

NORTH AMERICAN FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (NAFTA) IMPACT ZONE



Policy Description:

Described in Chapter 379 of the Texas Local Government Code, www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/LG/pdf/LG.379.pdf, the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Impact Zone may be created or adopted by a City if it is determined the creation of the zone would promote: Business opportunities for local business in the zone; an increase in economic development in the zone; employment opportunities for residents in the zone.

Eligibility Criteria:

- The City may create a zone if it adopts a resolution containing:
 1. A description of the boundaries of the zone; and
 2. A finding by the governing body that the creation of the zone satisfies the requirements of Section 312.202, Tax Code.
- The City may create more than one zone and may include an area in more than one zone.
- Additional powers – The City may:
 - (1) Waive or adopt fees related to the construction of buildings in the zone, including fees related to the inspection of buildings and impact fees;
 - (2) Enter into agreements, for a period of not more than 10 years, for the purpose of benefiting the zone, for sales tax refunds or abatements of municipal sales tax on sales made in the zone;
 - (3) Enter into agreements abating municipal property taxes on property in the zone subject to the duration limits of Section 312.204, Tax Code; and
 - (4) Set baseline performance standards, such as the Energy Star Program as developed by the Department of Energy, to encourage the use of alternative building materials that address concerns relating to the environment or to building costs, maintenance, or energy consumption.

How to Apply:

The City shall not grant any incentive unless the business submits a full and complete application and provides additional information as may be requested. The accuracy of the information in the application is the sole responsibility of the applicant. Upon request, the applicant shall provide supporting documentation. Any misstatement of or error in fact may render an application null and void and may be cause for repeal of any ordinance adopted in reliance of said information.

If it is determined that the application meets these guidelines, a full and financial programmatic review will be conducted. This review may be done by City Staff, an outside agency or consultant and will ensure conformance with these guidelines.

Local Action Required:

Please contact the City of Corpus Christi's Economic Development Office at (361) 826-3850 to request the application or visit www.cctexas.com/economicdevelopment to download the application.

An application fee of \$2,000 will be submitted at the same time the application for economic incentives is submitted. The fee must be paid in the form of a check or money order and made payable to the City of Corpus Christi, Texas.

Additional Resources:

Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation
www.ccredc.com