

Sales and Use Tax Rebate for Tourism Projects

The Mississippi Tourism Rebate Program provides a tax rebate to qualified applicants of new tourism-oriented projects in the state of Mississippi. The program allows a portion of the sales tax paid by visitors to the eligible tourism-oriented enterprise to be paid to the applicant to reimburse the applicant for eligible costs incurred during the project's construction.

PROGRAM FACTS

The Tourism Rebate Program provides for a rebate of a percentage of sales taxes collected at the certified project for a period of up to 15 years. This incentive is available to new tourism-oriented enterprises but excludes expansions of any existing projects previously approved by the Mississippi Development Authority and/or facilities that are primarily developed for retail sales that are not certified as a resort development by MDA.

The following businesses may qualify for this tax rebate:

- Tourist attractions with a minimum private investment of at least \$10 million. Examples of attractions that qualify are:
 - Theme parks
 - Water parks
 - Entertainment parks or outdoor adventure parks
 - Cultural or historical interpretive educational centers or museums
 - Motor speedways
 - Indoor or outdoor entertainment centers or complexes
 - Convention centers
 - Professional sports facilities
 - Spas
 - Attractions created around a natural phenomenon or scenic landscape
 - Marinas open to the public
- Hotels with a minimum private investment of \$40 million and a private investment of at least \$150,000 per guest room
- Public golf courses with a minimum private investment of \$10 million
- Full-service hotels with a minimum private investment of \$15 million and a private investment of at least \$200,000 per guest room or suite, a minimum of 25 guest rooms or suites and guest amenities such as restaurants, spas and other amenities as determined by MDA
- A tourism attraction located within an "entertainment district" that is open to the public, has seating to accommodate at least 40 people, is open at least five days per week, provides live entertainment at least three nights per week and serves food and beverages
- Resort developments with a minimum investment of \$100 million which include a hotel with at least 200 guest rooms and a private investment of \$200,000 per guest room. The development must also include guest amenities such as restaurants, golf courses, spas and entertainment activities.
- A tourism attraction open to the public, located within a National Register of Historic Places historic district and with seating for at least 40 people that is open at least five days a week, serves food and beverages and provide live entertainment at least three nights a week.

Contact the Mississippi Development Authority's Financial Resources Division
at 601.359.3552 or financial@mississippi.org to learn more.

In the event that the applicant is licensed by the State Gaming Commission, only eligible costs in excess of the required non-gaming development will be included as eligible costs.

To participate in this program, an entity must apply to MDA, and all projects must be certified by MDA. Once the total project costs have been established, 80 percent of eligible sales tax collections will be rebated to the applicant for a period of 15 years or until the applicant has recouped 30 percent of the total project cost – whichever occurs first.

To apply, contact MDA's Financial Resources Division. For further details, see the Mississippi Tax Incentives, Exemptions, and Credits guidelines on the Mississippi Department of Revenue website <https://www.dor.ms.gov/docs/2013IncentiveBook-pdffinal.pdf>.

February 2015

Contact the Mississippi Development Authority's Financial Resources Division
at 601.359.3552 or financial@mississippi.org to learn more.
