

Columbus

Business Development Center

The Columbus Business Development Center, the city's Enterprise Zone, was established to revitalize the



area's residential neighborhoods, while creating and retaining jobs for its residents. Businesses and residential developments which plan to invest in this area are given special state and location tax incentives as well as other possible fee exemptions. The Columbus Business Development Center is administered by the Department of Community & Economic Development and is located in central Columbus. Numerous financial incentives, government services and benefits are available to qualified businesses which locate within the boundaries of the Columbus Business Development Center.

Financial Incentives

Qualifying businesses and residential developments which locate within the Columbus Business Development Center may be exempt from one or more of the following fees:

- Building Permit fees
- Sign Permit fees
- Business License Administration fees
- Rezoning fees
- Engineering fees
- Other local fees authorized by the City Council, as applicable

In addition to these incentives businesses within the Columbus Business Development Center will also receive tax exemptions, as shown in the **Benefits of Locating** section of this brochure.

Who can locate within the Columbus Business Development Center?

The following businesses/residential developments may qualify for location within the Columbus Business Development Center:

- Manufacturing
- Warehousing and Distribution
- Processing
- Telecommunications
- Tourism
- Research and Development
- Finance, Insurance and Real Estate activities, (SIC Codes 60 through 67)
- New residential construction, residential rehabilitation, or other rehabilitation of existing structures

What are the Benefits of Locating within the Columbus Business Development Center?

Businesses/residential developments which locate within the Columbus Business Development Center may receive tax exemptions for the first ten years of operation. These exemptions are as follows:

- 100% for the first five years
- 80% for years 6 & 7
- 60% for year 8
- 40% for year 9 and...
- 20% for year 10

Furthermore the local government has the discretion to grant or deny incentives to qualifying businesses. Columbus' considerations for granting tax and fee abatements are as follows:

The value of the development project to the economic health and well being of Columbus/Muscogee County and its citizens.
Capital investment or reinvestment by the project equal to or greater than the amount of ad valorem tax abated over the first five years of the tax incentive and consideration for meeting some or all of the following criteria:

- Locating in a vacant building
- Demolishing a pre-existing or abandoned structure
- Assembling four or more tracts of land for one project

Creating jobs above the state threshold
Creating jobs for residents of the Columbus Business Development Center and surrounding area
Incorporating aesthetic enhancements (landscaping, type of façade materials used, exclusion of billboards, etc.)
Columbus' ordinance requires that projects receiving tax exemptions must choose to incorporate either a Landscaping requirement option or a Façade Material option. The ordinance also requires the exclusion of billboards from the property for the duration of the tax exempt period.



Need more information?

For information on how you can take advantage of this development opportunity please call the following:

For business developments call:

Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce
706-327-1566

For residential developments call:

Columbus Consolidated Government
Department of Community Reinvestment
706-653-4613

Both the Columbus Consolidated Government and the Greater Chamber of Commerce of Columbus stand ready to assist you in making financial and development projects successful in this important area of our community.