“Invest in Guam”

Guam Economic Development Authority
September 16, 2015
Mission: To develop a sound and sustainable economy through innovative programs that preserve and promote local culture, economic opportunities and quality of life.

• GEDA is a public corporation of the government of Guam tasked with fostering the growth and development of the local economy.

• GEDA oversees various programs:
  • Qualifying Certificate (QC)
  • Loan Programs (G DFA, SSBCI)
  • Guam Product Seal
The Government of Guam, through GEDA, is authorized by law to allow tax rebates on the following eligible industries to qualified investors.

1. Green Technology (Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy and Environmental Cleanup)
2. The manufacture, distribution and sale of non-petroleum based fuels.
3. Agriculture Services (Agriculture, Aquaculture, Mariculture)
4. Tourism
5. Improvement of real property by constructing and selling affordable homes.
6. Recycling

All potential applicants go through a thorough application process. Governor is the final signatory on a QC.

Since the tax incentive's inception in 1965, the QC Program has spurred significant investment in Guam
Investor Incentives
Special Hotel Qualifying Certificate

In response to the demand and anticipated growth of Guam’s tourism industry, the Special Hotel Qualifying Certificate was created under Public Law 32-233 specifically for the development of one thousand six hundred (1,600) new hotel rooms by the year 2020.

Beneficiaries are allowed a tax rebate, exemption and abatement in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of their total construction costs, which can be applied by the developer, at their discretion, to the following taxes:

- Up to 50% Unpledged Business Privilege Tax for twenty (20) years.
- Up to 75% Income Tax Rebate for twenty (20) years.
- Up to 100% Real Property Tax Abatement for ten (10) years on property utilized by the beneficiary for activities stated in the QC.
- Up to 100% of Use Tax Exemption with respect to the property used to construct, furnish and equip the new facility construction or substantial expansion of an existing building.

The Special Hotel Qualifying Certificate shall remain in effect until the one of the following conditions are met:
- Five (5) years from the laws implementation;
- 1,600 hotel rooms have been committed to be built;
- or A China Visa Waiver or China Visa Parole declaration has been approved for Guam.
Investor Incentives

EB-5 Investor Visa

- The EB-5 Investor Category allows qualified applicants to obtain lawful Permanent Resident Status (Green Cards) through investment in a U.S. enterprise.
- Ten thousand (10,000) Immigrant Visas are available each year to foreign investors establishing a “new commercial enterprise” or is actively in the process of investing in the enterprise in Guam.
- Minimum investment in Guam is $1,000,000 (possible change)
- Enterprise must create at least 10 full-time jobs for U.S. citizens, permanent residents, exclusive of Investor’s spouse and children.
- When the Investor Visa Application is approved, the Investor and his/her spouse and children under 21 years of age receive conditional Permanent Residence for a two-year period

Investment + Job Creation = Green Card
Guam Development Fund Act (GDFA)

The Guam Development Fund Act Loan Program was created to provide financial assistance through loans and loan guarantees to private enterprises and industries. It is geared toward businesses that engage and support activities in the areas of Agriculture, Fishing, Manufacturing, Tourism, and their support industries.

- Program is geared towards start-ups and existing businesses
- Funds can be used for acquisitions of long-term fixed assets, working capital and the purchase of supplies and inventory
- Loan amount and terms determined based on application review
GEDA Loan Programs

State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)

SSBCI is a Federal program administered by the Department of the Treasury implemented to strengthen state programs that support private financing to small businesses and small manufacturers. GEDA is the state agency that administers the program on Guam, in conjunction with private banks.

- Provides lending to small businesses and manufacturers that are not getting the loans or investments they need to expand and **create jobs**.
- GEDA has established a partnership with banks and credit unions to administer loan. Participating banks and credit unions will process loan applications using their individual underwriting process.
- Loan funds can be used for business operations including start-up costs, working capital, business procurement, franchise fees, equipment, inventory, and the purchase of construction, renovation or improvements of an eligible place of business.
- GEDA will guarantee up to 75% of a loan, not to exceed $500,000.
Useful Guam Websites

Economic Information
- GEDA: www.investguam.com
- Guam Chamber of Commerce: www.guamchamber.com.gu

Visitor Industry
- Guam Visitor’s Bureau: www.visitguam.org
- Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association: www.ghra.com

Financial Information
- Government of Guam: www.admin.gov.gu
- Office of the Public Auditor: www.guamopa.com

Guam Autonomous Agency Issuers
- Guam Power Authority: www.guampowerauthority.com
- Guam International Airport Authority: www.guamairport.com
- Guam Waterworks Authority: www.guamwaterworks.org
- Department of Public Works www.guamtransportationprogram.com
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Si Yu’os Ma’ase!