

CHAPTER 59
ENTERPRISE ZONE (EZ) PROGRAM

261—59.1(15E) Purpose and administrative procedures.

59.1(1) Purpose. The purpose of the establishment of an enterprise zone in a county or city is to promote new economic development in economically distressed areas. Businesses that are eligible and locating or located in an enterprise zone and approved by the department are authorized under this program to receive certain tax incentives and assistance. The intent of the program is to encourage communities to target resources in ways that attract productive private investment in economically distressed areas within a county or city. Projects that have already been initiated before receiving formal application approval by the department shall not be eligible for tax incentives and assistance under this program.

59.1(2) Administrative procedures. The EZ program is subject to the requirements of the department's rules located in 261—Part VII, additional application requirements and procedures, and 261—Part VIII, legal and compliance. Part VII and Part VIII include standard definitions; standard program requirements; wage, benefit and investment requirements; application review and approval procedures; contracting; contract compliance and job counting; and annual reporting requirements.

[ARC 7970B, IAB 7/15/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 8145B, IAB 9/23/09, effective 10/28/09]

261—59.2(15E) Definitions. In addition to the standard definitions located in 261—Chapter 173, the following definitions apply to the EZ program:

“Act” means Iowa Code sections 15E.191 to 15E.197 as amended by 2009 Iowa Acts, Senate File 344.

“Agricultural land” as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17 means real property owned by a person in tracts of ten acres or more and not laid off into lots of less than ten acres or divided by streets and alleys into parcels of less than ten acres, and that has been used for the production of agricultural commodities during three out of the past five years. Such use of property includes, but is not limited to, the raising, harvesting, handling, drying, or storage of crops used for feed, food, seed, or fiber; the care or feeding of livestock; the handling or transportation of crops or livestock; the storage, treatment, or disposal of livestock manure; and the application of fertilizers, soil conditioners, pesticides, and herbicides on crops. *“Agricultural land”* includes land on which is located farm residences or outbuildings used for agricultural purposes and land on which is located facilities, structures, or equipment for agricultural purposes. *“Agricultural land”* includes land taken out of agricultural production for purposes of environmental protection or preservation.

“Annual base rent” means the business's annual lease payment minus taxes, insurance and operating or maintenance expenses.

“Biotechnology-related processes” means the use of cellular and biomolecular processes to solve problems or make products. Farming activities shall not be included for purposes of this definition.

“Blighted area” as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17 means an area of a municipality within which the local governing body of the municipality determines that the presence of a substantial number of slum, deteriorated, or deteriorating structures; defective or inadequate street layout; faulty lot layout in relation to size, adequacy, accessibility, or usefulness; insanitary or unsafe conditions; deterioration of site or other improvements; diversity of ownership, tax or special assessment delinquency exceeding the fair value of the land; defective or unusual conditions of title; or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes; or any combination of these factors; substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of a municipality, retards the provision of housing accommodations, or constitutes an economic or social liability and is a menace to the public health, safety, or welfare in its present condition and use. A disaster area referred to in Iowa Code section 403.5, subsection 7, constitutes a *“blighted area.”* *“Blighted area”* does not include real property assessed as agricultural land or property for purposes of property taxation.

“Business closure” means a business that has completed the formal legal process of dissolution, withdrawal or cancellation with the secretary of state.

“*Commission*” or “*enterprise zone commission*” means the enterprise zone commission established by a city or county to review applications for incentives and assistance for businesses located within or requesting to locate within certified enterprise zones over which the enterprise zone commission has jurisdiction under the Act.

“*Contractor*” or “*subcontractor*” means a person who contracts with an eligible business or subcontracts with a contractor for the provision of property, materials, or services for the construction or equipping of a facility, located within the economic development zone, of the eligible business.

“*Eligible business*” means a business which meets the requirements of rule 261—59.3(15E).

“*Enterprise zone*” means a site or sites certified by the department of economic development board for the purpose of attracting private investment within economically distressed counties or areas of cities within the state.

“*Permanent layoff*” means the loss of jobs to an out-of-state location, the cessation of one or more production lines, the removal of manufacturing machinery and equipment, or similar actions determined to be equivalent in nature by the department. A permanent layoff does not include a layoff of seasonal employees or a layoff that is seasonal in nature. For purposes of these rules, a permanent layoff must occur on or after February 1, 2007.

“*Project*” means the activity, or set of activities, proposed in the application by the business, which will result in accomplishing the goals of the enterprise zone program, and for which the business requests the benefits of the enterprise zone program.

“*Project jobs*” means all of the new jobs to be created by the location or expansion of the business in the enterprise zone that meet the qualifying wage threshold requirements described in 261—Chapter 174.

“*Tax credit certificate*” means a document issued by the department to an eligible business which indicates the amount of unused investment tax credit that the business is requesting to receive in the form of a refund. A tax credit certificate shall contain the taxpayer’s name, address, and tax identification number, the date of project completion, the amount of the tax credit certificate, the tax year for which the credit will be claimed, and any other information required by the department of revenue or the department.

“*Transportation enterprise zone*” means a site or sites certified by the Iowa department of economic development board for the purpose of attracting private investment within economically distressed areas of cities within the state which are in close proximity to transportation facilities.

“*Value-added agricultural products*” means agricultural products which, through a series of activities or processes, can be sold at a higher price than the original purchase price.

[ARC 7970B, IAB 7/15/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 8145B, IAB 9/23/09, effective 10/28/09]

261—59.3(15E) Enterprise zone certification. An eligible county or an eligible city may request the board to certify an area meeting the requirements of the Act and these rules as an enterprise zone. Certified enterprise zones will remain in effect for a period of ten years from the date of certification by the board. A county may request zone certification under subrule 59.3(1) at any time prior to December 1, 2003. A county or city may request zone certification under subrules 59.3(2), 59.3(3), 59.3(4) and 59.3(6) at any time prior to July 1, 2010.

59.3(1) County—eligibility based on distress criteria in section 15E.194, Iowa Code (2001).

a. *Requirements.* To be eligible for enterprise zone certification, a county must meet at least two of the following criteria:

(1) The county has an average weekly wage that ranks among the bottom 25 counties in the state based on the 1995 annual average weekly wage for employees in private business.

(2) The county has a family poverty rate that ranks among the top 25 counties in the state based on the 1990 census.

(3) The county has experienced a percentage population loss that ranks among the top 25 counties in the state between 1990 and 1995.

(4) The county has a percentage of persons 65 years of age or older that ranks among the top 25 counties in the state based on the 1990 census.

b. Zone parameters. Up to 1 percent of a county area may be certified as an enterprise zone. A county may establish more than one enterprise zone. The total amount of land certified as enterprise zones, other than those zones certified pursuant to subrules 59.3(3), 59.3(4) and 59.3(6), shall not exceed in the aggregate 1 percent of the total county area. An eligible county containing a city whose boundaries extend into an adjacent county may establish an enterprise zone in an area of the city located in the adjacent county if the adjacent county's board of supervisors adopts a resolution approving the establishment of the enterprise zone in the city and the two counties enter into an agreement pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28E regarding the establishment of the enterprise zone.

59.3(2) County—eligibility based on distress criteria in section 15E.194, Iowa Code (2003).

a. Requirements. To be eligible for enterprise zone certification, a county must meet at least two of the following criteria:

(1) The county has an average weekly wage that ranks among the bottom 25 counties in the state based on the 2000 annual average weekly wage for employees in private business.

(2) The county has a family poverty rate that ranks among the top 25 counties in the state based on the 2000 census.

(3) The county has experienced a percentage population loss that ranks among the top 25 counties in the state between 1995 and 2000.

(4) The county has a percentage of persons 65 years of age or older that ranks among the top 25 counties in the state based on the 2000 census.

b. Zone parameters. Up to 1 percent of a county area may be certified as an enterprise zone. A county may establish more than one enterprise zone. The total amount of land certified as enterprise zones, other than those zones certified pursuant to subrules 59.3(3), 59.3(4) and 59.3(6), shall not exceed in the aggregate 1 percent of the total county area. An eligible county containing a city whose boundaries extend into an adjacent county may establish an enterprise zone in an area of the city located in the adjacent county if the adjacent county's board of supervisors adopts a resolution approving the establishment of the enterprise zone in the city and the two counties enter into an agreement pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 28E regarding the establishment of the enterprise zone.

59.3(3) City—eligibility.

a. Requirements. To be eligible for enterprise zone certification, a designated area within a city which includes at least three census tracts with at least 50 percent of the population in each tract located in the city, as shown by the 2000 certified federal census, must meet at least two of the following criteria:

(1) The area has a per capita income of \$12,648 or less based on the 2000 census.

(2) The area has a family poverty rate of 12 percent or higher based on the 2000 census.

(3) Ten percent or more of the housing units are vacant in the area.

(4) The valuations of each class of property in the designated area is 75 percent or less of the citywide average for that classification based upon the most recent valuations for property tax purposes.

(5) The area is a blighted area, as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17.

b. Population limits. A city which includes at least three census tracts with at least 50 percent of the population in each tract located in the city, as shown by the 2000 certified federal census, may request enterprise zone certification by the board. The zone shall consist of one or more contiguous census tracts, as determined in the most recent federal census, or alternative geographic units approved by the department, for that purpose. In creating an enterprise zone, an eligible city may designate as part of the area tracts or approved geographic units located in a contiguous city if such tracts or approved geographic units otherwise meet the criteria on their own and the contiguous city agrees to be included in the enterprise zone.

c. Zone parameters. A city may establish more than one enterprise zone. The area meeting the requirements for eligibility for an enterprise zone shall not be included for the purpose of determining the 1 percent aggregate area limitation for enterprise zones. If there is an area in the city which meets the requirements for eligibility for an urban or rural enterprise community under Title XIII of the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, such area shall be certified by the state as an enterprise zone.

59.3(4) Transportation enterprise zone—eligibility.

a. Transportation enterprise zone requirements. To be eligible for transportation enterprise zone certification, a designated area within a city which includes at least three census tracts with at least 50 percent of the population in each tract located in the city, as shown by the 2000 certified federal census, must be a blighted area as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17, but must not be agricultural land or property, and must include or be within four miles of at least three of the following:

- (1) A commercial service airport, as defined by the Iowa department of transportation.
- (2) A barge terminal or a navigable waterway, as defined by the Iowa department of transportation.
- (3) Entry to a rail line.
- (4) Entry to an interstate highway.
- (5) Entry to a commercial and industrial highway network as identified pursuant to Iowa Code section 313.2A.

b. Transportation enterprise zone population limits. A city which includes at least three census tracts with at least 50 percent of the population in each tract located in the city, as shown by the 2000 certified federal census, may request transportation enterprise zone certification by the board.

c. Transportation enterprise zone parameters. A city may establish more than one transportation enterprise zone. The area being designated as a transportation enterprise zone shall not exceed four square miles. The area meeting the requirements for eligibility for a transportation enterprise zone shall not be included for the purpose of determining the 1 percent aggregate area limitation for enterprise zones.

d. Transportation enterprise zone award restrictions. In the period from July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2010, the cumulative total of benefits awarded to eligible businesses shall not exceed \$25 million per fiscal year. Value-added property tax exemption benefits provided by the city shall not count against the \$25 million. Transportation enterprise zones established pursuant to this subrule shall not be used to provide incentives for eligible housing businesses to construct new housing units or rehabilitate existing housing units.

59.3(5) Certification procedures.

a. Request with supporting documentation. All requests for certification shall be made using the application provided by the department and shall include the following attachments:

(1) A legal description of the proposed enterprise zone area and a detailed map showing the boundaries of the proposed enterprise zone.

(2) If the proposed county enterprise zone contains a city whose boundaries extend into an adjacent county, the resolution of the board of supervisors of the adjacent county approving the establishment of the zone and a copy of an executed 28E agreement.

(3) Resolution of the city council or board of supervisors, as appropriate, requesting certification of the enterprise zone(s). Included within this resolution may be a statement of the schedule of value-added property tax exemptions that will be offered to all eligible businesses that are approved for incentives and assistance. If a property tax exemption is made applicable only to a portion of the property within the enterprise zone, a description of the uniform criteria which further some planning objective that has been established by the city or county enterprise zone commission and approved by the eligible city or county must be submitted to the department. Examples of acceptable "uniform criteria" that may be adopted include, but are not limited to, wage rates, capital investment levels, types and levels of employee benefits offered, job creation requirements, and specific targeted industries. "Planning objectives" may include, but are not limited to, land use, rehabilitation of distressed property, or brownfields remediation.

The city or county shall forward a copy of the official resolution listing the property tax exemption schedule(s) to the department and to the local assessor.

b. Board review. The board will review requests for enterprise zone certification. The board may approve, deny, or defer a request for zone certification.

c. Notice of board action. The department will provide notice to a city or county of the board's certification, denial, or deferral of the city's or county's request for certification of an area as an enterprise zone. If an area is certified by the board as an enterprise zone, the notice will include the date of the zone certification and the date this certification expires.

d. Amendments. A certified enterprise zone may be amended at the request of the city or county that originally applied for the zone certification. Requests must be in writing and be received by the department prior to December 1, 2003, if the county is eligible pursuant to subrule 59.3(1) or prior to July 1, 2010, if the county or city is eligible pursuant to subrule 59.3(2), 59.3(3), or 59.3(4). Requests must include the enterprise zone name and number, as established by the department when the zone was certified, the date the zone was originally certified, the reason an amendment is being requested, the number of acres the zone will contain if the amendment is approved, and a resolution of the city council or board of supervisors, as appropriate, requesting the amendment. A legal description of the amended enterprise zone and a map which shows both the original enterprise zone boundaries and the proposed changes to those boundaries shall accompany the written request.

A city requesting an amendment that consists of an area being added to the enterprise zone must include documentation that demonstrates that the area being added meets the eligibility requirements of subrule 59.3(3) or 59.3(4). A city requesting an amendment that consists of an area being removed from the enterprise zone must include documentation that demonstrates that the remaining area still meets the eligibility requirements of subrule 59.3(3) or 59.3(4).

An amendment shall not extend the zone's ten-year expiration date, as established when the zone was initially certified by the board or when the board approved an extension. The board will review the request and may approve, deny, or defer the proposed amendment. A county or city shall not be allowed to remove a portion of an enterprise zone that contains an eligible business or eligible housing business that has received incentives and assistance under this program and whose agreement, described in rule 59.13(15E), has not yet expired.

e. Decertification. A county or city may request decertification of an enterprise zone. Requests must be in writing and be received by the department prior to December 1, 2003, if the county is eligible pursuant to subrule 59.3(1) or prior to July 1, 2010, if the county or city is eligible pursuant to subrule 59.3(2), 59.3(3), or 59.3(4). Requests must include the enterprise zone name and number, as established by the department when the zone was certified, the date the zone was originally certified, and a resolution of the city council or board of supervisors, as appropriate, requesting the decertification. Requests for enterprise zone decertification will be reviewed by the board and may be approved, denied or deferred. If the county or city requesting decertification designates a subsequent enterprise zone, the expiration date of the subsequent enterprise zone shall be the same as the expiration date of the decertified enterprise zone. A county or city shall not be allowed to decertify an enterprise zone that contains an eligible business or eligible housing business that has received incentives and assistance under this program and whose agreement, described in rule 59.13(15E), has not yet expired.

f. Extensions. Prior to the expiration of an enterprise zone, a city or county may apply for a one-time extension.

(1) Counties eligible under subrule 59.3(1) but not eligible under subrule 59.3(2). A county may request that the board extend the expiration date of a previously certified enterprise zone. The extended expiration date will be one year following the complete publication of the 2010 federal census, as determined by the department.

In applying for this one-time extension, the county may redefine the boundaries of the enterprise zone provided the size of the enterprise zone remains unchanged. A county shall not be allowed to redefine the boundaries of an enterprise zone if the redefinition would result in removing an area that contains an eligible business or eligible housing business that has received incentives and assistance under this program and whose agreement, described in rule 59.13(15E), has not yet expired.

(2) Counties eligible under subrule 59.3(2). A county may request that the board extend the expiration date of a previously certified enterprise zone by ten years. In applying for this one-time, ten-year extension, the county may redefine the boundaries of the enterprise zone provided the redefinition of the enterprise zone does not cause the county to exceed the 1 percent aggregate area limitation for enterprise zones. A county shall not be allowed to redefine the boundaries of an enterprise zone if the redefinition would result in removing an area that contains an eligible business or eligible housing business that has received incentives and assistance under this program and whose agreement, described in rule 59.13(15E), has not yet expired.

(3) Cities eligible under subrule 59.3(3). A city may request that the board extend the expiration date of a previously certified enterprise zone by ten years provided that at the time of the request, the enterprise zone meets the eligibility requirements established by paragraph 59.3(3)“a.” In applying for this one-time, ten-year extension, the city may redefine the boundaries of the enterprise zone provided that the redefined enterprise zone meets the eligibility requirements established in paragraph 59.3(3)“a.” A city shall not be allowed to redefine the boundaries of an enterprise zone if the redefinition would result in removing an area that contains an eligible business or eligible housing business that has received incentives and assistance under this program and whose agreement, described in rule 59.13(15E), has not yet expired.

(4) Extension requests. Extension requests shall be made using the form provided by the department and shall be accompanied by a resolution of the city council or board of supervisors, as appropriate, requesting the extension of the enterprise zone. The board will review requests for enterprise zone extensions. The board may approve, deny, or defer an extension request.

59.3(6) *City or county with business closure.*

a. Requirements. A city of any size or any county may designate an enterprise zone at any time prior to July 1, 2010, when a business closure or permanent layoff occurs involving the loss of full-time employees, not including retail employees, at one place of business totaling at least 1,000 employees or 4 percent of the county’s resident labor force based upon the most recent annual resident labor force statistics from the department of workforce development, whichever is lower.

b. Zone parameters. The enterprise zone may be established on the property of the place of business that has closed or imposed a permanent layoff, and the enterprise zone may include an area up to an additional three miles adjacent to the property. The closing business or business imposing a permanent layoff shall not be eligible to receive incentives or assistance under this program. The area meeting the requirements for enterprise zone eligibility under this subrule shall not be included for the purpose of determining the area limitation pursuant to Iowa Code section 15E.192, subsection 4.

c. Certification procedures. All requests for certification shall be made using the application provided by the department. The board will review requests for enterprise zone certification. The board may approve, deny, or defer a request for zone certification.

d. Amendments. A city or county which designated an enterprise zone under this subrule on or after June 1, 2000, may request an amendment to include additional area within the enterprise zone. Requests must be in writing and be approved by the department within three years of the date the enterprise zone was originally certified. Requests must include the enterprise zone name and number, as established by the department when the zone was certified, the date the zone was originally certified, and the number of acres the zone will contain if the amendment is approved. A legal description of the amended enterprise zone and a map which shows both the original enterprise zone boundaries and the proposed changes to those boundaries shall accompany the written request.

e. Restrictions. Enterprise zones established pursuant to this subrule shall not be used to provide incentives for eligible housing businesses to construct new housing units or rehabilitate existing housing units.

261—59.4(15E) Enterprise zone commission. Following notice of enterprise zone certification by the board, the applicant city or county shall establish an enterprise zone commission. The commission shall review applications from eligible businesses and eligible housing businesses located in the zone and forward approved applications to the department for final review and approval. A county eligible to designate enterprise zones which contains a city which is eligible to designate enterprise zones, upon mutual agreement between the board of supervisors and the city council and in consultation with the department, may elect to establish one enterprise zone commission to serve both the county and the city.

59.4(1) *Commission composition.*

a. County enterprise zone commission. A county shall have only one enterprise zone commission to review applications for incentives and assistance for businesses (including eligible housing businesses) located or requesting to locate within a certified enterprise zone. The enterprise zone commission shall consist of nine members. Five of these members shall be comprised of:

- (1) One representative of the county board of supervisors,
- (2) One member with economic development expertise selected by the department,
- (3) One representative of the county zoning board,
- (4) One member of the local community college board of directors, and
- (5) One representative of the local workforce development center selected by the Iowa workforce development department unless otherwise designated by a regional advisory board.

The five members identified above shall select the remaining four members. If the enterprise zone is located in a county that does not have a county zoning board, the representatives identified in 59.4(1) "a"(1), (2), (4), and (5) shall select an individual with zoning expertise to serve as a member of the commission.

b. City enterprise zone commission. A city in which an eligible enterprise zone is certified shall have only one enterprise zone commission. A city which includes at least three census tracts with at least 50 percent of the population in each census tract located in the city, as shown by the 2000 federal census, in which an eligible enterprise zone is certified shall establish an enterprise zone commission to review applications from qualified businesses located within or requesting to locate within an enterprise zone to receive incentives or assistance. The commission shall consist of nine members. Six of these members shall consist of:

- (1) One representative of an international labor organization,
- (2) One member with economic development expertise chosen by the department of economic development,
- (3) One representative of the city council,
- (4) One member of the local community college board of directors,
- (5) One member of the city planning and zoning commission, and
- (6) One representative of the local workforce development center selected by the Iowa workforce development department unless otherwise designated by a regional advisory board.

The six members identified above shall select the remaining three members. If the enterprise zone consists of an area meeting the requirements for eligibility for an urban enterprise community under Title XIII of the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993, one of the remaining three members shall be a representative of that community. If a city contiguous to the city designating the enterprise zone is included in an enterprise zone, a representative of the contiguous city, chosen by the city council, shall be a member of the commission.

59.4(2) Department review of composition.

a. Once a county or city has established an enterprise zone commission, the county or city shall provide the department with the following information to verify that the commission is constituted in accordance with the Act and these rules:

- (1) The name and address of each member.
- (2) An identification of what group the member is representing on the commission.
- (3) Copies of the resolution or other necessary action of a governing body, as appropriate, by which a member was appointed to the commission.
- (4) Any other information that the department may reasonably request in order to permit it to determine the validity of the commission's composition.

b. If a city has established an enterprise zone commission prior to July 1, 1998, the city may petition to the department of economic development to change the structure of the existing commission. A petition to amend the structure of an existing city enterprise zone commission shall include the following:

- (1) The names and addresses of the members of the existing commission.
- (2) The date the commission was approved by the department.
- (3) The proposed changes the city is requesting in the composition of the commission.
- (4) Copies of the resolution or other necessary action of a governing body, as appropriate, by which a member was appointed to the commission.

59.4(3) Commission policies and procedures. Each commission shall develop policies and procedures which shall, at a minimum, include:

- a. Processes for receiving and evaluating applications from qualified businesses seeking to participate within the enterprise zone; and
- b. Operational policies of the commission such as meetings; and
- c. A process for the selection of commission officers and the filling of vacancies on the commission; and
- d. The designation of staff to handle the day-to-day administration of commission activities.
- e. Additional local eligibility requirements for businesses, if any, as discussed in subrule 59.9(1).

261—59.5(15E) Eligibility and negotiations.

59.5(1) Program categories. To participate in the enterprise zone program, a business must qualify under one of two categories: an eligible business or an eligible housing business. Refer to rule 261—59.6(15E) for a description of the eligibility requirements and benefits available to a qualified “eligible business.” Refer to rule 261—59.8(15E) for a description of the eligibility requirements and benefits available to a qualified “eligible housing business.”

59.5(2) Negotiations. The department reserves the right to negotiate the terms and conditions of an award and the amount of all program benefits except the following benefits: the new jobs supplemental credit; the value-added property tax exemption; and the refund of sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors and subcontractors. The criteria, as applicable to the category under which the business is applying, to be used in the negotiations to determine the amount of tax incentives and assistance include but are not limited to:

- a. The number and quality of jobs to be created. Factors to be considered include but are not limited to full-time, career path jobs; number of jobs meeting or exceeding the qualifying wage threshold requirements described in 261—Chapter 174; turnover rate; fringe benefits provided; safety; skill level.
- b. The wage levels of the jobs to be created.
- c. The amount of capital investment to be made.
- d. The level of need of the business. Factors to be considered include but are not limited to the degree to which the business needs the tax incentives and assistance in order for the project to proceed. Methods of documenting need may include criteria such as financial concerns; risk of the business’s locating in or relocating to another state; or return on investment concerns.
- e. The economic impact and cost to the state and local area of providing tax incentives and assistance in relation to the public gains and benefits to be provided by the business. Factors to be considered include but are not limited to the amount of tax credits likely to be used by the business and the impact on the local and state tax base and economic base.
- f. Other state or federal financial assistance received or applied for by the business for the project.

59.5(3) Limitation on negotiations. Rescinded IAB 11/9/05, effective 12/14/05.

261—59.6(15E) Eligible business.

59.6(1) Requirements. A business which is or will be located, in whole or in part, in an enterprise zone is eligible to be considered to receive incentives and assistance under the Act if the business meets all of the following:

- a. *No closure or reduction.* The business has not closed or reduced its operation in one area of the state and relocated substantially the same operation into the enterprise zone. This requirement does not prohibit a business from expanding its operation in an enterprise zone if existing operations of a similar nature in the state are not closed or substantially reduced.
- b. *No retail.* The business is not a retail business or a business whose entrance is limited by a cover charge or membership requirement.
- c. *Employee benefits.* The business offers or will offer a sufficient benefits package to its employees as defined in 261—Chapter 173.
- d. *Wage levels.* The business pays or will pay the qualifying wage threshold for the enterprise zone program as established in 261—Chapter 174 and defined in 261—Chapter 173. However, in any circumstance, the wage paid by the business for the project jobs shall not be less than \$7.50 per hour.

The local enterprise zone commission may establish higher company eligibility wage thresholds if it so desires.

e. Job creation or retention. The business expansion or location must result in at least ten full-time project jobs. The time period allowed to create the jobs and the required period to retain the jobs are described in 261—Chapter 187.

f. Capital investment. The business makes a capital investment of at least \$500,000.

g. Location within zone. If the business is only partially located in an enterprise zone, the business must be located on contiguous land.

59.6(2) Additional information. In addition to meeting the requirements under subrule 59.6(1), an eligible business shall provide the enterprise zone commission with all of the following:

a. The long-term strategic plan for the business, which shall include labor and infrastructure needs.

b. Information dealing with the benefits the business will bring to the area.

c. Examples of why the business should be considered or would be considered a good business enterprise.

d. The impact the business will have on other Iowa businesses in competition with it. The enterprise zone commission shall make a good faith effort to identify existing Iowa businesses within an industry in competition with the business being considered for assistance. The enterprise zone commission shall make a good faith effort to determine the probability that the proposed financial assistance will displace employees of the existing businesses. In determining the impact on businesses in competition with the business being considered for assistance, jobs created or retained as a result of other jobs being displaced elsewhere in the state shall not be considered direct jobs created or retained.

e. A report describing all violations of environmental law or worker safety law within the last five years. If, upon review of the application, the enterprise zone commission finds that a business has a record of violations of the law, statutes, rules, or regulations that tends to show a consistent pattern, the enterprise zone commission shall not make an award of financial assistance to the business unless the commission finds either that the violations did not seriously affect public health, public safety, or the environment, or, if such violations did seriously affect public health, public safety, or the environment, that mitigating circumstances were present.

59.6(3) Benefits. The department reserves the right to negotiate the amount of all program benefits except the following benefits: the new jobs supplemental credit; the value-added property tax exemption; and the refund of sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors and subcontractors. The following incentives and assistance may be available to an eligible business within a certified enterprise zone, subject to the amount of incentives and assistance negotiated by the department with the eligible business and agreed upon as described in an executed agreement, only when the average wage of all the new project jobs meets the minimum wage requirements of 59.6(1)“d”:

a. New jobs supplemental credit. An approved business shall receive a new jobs supplemental credit from withholding in an amount equal to 1½ percent of the gross wages paid by the business, as provided in Iowa Code section 15E.197. The supplemental new jobs credit available under this program is in addition to and not in lieu of the program and withholding credit of 1½ percent authorized under Iowa Code chapter 260E. Additional new jobs created by the project, beyond those that were agreed to in the original agreement as described in 261—59.12(15E), are eligible for the additional 1½ percent withholding credit as long as those additional jobs meet the local enterprise zone wage eligibility criteria and are an integral part or a continuation of the new location or expansion. Approval and administration of the supplemental new jobs credit shall follow existing procedures established under Iowa Code chapter 260E. Businesses eligible for the new jobs training program are those businesses engaged in interstate commerce or intrastate commerce for the purpose of manufacturing, processing, or assembling products, conducting research and development, or providing services in interstate commerce, but exclude retail, health or professional services.

b. Value-added property tax exemption.

(1) The county or city for which an eligible enterprise zone is certified may exempt from property taxation all or a portion of the value added to the property upon which an eligible business locates or expands in an enterprise zone and which is used in the operation of the eligible business. This exemption

shall be authorized by the city or county that would have been entitled to receive the property taxes, but is electing to forego the tax revenue for an eligible business under this program. The amount of value added for purposes of Iowa Code section 15E.196 shall be the amount of the increase in assessed valuation of the property following the location or expansion of the business in the enterprise zone.

(2) If an exemption is made applicable only to a portion of the property within an enterprise zone, there must be approved uniform criteria which further some planning objective established by the city or county zone commission. These uniform criteria must also be approved by the eligible city or county. Examples of acceptable “uniform criteria” that may be adopted include, but are not limited to, wage rates, capital investment levels, types and levels of employee benefits offered, job creation requirements, and specific targeted industries. “Planning objectives” may include, but are not limited to, land use, rehabilitation of distressed property, or brownfields remediation.

(3) The exemption may be allowed for a period not to exceed ten years beginning the year value added by improvements to real estate is first assessed for taxation in an enterprise zone.

(4) This value-added property tax exemption may be used in conjunction with other property tax exemptions or other property tax-related incentives such as property tax exemptions that may exist in Urban Revitalization Areas or Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Property tax exemptions authorized under Iowa Code chapter 427B may not be used, as stated in Iowa Code section 427B.6, in conjunction with property tax exemptions authorized by city council or county board of supervisors within the local enterprise zone.

c. Investment tax credit and insurance premium tax credit.

(1) Investment tax credit. An eligible business may claim an investment tax credit as provided in Iowa Code section 15.333. A corporate income tax credit may be claimed of up to a maximum of 10 percent of the new investment which is directly related to new jobs created by the location or expansion of the business in the enterprise zone. The credit may be used against a tax liability imposed for individual income tax, corporate income tax, franchise tax, or against the moneys and credits tax imposed in Iowa Code section 533.24.

1. Five-year amortization period. For projects approved on or after July 1, 2005, the tax credit shall be amortized equally over a five-year period which the department, in consultation with the eligible business, will define. The five-year amortization period will be specified in the agreement referenced in rule 261—59.13(15E).

2. Flow-through of tax credits. If the business is a partnership, subchapter S corporation, limited liability company, cooperative organized under Iowa Code chapter 501 or 501A and filing as a partnership for federal tax purposes, or an estate or trust electing to have the income taxed directly to the individual, an individual may claim the tax credit allowed.

3. Seven-year carryforward. Any credit in excess of tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following seven years or until depleted, whichever occurs first.

4. Refund of unused tax credit. Subject to prior approval by the department in consultation with the department of revenue, an eligible business whose project primarily involves the production of value-added agricultural products or biotechnology-related processes may elect to apply for a refund for all or a portion of an unused tax credit.

5. IRS Section 521. For purposes of this paragraph, an eligible business includes a cooperative as described in Section 521 of the United States Internal Revenue Code which is not required to file an Iowa corporate income tax return.

6. Maximum capital expenditures stated in agreement. The business participating in the enterprise zone may not claim an investment tax credit for capital expenditures above the amount stated in the agreement described in 261—59.12(15E). An eligible business may instead, prior to project completion, seek to amend the contract, allowing the business to receive an investment tax credit for additional capital expenditures.

(2) Insurance premium tax credit. The insurance premium tax credit benefit is available for a business that submits an application for enterprise zone participation on or after July 1, 1999. If the business is an insurance company, the business may claim an insurance premium tax credit as provided in Iowa Code section 15E.196.

1. Five-year amortization period. For projects approved on or after July 1, 2005, the tax credit shall be amortized equally over a five-year period which the department, in consultation with the eligible business, will define. The five-year amortization period will be specified in the agreement referenced in rule 261—59.13(15E).

2. Credit of up to 10 percent of new investment. An Iowa insurance premium tax credit may be claimed of up to a maximum of 10 percent of the new investment which is directly related to new jobs created by the location or expansion of the business in the enterprise zone.

3. Seven-year carryforward. Any credit in excess of tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following seven years or until depleted, whichever occurs first.

4. Maximum capital expenditures as stated in agreement. The business participating in the enterprise zone may not claim an investment tax credit for capital expenditures above the amount stated in the agreement described in 261—59.12(15E). An eligible business may instead seek to amend the contract, allowing the business to receive an investment tax credit for additional capital expenditures, or may elect to submit a new application within the enterprise zone.

(3) Eligible capital expenditures. For purposes of this rule, the capital expenditures eligible for the investment tax credit or the insurance premium tax credit under the enterprise zone program are:

1. The costs of machinery and equipment as defined in Iowa Code section 427A.1(1)“e” and “j” purchased for use in the operation of the eligible business, the purchase prices of which have been depreciated in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles;

2. The cost of improvements made to real property which is used in the operation of the eligible business; and

3. The annual base rent paid to a third-party developer for a period equal to the term of lease agreement but not to exceed ten years, provided that the cumulative costs of the base rent payments for that period do not exceed the cost of the land and the third-party developer’s costs to build or renovate the building. Annual base rent shall be considered only when the project includes the construction of a new building or the major renovation of an existing building. The eligible business shall enter into a lease agreement with the third-party developer for a minimum of five years.

(4) Real property. For business applications received on or after July 1, 1999, for purposes of the investment tax credit claimed under Iowa Code section 15.333 and for business applications received on or after May 26, 2000, for purposes of the insurance premium tax credit claimed under Iowa Code section 15.333A, subsection 1, the purchase price of real property and any existing buildings and structures located on the real property will also be considered a new investment in the location or expansion of an eligible business. However, if within five years of purchase, the eligible business sells or disposes of, razes or otherwise renders unusable the land, buildings, or other existing structures for which tax credit was claimed under Iowa Code section 15.333 or under Iowa Code section 15.333A, subsection 1, the income tax liability, or where applicable the insurance premium tax liability, of the eligible business for the year in which the property is sold, disposed of, razed, or otherwise rendered unusable shall be increased by one of the following amounts:

1. One hundred percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within one year after being placed in service.

2. Eighty percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within two years after being placed in service.

3. Sixty percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within three years after being placed in service.

4. Forty percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within four years after being placed in service.

5. Twenty percent of the tax credit claimed under this section if the property ceases to be eligible for the tax credit within five years after being placed in service.

(5) Refunds. An eligible business whose project primarily involves the production of value-added agricultural products and whose application was approved by the department on or after May 26, 2000, or whose project primarily involves biotechnology-related processes and whose application was approved

by the department on or after July 1, 2005, may elect to receive as a refund all or a portion of an unused investment tax credit.

1. The department will determine whether a business's project primarily involves the production of value-added agricultural products or biotechnology-related processes. Effective July 1, 2001, an eligible business that elects to receive a refund shall apply to the department for a tax credit certificate.

2. The business shall apply for a tax credit certificate using the form provided by the department. Requests for tax credit certificates will be accepted between May 1 and May 15 of each fiscal year. Only those eligible businesses that have completed projects before the May 1 filing date may apply for a tax credit certificate. For a cooperative described in Section 521 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, the department shall require the cooperative to submit a list of members whom the cooperative wishes to receive a tax credit certificate for their prorated share of ownership. The cooperative shall submit its list in a computerized electronic format that is compatible with the system used or designated by the department. The computerized list shall, at a minimum, include the name, address, social security number or taxpayer identification number, business telephone number and ownership percentage, carried out to six decimal places, of each cooperative member eligible for a tax credit certificate. The cooperative shall also submit a total dollar amount of the unused investment tax credits for which the cooperative's members are requesting a tax credit certificate.

3. The department will make public by June 1 of each year the total number of requests for tax credit certificates and the total amount of requested tax credit certificates that have been submitted. The department will issue tax credit certificates within a reasonable period of time.

4. The department shall not issue tax credit certificates which total more than \$4 million during a fiscal year. If the department receives applications for tax credit certificates in excess of \$4 million, the applicants shall receive certificates for a prorated amount. In such a case, the tax credit requested by an eligible business will be prorated based upon the total amount of requested tax credit certificates received during the fiscal year. This proportion will be applied to the amount requested by each eligible business to determine the amount of the tax credit certificate that will be distributed to each business for the fiscal year. For example, if an eligible business submits a request in the amount of \$1 million and the total amount of requested tax credit certificates equals \$8 million, the business will be issued a tax credit certificate in the amount of \$500,000:

$$\frac{\$4 \text{ million}}{\$8 \text{ million}} = 50\% \times \$1 \text{ million} = \$500,000.$$

5. Tax credit certificates shall not be valid until the tax year following project completion. The tax credit certificates shall not be transferred except in the case of a cooperative as described in Section 521 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. For such a cooperative, the individual members of the cooperative are eligible to receive the tax credit certificates. Tax credit certificates shall be used in tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2001. A business shall not claim a refund of unused investment tax credit unless a tax credit certificate issued by the department is attached to the taxpayer's tax return for the tax year during which the tax credit is claimed. Any unused investment tax credit in excess of the amount of the tax credit certificate issued by the department may be carried forward for up to seven years after the qualifying asset is placed in service or until the eligible business's unused investment tax credit is depleted, whichever occurs first. An eligible business may apply for tax credit certificates once each year for up to seven years after the qualifying asset is placed in service or until the eligible business's unused investment tax credit is depleted, whichever occurs first. For example, an eligible business which completes a project in October 2001 and has an investment tax credit of \$1 million may apply for a tax credit certificate in May 2002. If, because of the proration of the \$4 million of available refundable credits for the fiscal year, the business is awarded a tax credit certificate in the amount of \$300,000, the business may claim the \$300,000 refund and carry forward the unused investment tax credit of \$700,000 for up to seven years or until the credit is depleted, whichever occurs first.

d. Research activities credit. A business is eligible to claim a research activities credit as provided in Iowa Code section 15.335. This benefit is a corporate tax credit for increasing research activities in

this state during the period the business is participating in the program. For purposes of claiming this credit, a business is considered to be “participating in the program” for a period of ten years from the date the business’s application was approved by the department. This credit equals 6½ percent of the state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities. The state’s apportioned share of the qualifying expenditures for increasing research activities is a percent equal to the ratio of qualified research expenditures in this state to total qualified research expenditures. This credit is in addition to the credit authorized in Iowa Code section 422.33. If the business is a partnership, subchapter S corporation, limited liability company, or an estate or trust electing to have the income taxed directly to the individual, an individual may claim the tax credit allowed. Any tax credit in excess of the tax liability shall be refunded to the eligible business with interest computed under Iowa Code section 422.25. In lieu of claiming a refund, the eligible business may elect to have the overpayment credited to its tax liability for the following year.

For projects approved on or after July 1, 2005, “research activities” includes the development and deployment of innovative renewable energy generation components manufactured or assembled in Iowa. A renewable energy generation component will no longer be considered innovative when more than 200 megawatts of installed effective name plate capacity has been achieved. Research activities credits awarded under this program and the high quality job creation program for innovative renewable energy generation components shall not exceed a total of \$1 million.

e. Refund of sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors or subcontractors.

(1) A business is eligible for a refund of sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors and subcontractors as authorized in Iowa Code section 15.331A.

1. An eligible business may apply for a refund of the sales, service and use taxes paid under Iowa Code chapters 422 and 423 for gas, electricity, water or sewer utility services, goods, wares, or merchandise, or on services rendered, furnished, or performed to or for a contractor or subcontractor and used in the fulfillment of a written contract relating to the construction or equipping of a facility within the enterprise zone.

2. Taxes attributable to intangible property and furniture and furnishings shall not be refunded. To receive a refund of the sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors or subcontractors, the eligible business must, within one year after project completion, make an application to the department of revenue. For new manufacturing facilities, “project completion” means the first date upon which the average annualized production of finished product for the preceding 90-day period at the manufacturing facility operated by the eligible business within the enterprise zone is at least 50 percent of the initial design capacity of the facility. For existing facilities, “project completion” means the date of completion of all improvements included in the enterprise zone project.

(2) If the project is the location or expansion of a warehouse or distribution center in the enterprise zone, the approved business may be entitled to a refund of sales and use taxes attributable to racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment. The approved business shall, within one year of project completion, make written application to the department for a refund. The application must include the refund amount being requested and documentation such as invoices, contracts or other documents which substantiate the requested amount. The department, in consultation with the department of revenue, will validate the refund amount and instruct the department of revenue to issue the refund.

The aggregate combined total amount of refunds and tax credits attributable to sales and use taxes on racks, shelving, and conveyor equipment issued by the department to businesses approved for high quality job creation program, new capital investment program, new jobs and income program, and enterprise zone program benefits shall not exceed \$500,000 during a fiscal year. Tax refunds and tax credits will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis. If an approved business’s application does not receive a refund or tax credits due to the limitation of \$500,000 per fiscal year, the approved business’s application shall be considered in the succeeding fiscal year.

f. New jobs insurance premium tax credit. Rescinded IAB 11/9/05, effective 12/14/05.

g. Limitation on receiving incentives. Rescinded IAB 11/9/05, effective 12/14/05.

59.6(4) Duration of benefits. An enterprise zone designation shall remain in effect for ten years following the date of certification. Any state or local incentives or assistance that may be conferred must

be conferred before the designation expires. However, the benefits of the incentive or assistance may continue beyond the expiration of the zone designation.

59.6(5) *Application review and submittal.* Eligible businesses shall first submit applications for enterprise zone program benefits to the local enterprise zone commission. Commission-approved applications shall be forwarded to the department for final review and approval.

[ARC 7970B, IAB 7/15/09, effective 7/1/09; ARC 8145B, IAB 9/23/09, effective 10/28/09]

261—59.7(15E) Alternative eligible business. Rescinded IAB 9/17/03, effective 10/22/03.

261—59.8(15E) Eligible housing business. An eligible housing business includes a housing developer, housing contractor, or nonprofit organization.

59.8(1) *Requirements.* A housing business shall satisfy all of the following as conditions to receiving the benefits described in this rule.

a. The housing business must build or rehabilitate either:

(1) A minimum of four single-family homes located in that part of a city or county in which there is a designated enterprise zone, or

(2) One multiple dwelling unit building containing three or more individual dwelling units located in that part of a city or county in which there is a designated enterprise zone.

For purposes of this subrule, rehabilitation means any project in which the costs of improvements to the property are equal to or greater than 25 percent of the acquisition cost of the property.

b. The single-family homes or dwelling units which are rehabilitated or constructed by the housing business shall include the necessary amenities. When completed and made available for occupancy, the single-family homes or dwelling units shall meet the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's housing quality standards and local safety standards.

c. The eligible housing business shall complete its building or rehabilitation within two years from the time the business begins construction on the single-family homes and dwelling units. The failure to complete construction or rehabilitation within two years shall result in the eligible housing business's becoming ineligible and subject to the repayment requirements and penalties in the agreement described in rule 261—59.13(15E).

d. An eligible housing business shall provide the enterprise zone commission with all of the following information:

(1) The long-term plan for the proposed housing development project, including labor and infrastructure needs.

(2) Information dealing with the benefits the proposed housing development project will bring to the area.

(3) Examples of why the proposed development project should be considered a good housing development project.

(4) An affidavit that it has not, within the last five years, violated state or federal environmental and worker safety statutes, rules, and regulations or if such violations have occurred that there were mitigating circumstances or such violations did not seriously affect public health or safety or the environment.

(5) Information showing the total costs and sources of project financing that will be utilized for the new investment directly related to housing for which the business is seeking approval for a tax credit provided in subrule 59.8(2), paragraph "a."

(6) The names of the partners if the business is a partnership, the names of the shareholders if the business is an S corporation, or the names of the members if the business is a limited liability company. The amount of each partner's, shareholder's or member's expected share of the percentage of benefits should be included.

59.8(2) *Benefits.* A business that qualifies under the "eligible housing business" category may be eligible to receive the following benefits:

a. Investment tax credit. An eligible housing business may claim a tax credit up to a maximum of 10 percent of the new investment which is directly related to the building or rehabilitating of a minimum of four single-family homes located in that part of a city or county in which there is a designated enterprise

zone or one multiple dwelling unit building containing three or more individual dwelling units located in that part of a city or county in which there is a designated enterprise zone.

(1) New investment which is directly related to the building or rehabilitating of homes includes, but is not limited to, the following costs: land, surveying, architectural services, building permits, inspections, interest on a construction loan, building materials, roofing, plumbing materials, electrical materials, amounts paid to subcontractors for labor and material provided, concrete, labor, landscaping, appliances normally provided with a new home, heating and cooling equipment, millwork, drywall and drywall materials, nails, bolts, screws, and floor coverings.

(2) New investment does not include the machinery, equipment, or hand or power tools necessary to build or rehabilitate homes.

(3) In determining the amount of tax credits to be awarded to a project, the department shall not include the portion of the project cost financed through federal, state, and local government tax credits, grants, and forgivable loans.

(4) The tax credit shall not exceed 10 percent of \$140,000 for each home or individual unit in a multiple dwelling unit building.

(5) This tax credit may be used to reduce the tax liability imposed under Iowa Code chapter 422, division II, III, or V, or chapter 432. The tax credit may be taken on the tax return for the tax year in which the project is certified for occupancy. Any credit in excess of the tax liability for the tax year may be credited to the tax liability for the following seven years or until depleted, whichever occurs earlier. If the business is a partnership, S corporation, limited liability company, or estate or trust electing to have the income taxed directly to the individual, an individual may claim the tax credit allowed. The amount claimed by the individual shall be based upon the pro rata share of the individual's earnings of the partnership, S corporation, limited liability company, or estate or trust, except in projects using low-income housing tax credits authorized under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code to assist in the financing of the housing development. The approved housing business using federal Section 42 tax credits may designate each owner's or participant's share or percentage of the benefits.

(6) The department shall issue tax credit certificates once per year or when the department determines it to be necessary and appropriate to approve housing businesses eligible to receive the housing enterprise zone tax credit. The eligible housing business may claim the tax credit by attaching the certificate to the business's tax return for the year in which the housing units are completed.

(7) If the approved housing business is using federal low-income housing tax credits authorized under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code to assist in the financing of the project, the department shall issue a transferable tax credit certificate to the eligible housing business. The amount of any replacement tax credit certificates requested by the housing business will be based on documentation provided to the department by the applicant or by the Iowa finance authority and should be consistent with the amount contained in the project's 8609 CPA Certification on file with the Iowa finance authority.

(8) Housing enterprise zone tax credit certificates issued to eligible housing businesses also using low-income housing tax credits authorized under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code to assist in the financing of the project may be transferred to any person. Within 90 days of the sale of the housing enterprise zone tax credit, the eligible housing business must return the tax credit certificate issued by the department so that replacement tax credit certificate(s) can be issued. The original tax credit certificate shall be accompanied by a written statement from the eligible housing business which contains the names, tax identification numbers, and addresses of the taxpayers to which the tax credits are being transferred, along with the denomination that each replacement tax credit certificate is to carry and any other information required by the department of revenue. Within 30 days of receiving the eligible housing business's tax credit certificate and written statement, the department shall issue replacement tax credit certificate(s).

(9) The tax credit certificate shall also be transferable if the housing development is located in a brownfield site as defined in Iowa Code section 15.291 or if the housing development is located in a blighted area as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17. Not more than \$3 million worth of tax credits for housing developments that are located in a brownfield site as defined in Iowa Code section 15.291 or housing developments located in a blighted area as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17 shall be

transferred in a calendar year. The \$3 million annual limit does not apply to tax credits awarded to an eligible business having low-income housing tax credits authorized under Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code to assist in the financing of the housing development. The department may approve an application for tax credit certificates for transfer from an eligible housing business located in a brownfield site as defined in Iowa Code section 15.291 or in a blighted area as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17 that would result in the issuance of more than \$3 million of tax credit certificates for transfer, provided that the department, through negotiation with the eligible housing business, allocates those tax credit certificates for transfer over more than one calendar year. The department shall not issue more than \$1,500,000 in tax credit certificates for transfer to any one eligible housing business located in a brownfield site as defined in Iowa Code section 15.291 or in a blighted area as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17. If \$3 million in tax credit certificates for transfer have not been issued at the end of a calendar year, the remaining tax credit certificates for transfer may be issued at the end of a calendar year, the remaining tax credit certificates for transfer may be issued in advance to an eligible housing business scheduled to receive a tax credit certificate for transfer in a later calendar year. Anytime the department issues a tax credit certificate for transfer which has not been allocated at the end of a calendar year, the department may prorate the remaining certificates to more than one eligible applicant. If the entire \$3 million of tax credit certificates for transfer is not issued in a given calendar year, the remaining amount may be carried over to a succeeding calendar year.

(10) The department will process requests for transfer of the tax credit and issuance of the replacement tax credit certificates for housing developments that are located in brownfield sites as defined in Iowa Code section 15.291 or blighted areas as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17 at the time of application or in writing each calendar year. Eligible requests for transfer of these credits will be considered in the order they are received. The transfer of the credit by replacement tax credit certificate will be limited to \$3 million per calendar year and \$1,500,000 per development per calendar year. Requests received after the \$3 million limit is reached will be considered for the following year's allocation after any previously approved requests or negotiated allocations of the credit remaining from the current or previous years have been processed. When housing enterprise zone benefits are awarded to one housing business in an amount exceeding the annual transferable limit of \$1,500,000 per year, the housing business may negotiate with the department to receive the tax credit benefits from future years' limits when possible. These limits do not apply to housing tax credits authorized by Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code or to other housing enterprise zone developments not located in brownfield sites as defined in Iowa Code section 15.291 or blighted areas as defined in Iowa Code section 403.17.

b. Sales, service, and use tax refund. An approved housing business shall receive a sales, service, and use tax refund for taxes paid by an eligible housing business including an eligible housing business acting as a contractor or subcontractor, as provided in Iowa Code section 15.331A.

59.8(3) Application submittal and review. An eligible housing business shall first submit an application to the commission for approval. The commission shall forward applications that it has approved to receive benefits and assistance to the department for final review and approval.

261—59.9(79GA,ch141) Eligible development business. Rescinded IAB 11/9/05, effective 12/14/05.

261—59.10(15E) Commission review of businesses' applications.

59.10(1) Additional commission eligibility requirements. Under the Act, a commission is authorized to adopt additional eligibility requirements related to compensation and benefits that businesses within a zone must meet in order to qualify for benefits. Additional local requirements that may be considered could include, but are not limited to, the types of industries or businesses the commission wishes to receive enterprise zone benefits; requirements that preference in hiring be given to individuals who live within the enterprise zone; higher wage eligibility threshold requirements than would otherwise be required; higher job creation eligibility threshold requirements than would otherwise be required; the level of benefits required; local competition issues; or any other criteria the commission deems appropriate. If a commission elects to adopt more stringent requirements than those contained in the

Act and these rules for a business to be eligible for incentives and assistance, these requirements shall be submitted to the department.

59.10(2) Application. The department will develop a standardized application that it will make available for use by a business applying for benefits and assistance as an eligible business, an eligible housing business or an eligible development business. The commission may add any additional information to the application that it deems appropriate for a business to qualify as an eligible business, an eligible housing business or an eligible development business. If the commission determines that a business qualifies for inclusion in an enterprise zone and that it is eligible for benefits under the Act, the commission shall submit an application for incentives or assistance to the department.

261—59.11(15E) Other commission responsibilities.

59.11(1) Commissions have the authority to adopt a requirement that preference in hiring be given to individuals who live within the enterprise zone. If it does so, the commission shall work with the local workforce development center to determine the labor availability in the area.

59.11(2) Commissions shall examine and evaluate building codes and zoning in enterprise zones and make recommendations to the appropriate governing body in an effort to promote more affordable housing development.

261—59.12(15E) Department action on eligible applications. The department may approve, deny, or defer applications from qualified businesses. In reviewing applications for incentives and assistance under the Act, the department will consider the following:

59.12(1) Compliance with the requirements of the Act and administrative rules. Each application will be reviewed to determine if it meets the requirements of the Act and these rules. Specific criteria to be reviewed include, but are not limited to: medical and dental insurance coverage; wage levels; number of jobs to be created; and capital investment level.

59.12(2) Competition. The department shall consider the impact of the eligible business on other businesses in competition with it and compare the compensation package of businesses in competition with the business being considered for incentives and assistance under this program, to ensure an overall economic gain to the state.

59.12(3) Displacement of workers. The department will make a good-faith effort to determine the probability that the proposed incentives will displace employees of existing businesses. In determining the impact on businesses in competition with the business seeking incentives or assistance, jobs created as a result of other jobs being displaced elsewhere in the state shall not be considered direct jobs created.

59.12(4) Violations of law. The department will review each application to determine if the business has a record of violations of law as described in 261—Chapter 172.

59.12(5) Commission's recommendations and additional criteria. For each application from a business, the department will review the local analysis (including any additional local criteria) and recommendation of the enterprise zone commission in the zone where the business is located, or plans to locate.

59.12(6) Other relevant information. The department may also review an application using factors it reviews in other department-administered financial assistance programs which are intended to assess the quality of the jobs pledged.

59.12(7) Negotiations. The department may enter into negotiations regarding the amount of tax incentives and assistance the business may be eligible to receive. The department reserves the right to negotiate the amount of all program benefits except the following benefits: the new jobs supplemental credit; the value-added property tax exemption; and the refund of sales, service and use taxes paid to contractors and subcontractors. The criteria to be used in the negotiations to determine the amount of tax incentives and assistance are as described in subrule 59.5(2) and are subject to the limitations stated in subrule 59.5(3).

261—59.13(15E) Agreement. Rescinded IAB 7/4/07, effective 6/15/07.

261—59.14(15E) Compliance; repayment requirements; recovery of value of incentives. Rescinded IAB 7/4/07, effective 6/15/07.

261—59.15(15E) Applicability on or after July 1, 2014.

59.15(1) Effective as of July 1, 2014, the enterprise zone program was repealed by 2014 Iowa Acts, House File 2448. No agreements shall be entered into under the program on or after July 1, 2014.

59.15(2) To the extent allowed by other provisions of law, the rules adopted in this chapter shall continue to apply to agreements entered into on or before June 30, 2014.

59.15(3) On or after July 1, 2014, a city or county shall not create an enterprise zone under Iowa Code chapter 15E, division XVIII, or enter into a new agreement under Iowa Code chapter 15E, division XVIII. A city or county and the authority, with the approval of the authority board, may amend an agreement for compliance reasons if the amendment does not increase the amount of incentives awarded under the agreement.

59.15(4) The authority and an eligible business may amend an agreement entered into prior to July 1, 2014, in order to avoid hardship to an eligible business in the performance or maintenance of the agreement but only to the extent that amending the agreement would not require amendment by a city or county. The determination as to whether a hardship exists shall be within the discretion of the authority. The authority shall not amend an agreement in any manner that would increase the amount of tax incentives provided under the agreement.

[ARC 1801C, IAB 12/24/14, effective 1/28/15; ARC 3385C, IAB 10/11/17, effective 11/15/17]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 15.333, 15.333A, and 15E.191 to 15E.196 and 2009 Iowa Acts, Senate File 344.

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