before companies come calling. In today's environment, development-ready land is no longer optional—it's a competitive necessity.

That reality was underscored by Meta's \$10 billion Hyperion data center in Rayville, Louisiana. The company pointed to the state's site readiness and prior investment as key factors, allowing construction to begin within days of the announcement.

FastSites is built around a simple premise: **invest today to win tomorrow.** The program funds critical infrastructure—including **power, road, rail and building remediation**—to build the state's portfolio of development-ready sites, ensuring companies can move from decision to construction with **predictability, speed, and confidence.**

Unlike traditional grant programs, FastSites operates as a revolving fund, with investments repaid and redeployed to support future projects. This model sets FastSites apart as economic activity generated from the program sustains future rounds of site development. This disciplined approach stretches public dollars further while aligning state and local partners around long-term outcomes.

"This isn't economic development as usual. FastSites turns site preparation into a revolving investment and ensures public dollars don't disappear, but instead work, return and work again," Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry said. "That approach allows us to continually reinvest in Louisiana's growth and strengthen our competitive position. Louisiana is not waiting for opportunity. We are preparing for it."

Today, FastSites is catalyzing infrastructure buildout in every corner of the state, **funding the tangible improvements that will support tomorrow's investments.** Each of these sites represents the




future home of a business that will bring jobs and economic opportunity to a community sooner rather than later.

FastSites embodies Louisiana's winning approach to economic development—proactively preparing sites and removing barriers to development so when companies are ready to invest, **Louisiana is ready to deliver.**

MORE INFORMATION

OpportunityLouisiana.com/fastsites



A low-angle photograph of a construction site at sunset. The sky transitions from a deep blue at the top to a warm orange and yellow near the horizon. In the foreground, a construction worker wearing a hard hat and safety vest is silhouetted against the bright light, working on a structure of vertical rebar. To the right, a large tower crane is also silhouetted against the sky. The overall scene conveys a sense of industry and progress.

06.30.2026

THE FUTURE FLOWS THROUGH LOUISIANA

OPPORTUNITYLOUISIANA.COM