



Overview of the Program

The Rural Jump-Start Zone program (based on Senate Bill 15-282) is a tax relief program for new businesses and new hires who locate into certain designated areas called Jump-Start zones. The program offers the following benefits:

- Relief from state income taxes for the new business
- Relief from the state sales & use tax for the new business
- Relief from county and municipal business personal property tax for the new business
- Relief from state income taxes for the employee

This program is jointly administered by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), the Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC), and the Colorado Department of Revenue.

The following counties are eligible to participate in the program: Mesa, Montrose, Las Animas, Logan. Logan county cannot offer program benefits until January 1, 2017.

Program Structure

This program is a joint effort between institutes of higher education, counties, municipalities, businesses and employees.

Institutes of Higher Education

The institutes of higher education (IHE's) are the two and four year public colleges in Colorado, as well as certain specialty schools. The IHE's play a key role in this program, as every business that applies to the program must apply through an IHE and be endorsed by that IHE. The IHE's have are associated with specific counties, so not every IHE can work in every zone.

Counties

In order to participate in this program, a county must be designated as economically distressed by the EDC. Having been so designated, the county must pass a resolution to offer tax relief. The list of counties and eligible IHE's is published on the web page.

Municipalities

In order to participate in this program, a municipality must first be located in a county that has passed a resolution to participate. Furthermore, the municipality must pass a resolution to participate as well. No municipality can be forced to participate in the program, and a municipality is not enrolled in the program simple because its county is.

Businesses

A business that wishes to participate in this program must be a new business that is locating into the Jump-Start zone. Furthermore, the business must apply to the IHE and be endorsed by the IHE.

Employees

Employees who wish to participate in the program must be working for a business that has been approved by the EDC. Employees must be making at least the county median wage, and must work for the new business for six months to receive benefits.

Learn more at www.choosecolorado.com



Rural Jump-Start Program | Colorado Office of Economic Development & International Trade

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Rural Jump-Start Program

Announcement on New Business Applications

Annual Report for Jump-Start Businesses

Businesses participating in the Rural Jump-Start Program must fill out the annual report in order to receive their tax credit certificates. The annual report is now available. The annual report requires all businesses to submit a list of employees, so that tax credit certificates can be created for employees who are eligible for program benefits. Use [this template](#) to submit the list of employees.

Rural Jump-Start businesses that are organized as a pass-through (non-taxable) entity must also submit a list of owners as a part of their annual report, so that tax credit certificates can be created for owners. Use [this template](#) to submit the list of owners.

About the Program

The Rural Jump-Start Zone program provides specific tax relief to New Businesses and New Hires of these businesses that are located in certain economically distressed areas of rural Colorado and align with local or regional state higher education institutions in order to promote economic development in these areas. This program is based on Senate Bill 15-282, and codified under Colorado Revised Statutes 39-30.5-101. This program is administered by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT) and the Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC), in conjunction with other government entities.

Current Applications

The Rural Jump-Start program is currently reviewing an application from a company that manufactures construction materials from a proprietary bio-composite cement utilizing industrial hemp. The Rural Jump-Start program specifies that an applicant company cannot be directly competing with the core function of an existing Colorado company. If you believe that this company would compete with the core function of an existing Colorado company, please contact Ken Jensen at 303.892.3743 or ken.jensen@state.co.us.

The Rural Jump-Start program is currently reviewing an application from a company that has developed a low emission, environmentally friendly way to process waste from the oil and gas industry. The Rural Jump-Start program specifies that an applicant company cannot be directly competing with the core function of an existing Colorado company. If you believe that this company would compete with the core function of an existing Colorado company, please contact Ken Jensen at 303.892.3743 or ken.jensen@state.co.us.

The Application Process

- [Create or Login to an Account](#)

Program Documents

- [Program Manual](#)
- [List of Counties and IHEs Eligible to Participate](#)
- [Rural JumpStart Factsheet](#)
- [List of Participating Companies](#)

Counties Eligible to Apply for the Rural Jump-Start Program:

Alamosa, Archuleta, Baca, Bent, Chaffee, Cheyenne, Clear Creek, Conejos, Costilla, Crowley, Custer, Delta, Dolores, Fremont, Garfield, Grand, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Huerfano, Jackson, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lake, Las Animas, Lincoln, Logan, Mesa, Mineral, Moffat, Montezuma, Montrose, Morgan, Otero, Ouray, Park, Phillips, Prowers, Pueblo, Rio Blanco, Rio Grande, Saguache, San Juan, San Miguel, Sedgwick, Washington, Yuma

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This program is jointly administered by OEDIT, the Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC) and the Colorado Department of Revenue.

Definition of Rural Jump-Start Zone

A Rural Jump-Start Zone must be located in a county with a population of less than 250,000 people that has been designated as economically distressed by the EDC.

Program Structure

This program is a joint effort between institutes of higher education, counties, municipalities, businesses and employees.

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Program Communication

In order to ensure that there is no ambiguity concerning the rules of this program, we are asking all our partners and the various agencies they work with to make sure that information released about the program is up-to-date and accurate. To ensure that this happens, we are asking that any written correspondence (e-mail, website or printed material) about the program to potential beneficiaries include the following text:

All applications for participation in Rural Jump-Start will be submitted via a formal online process, reviewed by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT), and will require approval by the Colorado Economic Development Commission (EDC). Final rules for the program and the application processes for businesses, institutes of higher education, municipalities and counties are published in the program manual. Anyone wishing for information about the Rural Jump-Start program should contact Ken Jensen at OEDIT at 303-892-3743.

Links & Resources

[Rural Jump-Start Zone Program Report FY15-16](#)

[RJS Employee List 2016 xls](#)

[RJS Owner List 2016 xls](#)



Ken Jensen
Senior Manager, New Program Development
(303) 892-3743
ken.jensen@state.co.us

State of Colorado
Office of Economic Development and International Trade
Rural Jump-Start Program
List of Approved Companies
As Of Sept 19, 2016

Company	Sponsoring IHE	Date Approved by EDC	New Hire Allocation	RJS Zone
Colorado Clear	Colorado Mesa University	Feb 11, 2016	37	Mesa
TSW Analytics	Colorado Mesa University	Feb 11, 2016	20	Mesa
ProStar GeoCorp	Colorado Mesa University	Feb 11, 2016	29	Mesa
Rebco	Colorado Mesa University	May 19, 2016	30	Mesa
Qmast	Colorado Mesa University	Jun 16, 2016	50	Mesa
Kaart Group	Colorado Mesa University	Jun 16, 2016	8	Mesa
General Synfuels	Colorado Mesa University	Jul 20, 2016	30	Mesa

204

Max Number of New Hires	300
Available New Hire Allocations	96

Ideas for Presentations to the Board regarding Region 9

15 minutes maximum and then time for questions and answers

Overviews, including:

- A. What the program/service is
- B. What are the goals of the program or service
- C. How the program fits and furthers Region 9's mission/strategic plan
- D. How long it has been in effect at Region 9
- E. Who manages it and who are any other regular players (ie EDA in Denver, CDBG folks)
 - a. Names of the people commonly associated with the program
- F. General requirements-not detailed specifics but more along the line of who qualifies, or who is the typical recipient
- G. General process of the program.
 - a. Is there an administrative process or review board?
 - b. Timing
 - i. When does the review board meet or what is the schedule for review and decision making, or
 - ii. What are the steps of the process (relates to CEDS, CDAP, grants)
- H. Highlight and/or lowlight of the program

Topics

- A. EZ Program
- B. Loan Programs
- C. 4 Corners Film Festival *Office*
- D. Strategic Planning (CEDS)
- E. Technical Assistance
- F. Marketing and Outreach