

Robbinsville Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)
March 12, 2013

Summary of State Programs Available to Assist New Jersey Small Business Development

Background: The Robbinsville EDAC recently sent representatives to attend a recent forum hosted by Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno which had the objective of providing information surrounding the NJ Business Action Center and all the State programs available to businesses in NJ. The purpose of this document is to share summary level information and contact information regarding these programs and services to the Robbinsville business community.

In an attempt to optimize conditions for economic development in NJ, Governor Christie consolidated all State economic development activities under the leadership of Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno creating the **New Jersey Business Action Center** in the NJ Department of State. The NJ Business Action Center serves as a “one-stop” shop for businesses providing information on available programs and assistance to resolve any issues with permits, applications, licenses, certificates, and other business related approvals. In this forum, the NJ Business Action Center coordinated presentations by a number of State departments sharing helpful programs and services to businesses. Presenting groups included: Board of Public Utilities; NJ Economic Development Agency; NJ Community Capital; Housing & Mortgage Finance Agency; NJ Public Library; NJ Department of Labor; Division of Travel & Tourism; UC-EDC, and the Urban Enterprise Zone Program.

Summary of Relevant Programs and Services: The following items are the most relevant programs and services for the current and prospective Robbinsville business community:

- **New Jersey Business Call Center** – As part of the NJ Business Action Center, this call center provides the answers to all business-related questions for doing business in NJ, whether you are starting, expanding or moving a business. The call center has all the information concerning the State’s programs and services available, including those presented here. The contact number is **1-866-535-7789** to reach the Center’s knowledgeable staff or visit www.NewJerseyBusiness.gov .
- **Board of Public Utilities Office of Clean Energy** – Programs are available to promote energy efficiency for businesses. For instance, with the “Direct Install” program, business owners, particularly those that own buildings, can get a free, no obligation energy assessment to identify cost – justified measures that are eligible for incentives. The Direct Install program could pay up to 70% of the capital cost of the improvement project, but giving you 100% of the energy savings. This can significantly cut the payback time for any energy related investment. Contact **1-866-NJSMART** or visit www.NJCleanEnergy.com .
- **NJ Economic Development Agency** – The Economic Development Agency has financing and grant programs available for NJ businesses. For example, one lending program aims to “fill the gap” for buyers of buildings and businesses by providing loans at good rates to raise the equity portion or down payment of the buyer up to the equity percentage that banks typically will approve. Contact the NJ Business Call Center at **1-866-535-7789** to obtain more information and specific contacts.

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- **UCEDC** – UDEDC is a non-profit economic development corporation that serves all of New Jersey. They are known for stepping in when the banks so NO, for whatever reason. They fund loan amounts from as low as \$500 to \$5M. For example, they have a “microloans” program for loans from \$500 to \$50,000 that can be used for working capital, furniture/equipment upgrades, etc with below market fixed rates and no prepayment penalties. **Call 908-527-1166 or visit them at www.ucedc.com .**
- **NJ Community Capital** – Also a non-profit lending institution which has raised over \$5B available for lending with the aim of transforming underprivileged communities. They have a “Rebuild NJ” program which provides low interest fixed rate loans for businesses in need of recovery from Hurricane Sandy. Contact the NJ Business Call Center at **1-866-535-7789** to obtain more information and specific contacts.
- **NJ Public Library** – The library system of NJ has valuable databases available for free to business owners with just their library card. They can also provide research information and helping hands for items helpful to small business such as market reports, competitive intelligence, business plans, and prospecting lists. Go to www.NJgrowsbiz.org and look at all the valuable things the library system can do.
- **The Division of Purchase and Property** – This is basically NJ’s state procurement agency. They manage the awarding of state contracts to businesses in NJ and will be very helpful in assisting businesses with understanding the bidding process to get on a State contract in order to do business with the State of NJ. Visit www.nj.gov/treasury/purchase for more information.
- **NJ Department of Labor** – They will work with NJ businesses to help connect employers with job seekers and provide incentives for employers. Contact the NJ Business Call Center at **1-866-535-7789** to obtain more information and specific contacts.
- **NJ Division of Travel and Tourism** – They will help market and promote destinations within NJ towns that are attractive to visitors to NJ. In addition, they have a Cooperative Marketing Grant program which can grant up to \$25K in order to promote specific events. Contact the NJ Business Call Center at **1-866-535-7789** to obtain more information and specific contacts.

We hope this information has been helpful to the Robbinsville business community.