



## New York City's Empire Zones

The New York State Empire Zone (EZ) Program offers a wide array of incentives including tax credits and utility discounts in 10 New York City business districts.

- Hunts Point, Bronx
- Port Morris, Bronx
- East Brooklyn
- North Brooklyn
- Southwest Brooklyn
- East Harlem
- Far Rockaway, Queens
- South Jamaica, Queens
- North & West Shore, Staten Island

### Qualifications

- Be located in an Empire Zone and be EZ-certified prior to March 31, 2005
- Increase or maintain employment in the Zone and in the State in the year they are qualifying, based on a previously determined five year average employment number.

### Empire Zones Program

#### Wage Tax Credit:

A \$1,500 credit per employee for up to five consecutive years for hiring full-time employees in newly created jobs. For employees in targeted groups, this credit equals \$3,000 per year.

#### Employment Incentive Credit:

A credit for creating new employment. This credit equals 3% of the investment cost, and it is taken in each of the 3 years following the initial investment credit.

#### Investment Tax Credit:

A credit for the purchase of property and equipment related to production, R&D, and industrial waste treatment. The credit is 10% under the corporate franchise tax and 8% for personal income tax.

#### Tax Reduction Credit:

Based on number of jobs created, the company's assets in the Zone and income taxes owed by the company, Qualified Empire Zones Enterprises (QEZE) can receive a credit against business corporate taxes, personal income taxes, bank corporate taxes or insurance corporate taxes for a 15 year period: 10 years at 100% decreasing 20% each year thereafter.

#### Real Property Tax Credit:

Qualified Empire Zones Enterprises (QEZE) that own real property may receive a credit against business corporate taxes, personal income taxes, banking corporate taxes or insurance corporate taxes. Unused credits are refundable in the year that they were earned. The credit is available for 15 years: 10 years at 100%, decreasing 20% each year thereafter. The Credit is calculated based on the number of jobs created and the real property taxes paid on property in the Zone. The company's eligibility is determined annually.

#### Sales Tax Exemption:

Qualified Empire Zones Enterprises may be exempt from the 4% NYS sales and uses tax on tangible personal property and services exclusive to the operation of a QEZE.

#### Sales Tax Refund:

Purchases of building materials to be used in connection with commercial or industrial properties located in an EZ is eligible for a refund of NYS sales taxes.

#### Utility Discounts:

Discount rates available through the City's Energy Cost Savings Program (ECSP), KeySpan Energy's Business Incentives Rate up to 25%, AS WELL AS Verizon's 5% discounts on local phone usage.

#### Zone Capital Credit:

A 25% tax credit, against personal or corporate taxes for contributing or buying shares in a zone Capital Corporation; or for a direct equity investment into a zone-certified business; or for cash donations to approved community development projects within EZ.

#### Statewide Zone Capital Credit Corporation

##### Loan:

Low interest rate loan for Zone-certified businesses at 5% APR for the first 3 years and 7% for the remainder of term. Loans range from \$3,000 to 300,000.

## Local Empire Zone Administrators

### East Brooklyn EZ Local Development Corporation of East N.Y.

Contact: Bill Wilkins      Tel No. (718) 385-6074  
billscott44@aol.com      Fax No. (718) 385-7505

### Brooklyn Navy Yard /North Brooklyn EZ East Williamsburg Valley Industrial Development

Contact: Emmett Pickett      Tel No. (718) 388-7287  
epicket@ewvidco.com      Fax No. (718) 963-1905

### Southwest Brooklyn EZ Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corp.

Contact: Josh Keller      Tel No. (718) 965-3100  
jkeller@swbidc.org      Fax No. (718) 965-4906

### East Harlem EZ East Harlem Business Capital Corporation

Contact:      Tel No. (212) 427-6590  
Sandra Morales Deleon  
ehbcc@aol.com      Fax No. (212) 427-6537

### Hunts Point EZ Hunts Point Local Development Corporation

Contact: Jeremie Sautter      Tel No. (718) 842-1717  
jsautter@huntspointedc.org      Fax No. (718) 842-6592

### Port Morris EZ South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp.

Contact: Doreen Taveras      Tel No. (718) 292-3113  
dtaveras@sobro.org      Fax No. (718) 292-3115

### South Jamaica EZ Greater Jamaica Development Corporation

Contact: Martha Sobani      Tel No. (718) 291-0282  
msobhani@gjdc.org      Fax No. (718) 658-1405

### Rockaway EZ Rockaway Development & Revitalization Corporation

Contact: Ivor Quashie      Tel No. (718) 327-5300  
RDRC1@netzero.net      Fax No. (718) 327-4990

### Staten Island North & West Shore EZ Staten Island Economic Development Corporation

Contact: Jay Anderson      Tel No. (718) 477-1400  
jay@siedc.net      Fax No. (718) 477-0681

## New York City Department of Small Business Services

The mission of the Department of Small Business Services is to support the formation, growth and expansion of the City's small businesses by providing business assistance, fostering neighborhood development, and promoting financial and economic opportunity through government procurement.

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**Robert W. Walsh**  
Commissioner, Department of Small Business Services

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