
Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) Tax Credit

Program Guidelines

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Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Tom Wolf, Governor

Department of Community & Economic Development



dced.pa.gov

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Section I – General

A. Introduction

The Keystone Innovation Zone Tax Credit Program is a key component of the Keystone Innovation Zone (KIZ) Program. The KIZ Program, established in 2003, creates designated geographic zones to foster innovation and create entrepreneurial opportunities by aligning the combined resources of educational institutions and the private sector. For-profit business entities 1) located within the geographic boundaries of a particular KIZ, 2) in operation less than 8 years, 3) operating within one of the KIZ targeted industry segments or sectors, 4) and meeting any other requirements specified by the Department of Community & Economic Development (DCED) may be qualified KIZ companies and eligible to participate in the KIZ Tax Credit Program. KIZ Tax Credits can be used to offset certain state tax liabilities. With a total pool of up to \$15 million in tax credits available to KIZ companies annually, the KIZ Tax Credit Program significantly contributes to the ability of young KIZ companies to transition through the stages of growth.

This innovative program also contains a tradability component crucial to young companies that have little or no tax liability. The application form to apply to DCED for approval to sell the KIZ Tax Credits can be found on DCED's website at dced.pa.gov/KIZ (see Section F for more information).

B. Award Calculation

A KIZ company may claim a tax credit equal to 50% of the increase in its gross revenues in the immediately preceding taxable year attributable to KIZ eligible activities in the zone, over the KIZ company's gross revenues in the second preceding taxable year attributable to its activities in the KIZ. A tax credit for a KIZ company shall not exceed \$100,000 annually. For the purposes of the KIZ Tax Credit Program, the term "gross revenues" is defined as revenues derived from the sale of goods and services from activities in a KIZ targeted industry, and from operations transacted within the KIZ. Gross revenues may include grants received by the KIZ company from any source whatsoever (including but not limited to KIZ, SBIR/STTR, NIH and DOD funds). All other revenues generated from non-KIZ related activities (i.e., rent collected, sales of tax credits, loans, funds from investors, etc.) shall not be included as KIZ gross revenues.

- For example, ABC Co. operates entirely in a KIZ and its entire operations are within a targeted industry segment. In year 1, ABC Co.'s gross revenue resulting from activities within the KIZ amounts to \$40,000. In year 2, ABC Co.'s business grows and its gross revenues from activities within the KIZ amount to \$60,000. In year 3, ABC Co. may apply for a KIZ tax credit of \$10,000 (50% of the \$20,000 increase in gross revenue from year 1 to year 2).

If in year 3, ABC Co.'s gross revenues grow to \$500,000 from activities within the KIZ, the company would be eligible to apply for a maximum KIZ tax credit of \$100,000 in year 4. Its gross revenue increase from year 2 (\$60,000) to year 3 (\$500,000) is \$440,000; however, 50% of the increase in gross revenues (\$220,000) exceeds the \$100,000 maximum allowable tax credit.

DCED adheres to the commonwealth's Keystone Principles for Growth, Investment and Resource Conservation when awarding KIZ Tax Credits. The total of all KIZ Tax Credits awarded in any given year shall not exceed \$15 million. If the total amount of tax credits approved for any single year is less than \$15 million, the unused portion does not carry over to future years. If the total amount of tax credits approved for any one year exceeds \$15 million, the tax credit for each approved applicant shall be determined as follows:

- Divide each application approved for tax credits for the year by the total of all approved tax credits that year and multiply the quotient by \$15 million to determine the amount of tax credits allocated to each company.

C. KIZ Company's Gross Revenues Attribution Formulas

The KIZ company's gross revenues attributable to target industry activities within the KIZ shall be calculated by using the following formula.

For the comparable and base year tax periods used in arriving at the KIZ Tax Credit for a KIZ company (applicant), the gross revenue of the applicant shall be apportioned to the KIZ by multiplying the applicant's Pennsylvania gross revenues, as reported on the company's Pennsylvania business tax return, by a fraction, the numerator of which is the property factor plus the payroll factor and the denominator of which is two, in accordance with the following:

1. The property factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the average value of the applicant's real and tangible personal property owned or rented and used in the KIZ during the tax period and the denominator of which is the average value of all the applicant's real and tangible personal property owned or rented and used in this commonwealth during the tax period. To determine the property factor refer to 61 Pa. Code Sec.153.28.
2. The payroll factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total amount paid in the KIZ during the tax period by the applicant for compensation and the denominator of which is the total compensation paid in this commonwealth during the tax period.
 - a. Compensation is paid in the KIZ if:
 - i. the person's service is performed entirely within the KIZ; or
 - ii. the person's service is performed both within and without the KIZ, but the service performed without the KIZ is incidental to the person's service within the KIZ; or
 - iii. the net profits of the KIZ company are paid to the KIZ company's owner and are included as part of the owner's federal personal tax returns; or
 - iv. the KIZ company's officers receive compensation indicated on the company's federal tax returns; or
 - v. the KIZ company's partners receive guaranteed payments or dividends indicated on the company's federal tax returns; or
 - vi. the cost of labor identified on the KIZ company's federal/state tax returns (provided the workers are directly employed by the company).
 - b. Compensation does not include any individual not employed directly by the KIZ company including (but not limited to): contracted employees, consultants, independent sales people, etc., who are not eligible to be included as part of the payroll.
 - c. Compensation also does not include any individual who works remotely from a location outside the KIZ, except as permitted by section 2(a)(ii).
 - d. If the KIZ company did not have payroll within the KIZ during the base or comparable tax year the KIZ Tax Credit may be reduced. Also, if the KIZ company did not have property AND did not have payroll within the KIZ in either the base or comparable tax years then the company is ineligible to receive the KIZ Tax Credit.

D. Applying for an Award

A for-profit business entity that qualifies as a KIZ company must file an application through DCED's Electronic Single Application (ESA – www.esa.dced.state.pa.us) on or before September 15 of each year. The required documents must be attached electronically to the application on the Addenda tab. The application must be complete and contain the following items:

- Completed Excel spreadsheet provided in the ESA,
- Completed KIZ Coordinator's Certificate (Appendix B) of this document,
- The first page with the signed signature pages of the applicant's Pennsylvania and Federal tax return(s) for the base and comparable tax years submitted by the applicant to the PA Department of Revenue and the federal IRS (or the verification forms of electronically filed tax returns),
- All documents identified on the completed Excel spreadsheet (i.e., RCT 101, RCT 106, financial statements, etc.).

The tax forms and any other supporting documents must clearly highlight where the revenues and payroll and property factors are found and be properly entered into the Excel spreadsheet provided in the ESA.

Applicants must verify on the ESA that they have been or are actively working with the KIZ Coordinator and/or the KIZ partners. The KIZ coordinator's certificate must be uploaded to the ESA to apply for the KIZ Tax Credit. Additionally, the applicant must have submitted its online semi-annual KIZ reports in accordance with the KIZ guidelines.

All applications must be submitted by September 15th, contain all required documentation, and be completed correctly to be deemed eligible for review and potential award of KIZ tax credits. No time extensions will be granted. In situations where there has been federal and/or state tax filing extensions granted to the KIZ Tax Credit applicant, please note these extensions will not be taken into consideration in the review of the KIZ Tax Credit application. All state and federal filed tax returns must be submitted with this application. Each application will be reviewed as submitted. If applications are deficient or missing required information/documentation, the application will be determined to be ineligible.

DCED will determine if all of the required conditions have been met and, if so, a tax credit certificate based on the award calculations outlined in Section B will be awarded no later than December 15 of each year. Appendix C of these guidelines provides a flow chart detailing the tax credit award process.

E. Submitting an Application

Prospective applicants must submit their application through DCED's ESA. All required documents must be attached to the ESA when the application is submitted.

Only a full-time employee of the company, the certified public accountant of the company, or the company's KIZ Coordinator may file an application on BEHALF of the KIZ company. A corporate officer, general partner or limited liability company member that has authority to bind the applicant KIZ company must sign the ESA signature page.

Questions on using the ESA should be directed to DCED's Customer Service Center at (800) 379-7448. For specific questions on this program, contact DCED's Technology Investment Office at RA-TechInvTaxCredit@pa.gov.

F. Sale or Use of Tax Credits

A tax credit approved in accordance with these guidelines must first be applied against the KIZ company's own tax liability under Articles III (Personal Income Tax), IV (Corporate Net Income Tax), or VI (Capital Stock - Franchise Tax) of the Pennsylvania Tax Reform Code of 1971, for the taxable year during which the tax credit is approved.

A KIZ company may not carry back or obtain a refund of an unused KIZ Tax Credit or any part of that credit. If the KIZ company's tax liability is less than the amount of the KIZ Tax Credit, the company may:

1. Carry forward the unused portion of the tax credit for a period not to exceed four additional taxable years (five years total) and use the tax credit to offset an eligible tax liability at some point during those years; or
2. Apply to DCED for approval for the sale, including the transfer or assignment of all or a portion of the approved, unused tax credit to an identified buyer. The application form to apply to DCED for approval to sell the KIZ Tax Credits is located on DCED's website at dced.pa.gov/KIZ.

If a KIZ company has a tax liability for the tax year in which the KIZ Tax Credit is approved, that approved KIZ Tax Credit must be used against that tax liability. However, in any subsequent year during the lifetime of the unused KIZ Tax Credit, the KIZ company is not required to use the tax credit from a previous year for the current year's tax liabilities and may sell the tax credit.

Section II – Appendices

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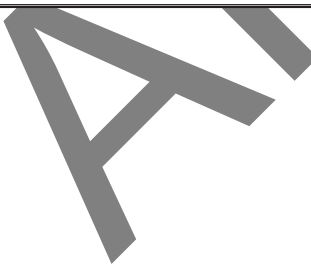
APPENDIX A KIZ COORDINATOR'S CERTIFICATION

As designated coordinator for the _____ *(Identify the KIZ)* Keystone Innovation Zone, I certify that _____ *(Identify the KIZ Company Applicant)* operates within the geographic boundary of the KIZ. This KIZ Company operates within our designated target industry segment (sector) of _____ *(Identify the designated target industry, including NAICS code)*, and this KIZ Company has been in operation for less than eight (8) years. The KIZ Company has or is presently working with the following KIZ partners:
_____.

The _____ *(Identify the KIZ)* KIZ was designated by the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority (BFTDA) on _____* *(mm/dd/yy)*. _____ *(Identify the KIZ Company Applicant)* located in the _____ *(Identify the KIZ)* KIZ on _____ *(mm/dd/yy)*. _____ *(Identify the KIZ Company Applicant)* has provided me with documentation demonstrating that it was incorporated on _____ *(mm/dd/yy)* and has registered with the Pennsylvania Department of State to conduct business in the commonwealth.

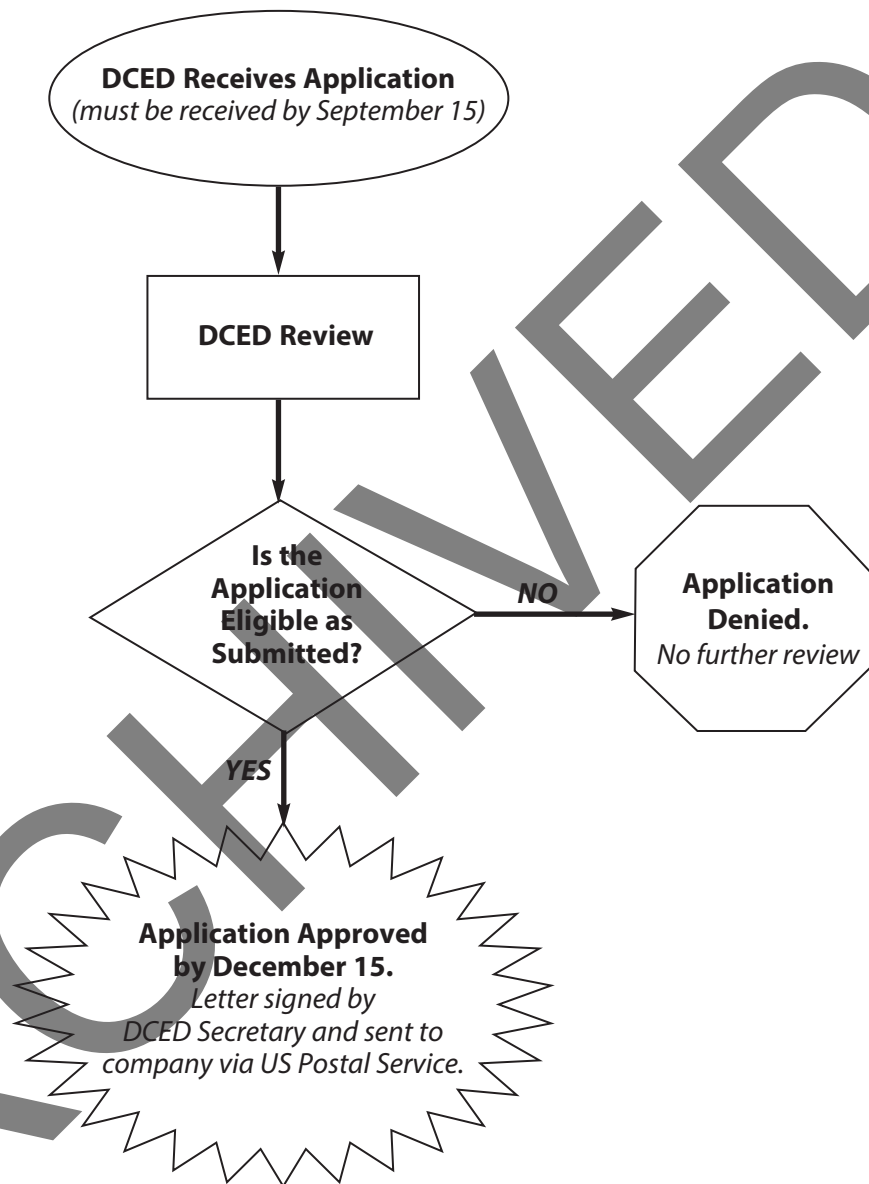
*Note: If the KIZ Company applicant is located within a geographic region that was approved to be included after the original designation, enter the effective date of the modification _____ *(mm/dd/yy)*.

Signature of KIZ Coordinator	Date
Printed Name	Phone



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Appendix B: KIZ Tax Credit Award Process Flow Chart



Additional Information

- > Applications must be postmarked on or before September 15 and will be approved or denied no later than December 15.
- > All KIZ Tax Credit inquiries should be emailed to RA-TechInvTaxCredit@pa.gov.
- > Approval letters will be mailed via the US Postal Service to the address provided on the award application.

Section III – Definitions

Agent/Facilitator – Person, business, or organization acting to facilitate the sale of KIZ Tax Credits.

Assignee/Buyer – Taxpayer that is purchasing the KIZ Tax Credit from the KIZ company originally awarded the tax credits to be sold, transferred, or assigned.

Assignor/Seller – KIZ company to which the KIZ Tax Credits were originally issued or approved, and which may be applying to sell, transfer, or assign those credits.

Attributable to target industry activities in the KIZ – Business operations within a targeted industry which are physically conducted within the geographical boundaries of the KIZ.

Base Tax Year – The tax year prior to the comparable tax year.

Certificate – Letter signed by the Secretary of DCED alerting the KIZ company of its KIZ Tax Credit application approval and award amount.

Comparable Tax Year – The tax year prior to the current calendar year.

Company Operation Begin Date – Corporations incorporated in PA are considered operating on the date of their incorporation. Companies incorporated outside PA, but working in PA, are determined to be operating beginning the date of the fiscal period in which the Certificate of Authority was issued by the Department of State or the date PA activity began, whichever date is earlier. All corporations are required to file annual tax returns with Pennsylvania's Department of Revenue even though no business activity was conducted during the taxable year.

Contracted Employee – An individual working for more than one company through a management fee (or similar) structure, or an employee of a third party entity who performs work at the KIZ company.

DCED – Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development.

ESA – DCED's Electronic Single Application.

Gross Revenues – For the purposes of the KIZ Tax Credit Program, gross revenues are defined as revenue derived from the sale of goods and services from activities in a targeted industry and from operations transacted within the KIZ. Gross revenues may also include grants received by the KIZ Company from any source whatsoever (i.e., KIZ, SBIR/STTR, NIH, DOD, etc.). All other forms of income shall not be included in gross revenues. (this includes revenues generated from the sales of tax credits).

Industry Sector/Targeted Industry – An industry specifically identified for entrepreneurial development (e.g. information technology, life sciences, advanced materials, finance/service sectors, advanced manufacturing, agricultural, nanotechnology, etc.) in the KIZ's application for designation to the Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority.

KIZ Company – A for-profit business entity which is all of the following:

1. located within the defined geography of a particular KIZ,
2. has been in operation for less than 8 years,
3. falls within one of the targeted industry segments (or sectors) identified by the KIZ partnership
4. must have proprietary intellectual property, and
5. meeting other requirements as specified by the DCED.

KIZ Eligible Days – The total number of days that the KIZ company was physically in the zone and operating in a targeted sector.