



DOING BUSINESS IN
#LOWELL
THERE'S
A LOT TO *like.*

City of Lowell Economic Development Office Summary of Business Incentives and Support

There are many reasons that businesses across all industries have located and prospered here in Lowell. With our prime location at the intersection of Routes 3 and 495, state-of-the-art office facilities, and the talented workforce driven by higher education institutions like [UMass Lowell](#) and [Middlesex Community College](#), Lowell is a great place to grow and succeed. As the fifth largest city in Massachusetts, we have the sophistication and expertise of a large city and the personal attention and community commitment of a small town. The City has been at the forefront of utilizing federal, state, and local incentive programs to attract businesses and create jobs. The [City of Lowell's Economic Development Office](#) can help you identify the programs that meet your needs. Below is a sampling of available incentives.

Signature Programs for Business Support

- [Site Finder Services](#): The City's Economic Development staff can help you find the right space in Lowell where your business can thrive and grow. Our database of available commercial and industrial properties in Lowell is updated on a regular basis and our staff is very knowledgeable about Lowell's commercial real estate market.
- [UMass Lowell CORE Research Facilities](#): A thriving research university, UMass Lowell is providing state-of-the-art resources and equipment to the business community in the Greater Lowell region. It offers the latest technology and equipment to assist researchers in the fields of bioengineering, biomaterials, green chemistry, nanotech, robotics and much more. The [UMass Lowell Innovation HUB](#) offers premier co-working space in Lowell, providing the benefits of a research university at a price that startups can afford. The [Massachusetts Medical Devices Development Center \(M2D2\)](#) offers inventors and executives easy, affordable, and coordinated access to world-class researchers and resources at the [UMass Lowell](#) and the [UMass Medical School](#) campuses of the University of Massachusetts. [UMass Lowell Corporate Training Programs](#) have partnered with more than 1,400 companies in the Greater Lowell Area to provide customized training and professional development.
- [Middlesex Community College Corporate Training Programs](#): For over three decades MCC has educated and trained thousands of employees in hundreds of industries and municipalities throughout the Greater Lowell area.

Grant and Forgivable Loan Programs

- [Workforce Training Fund Program](#): Massachusetts employers may apply for grants to train new or existing workers. Training grants are available but not limited to the following: ESL; project management; machine step-up and operations; sales; software and IT training; and Customer Service. The [Express Program](#) provides grant funds limited to \$20,000 per company per calendar year.
- [Workplace Safety Grant Program](#): The Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents (DIA) provides grants of up to \$25,000 each to employers to promote safe and healthy conditions in the workplace.

Direct Lending

- The Lowell Development and Financial Corporation's [Incubator Loan Fund](#), a low interest loan program targeted towards technology and life science startup businesses looking to expand in Lowell with a priority given to businesses who intend to create jobs.
- [MassDevelopment](#), the State's top lending agency, offers several loan programs including programs specialized for emerging technologies, manufacturing, and others. [Property Assessed Cleaned Energy \(PACE\) program](#) offers attractive financing to property owners of commercial, industrial and multi-residential properties to make substantial energy improvements such as but not limited to new energy-efficient windows, roof, insulation, HVAC systems, solar panels, and LED lighting. [The Transformative Development Initiative \(TDI\) Equity Program](#) provides financing up to \$250,000 to commercial projects in and around a TDI district such as the Lowell's Acre TDI District.
- The [Small Business Administration \(SBA\)](#) offers business loans, guarantees and equity financing such as the Advantage Loan 7 (A) loan Program, real estate and equipment loans; disaster recovery, exporting and more.

Tax Incentives

- **Massachusetts Economic Development Incentive Program (EDIP):** EDIP is a tax incentive program designed to stimulate job creation, private investment, and economic development. Few cities have utilized this program more often and with more success than Lowell, and we are committed to doing the same for your company. Available tax incentives include:
 - State's Investment Tax Credit (ITC)
 - Local Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – a real estate tax exemption on the incremental value of the property due to the significant investment as a result of the project.
- **Research and Development (R&D) Tax Exemption:** Any company located in Lowell that is engaged in research and development and is [classified as R&D with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue \(DOR\)](#) can qualify for 100% tax exemption on any core equipment directly related to its R&D activities. Companies in Lowell that currently receive this exemption save approximately \$31,000 per year in personal property tax payments on average.
- **10% Research & Development Tax Credit:** Massachusetts offers a 10% R&D Tax Credit for research expenses that would otherwise qualify for Federal R&D tax credits, and the percentage can increase when commercial research and development is done in collaboration with a local college or university.
Angel Investor Tax Credit Program: Investors interested in funding early-stage companies engaged in life sciences research and development, commercialization and manufacturing in Massachusetts can obtain a credit of 20% of the qualifying investment, or 30% if the business is located in a Gateway City, such as Lowell. Credits are available up to \$50,000 in any one taxable year for qualifying investments of up to \$125,000 per qualifying business per year and up to \$250,000 in cumulative qualifying investments for each qualifying business.
Manufacturers Investment Tax Credit (ITC): The Commonwealth offers a Manufacturers Investment Tax Credit (ITC), allowing registered manufacturers to claim an ITC on depreciable assets. The credit is calculated by computing 3% of the total capital investment in qualified equipment and facility leasehold improvements. This amount can be applied directly against any Massachusetts tax obligation.
- **Sales and Use Tax Exemption:** Materials, tools, fuel, machinery, and replacement parts used in manufacturing and research and development may qualify for exemption from sales and use taxes.
- **Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC):** Employers may be eligible for a federal tax credit through the WOTC if they hire certain groups of unemployed population who have consistently faced barriers to employment.

Procurement Opportunities

- **Portions of Lowell** hold a federal [HUBZone designation](#). This designation promotes economic development and job creation by providing federal contracting preferences for small businesses that obtain HUBZone certification.

Other Technical Assistance Services and Programs

- Lowell has received and maintained its [Bioready Community](#) Platinum status by [MassBio](#), which is the highest, most prestigious rating and comparable with Cambridge and other Boston area communities.
- [FORGE](#) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit on a mission to help startups navigate the journey from physical prototype to commercialization and impact at scale.
- The [MA Innovation Network](#) is a non-profit organization supporting innovators. They are on a mission to boost innovation and economic development within New England and beyond.
- The [MA Life Sciences Center](#) is an economic development and investment agency with a mission of supporting the growth and development of the life sciences in Massachusetts. As a quasi-public agency, the Massachusetts Life Sciences Center supports innovation, research and development, commercialization, and manufacturing activities in the fields of biopharma, medical device, diagnostics, and digital health.
- The [Middlesex 3 Coalition \(M3\)](#) is a regional economic development organization that brings the public and the private sector together to help address the business development challenges that are difficult for one community or one company to address on their own.
- The [Greater Lowell Chamber of Commerce](#) serves Billerica, Chelmsford, Dracut, Lowell, Tewksbury, Tyngsboro and Westford by providing members with resources, advocacy and information, along with networking and marketing opportunities.

For more information, contact DoBizInLowell@lowellma.gov or 978.674.1437