



City, Business Leaders Announce Bold New Program To Stimulate Job Growth in Dayton

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Dayton City officials today joined with members of the business community to announce an aggressive new business incentive program designed to stimulate new job growth in the city.

The Dayton Economic Attraction Program (DEAP) will offer annual rebate grants of up to 75 percent for businesses that hire new employees in the city. The grants will be offered to companies either located downtown or in one of the city's targeted cluster groups: Advanced Manufacturing & Materials; Data Management, Sensors & RFID Technology; Aerospace and Aerospace Medical Research; and Regional Healthcare Services.



“We know we must be very aggressive and pro-active in not just retaining jobs in the city, but creating more new jobs,” Mayor Rhine McLin said. “The new Dayton Economic Attraction Program is a major step forward in offering the kinds of financial incentives that help businesses decide where to locate new facilities or expand existing ones.”

Under DEAP, companies located downtown would receive an annual rebate of 75 percent for the net new jobs they create in a calendar year. Companies located anywhere within the city limits but considered as one of the targeted cluster groups would receive a 50 percent annual rebate on their net new jobs. Companies must create a minimum of five net new jobs or add at least \$200,000 to their annual payroll to be eligible for the rebates.

“We see the DEAP program as an excellent way to help jump-start job growth by local businesses, because there is a direct, one-to-one relation between creating new jobs and receiving a substantial financial payback,” City Manager Rashad Young said. “The rebate grants will serve as a persuasive carrot for companies considering whether to add new employees in today's environment.”

Other Ohio cities already offer attraction packages featuring payroll tax rebates, including Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo and Canton. City of Dayton staff reviewed these and similar programs in developing the DEAP model. Dayton officials also sought feedback from the Mayor's Council on Economic Development before finalizing the program's details.

“Today’s economic conditions have made business attraction efforts even more competitive,” said Ron Budzik, a member of the Mayor’s Council on Economic Development. “So as companies look around to see where they might want to locate or grow, they will certainly be attracted to those communities that are aggressively courting their business. The Dayton Economic Attraction Program is a potent new tool to improve the city’s job base.”

According to Shelley Dickstein, the City of Dayton’s Assistant City Manager for Strategic Development, DEAP will begin as a three-year program, at which time it will be evaluated for modifications or enhancements.

“It is important to note that Dayton businesses not meeting the eligibility requirements for DEAP can still access other valuable economic support services from City Hall, including financial assistance from the City of Dayton’s Development Fund,” Dickstein said. “The Development Fund has allocated more than \$50 million to Dayton businesses over the past 10 years to create approximately 12,000 new jobs and retain 25,000 existing jobs. Other City of Dayton economic incentive services include: the new Dayton Business Resource Center, site selection assistance, project financing through CityWide Development Corp., property tax exemptions, and the \$5 million Main Street Corridor Fund.”

Eligibility Requirements for DEAP Program:

- Participating companies must either be located downtown or be in one of the targeted cluster groups noted above. (Downtown is defined as the Central Business District plus the Webster Station and Mid-Town Planning Districts.)
- Companies must commit to create at least five new full-time jobs or add at least \$200,000 to its payroll in a given year.
- Newly created jobs must meet the City’s Living Wage requirements of \$11.90/hr.
- Eligible businesses must have been in operation at least three years before applying.
- Companies must be current with taxes, utilities, insurance, permits, etc.

The City Commission is expected to formally adopt the Dayton Economic Attraction Program at its February 25th public meeting. The program will officially begin March 1, 2009.

Companies interested in participating in the program should contact the City of Dayton’s Office of Economic Development at 937-333-3805.

Mayor McLin’s Council on Economic Development

- Paul Barbas, CEO of Dayton Power & Light
- Ron Budzik, Retired Business Professional
- Daniel J. Curran, President of the University of Dayton
- Judy Dodge, Montgomery County Commissioner
- Mike Greitzer, Partner & President of Dayton Market for Miller Valentine
- Mike Herr, Chair of CityWide Development Corp.
- Matt Joseph, Dayton City Commissioner
- Pamela Morris, CEO of CareSource
- Jim Pancoast, President of Premier Health Partners
- Ed Reilly, President of KeyBank, Southwest Ohio
- Gary Roan, Owner of local McDonald’s franchises
- Harry Seifert, Incoming Chairperson for CityWide Development Corp.
- Bob Whited, President of Select Tool
- Rashad Young, Dayton City Manager