

Qualified Target Industry Tax Refund Revisions & Reauthorization



Overview: Permanently reauthorize the Qualified Target Industry (QTI) Tax Refund. Administered through the Department of Economic Opportunity, the QTI Tax Refund is a **highly utilized tax refund** program and it is currently set to expire on 6/30/2020. Additionally, in an effort to aide in workforce and economic recovery, businesses creating jobs in Hurricane Michael affected counties may be eligible for an increased tax refund for the next three years.

Amends F.S. 288.106- Tax refund program for qualified target industry businesses.

Points of Interest:

Unlike other programs, the QTI Tax Refunds are paid once jobs are created, taxes are paid, and performance is verified by the Department of Economic Opportunity.

Since 2014, more than 300 businesses have participated in the QTI Tax Refund, creating nearly 22,000 jobs across the state of Florida.

By focusing on the qualified targeted industries, Florida is able to diversify the economy making it less reliant on agriculture, tourism and new construction which are highly susceptible to decline during natural disasters and/or market down turns.

This legislation will allow businesses creating jobs in counties affected by Hurricane Michael to be eligible for a tax refund of \$10,000 per job for the next three years. This proposal will also waive wage and local match requirements for Michael affected counties.

This program provides investment at the state level to match investments by local governments throughout Florida to help them create diversified and resilient local economies that offer greater certainty in the market place in good times and in bad.

This program provides benefits to rural counties entitling them to twice the per job tax refund as non-rural counties and also waives the local wage requirement for jobs.

The QTI Tax Refund program refunds portions of the corporate income tax, insurance premium tax and sales tax among others that the business has already paid to the state, after new jobs and wages have been confirmed.

To be eligible for the QTI Tax Refund program, businesses must be:

- a new or expanding business in Florida that is a in a designated targeted industry;
- create a minimum of 10 (or 10% current jobs if currently have fewer than 100 Florida full-time jobs) new full-time jobs within one or more of the designated targeted industries;
- pay at least 115% of the private-sector annual average wage;
- local community must provide a 20% match; and
- other contractual requirements securing the state's investments.

To view information about any business who has received a QTI Tax Refund, visit FloridaJobs.org and click on DEO Incentives Portal at the bottom of the page.

Current qualified targeted industries are:

