



Incentives & Financing

CREATIVE FINANCIAL INCENTIVES

Financial incentives are a key factor in determining your business location. BCU will guide you through various state and local funding opportunities with favorable rates and negotiable terms to customize an incentive package that will reduce start-up costs and help your company grow competitively without putting a strain on your bottom line.

Here are just a few of the reasons why doing business in Battle Creek, Michigan can work for you:

- Financial incentives available based on job creation and investment
- Direct Investment Fund (available exclusively in Battle Creek) can provide up to \$500,000 or 50% of start-up capital at advantageous rates in conjunction with local banks
- Customized training incentives to support new and existing jobs
- Special incentives may be available for investments in Fort Custer Industrial Park based on project parameters funds may be used for property acquisition, site improvements, relocation cost, and infrastructure
- Free start-up space available
- Michigan's overall Business Tax climate is ranked 13th in the nation
- Real Property Tax Abatement (PA 198) can reduce property tax by 50% (up to 12 years) for manufacturers and high-tech businesses
- No personal property tax or sales tax on nearly all capital equipment
- Michigan is a Right-to-Work state

TAX INCENTIVES

- [Commercial Redevelopment Act](#)
- [Commercial Rehabilitation Act \(PA 210\)](#)
- [Local Property Tax Abatement \(PA 198\)](#)
- [Michigan Business Development Program](#)
- [Obsolete Property Rehabilitation Exemption](#)
- [Personal Property Tax Relief \(PA 328\)](#)
- [SBA Programs](#)
- [SmartZones](#)

FINANCING PROGRAM

The **Direct Investment Fund's** primary purpose is to recruit businesses to our vibrant community and to help established businesses grow to their full potential. The fund is used to support the economic development efforts for the City of Battle Creek.

Funding is available for both loans and equity investments. The Direct Investment Fund offers investments from \$30,000 to \$500,000 and will provide up to 50% of the total capital in any deal. The fund dollars are not to be considered a grant. A typical loan prospect is an individual or business that has received a loan approval from a traditional lending institution but needs further funding to fill the "gap" to complete their project. Additionally, a loan could be extended to an applicant that is unable to obtain funding through a lending institution. All loans require collateral. Also, loans to closely held corporations require a personal guaranty of the principal owner.

The typical time frame for processing investment requests is approximately 90 days after a completed application is submitted. The due diligence requirements may extend the processing time past the 90 day average. Loan and investment approvals are made by a seven-member committee. Contact [Brenda Whited](#) for additional information.

DIRECT INVESTMENT FUND REQUIREMENTS

- Business plan with pro forma income and expense detail
- Completed applicant forms and historical financial information (2-3 years), if applicable
- Copies of income tax statements
- Personal financial statements

Authorization to conduct a background and credit check is also a requirement of all applicants.

[Download Application](#)

[Download Guidelines](#)

[Download Program Parameters](#)

SMALL BUSINESS RESOURCES

State of Michigan

- [Michigan Business Development Services](#)
- [Michigan Business Taxes](#)
- [Michigan Business Tax Forms](#)
- [Michigan Minority Business Development Council](#)
- [Register to do Business with the State](#)

National

- [IRS Small Business](#)
- [Small Business Development Center](#)

- [U.S. Small Business Association](#)

Our team is here to help you identify and pursue different incentives and financing options to help move or build your business in Battle Creek. [Contact us now.](#)