



Ohio Revised Code

Section 166.01 Economic development program definitions.

Effective: September 30, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 96

As used in this chapter:

(A) "Allowable costs" means all or part of the costs of project facilities, eligible projects, eligible innovation projects, eligible research and development projects, eligible advanced energy projects, or eligible logistics and distribution projects, including costs of acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, rehabilitating, renovating, enlarging, improving, equipping, or furnishing project facilities, eligible projects, eligible innovation projects, eligible research and development projects, eligible advanced energy projects, or eligible logistics and distribution projects, site clearance and preparation, supplementing and relocating public capital improvements or utility facilities, designs, plans, specifications, surveys, studies, and estimates of costs, expenses necessary or incident to determining the feasibility or practicability of assisting an eligible project, an eligible innovation project, an eligible research and development project, an eligible advanced energy project, or an eligible logistics and distribution project, or providing project facilities or facilities related to an eligible project, an eligible innovation project, an eligible research and development project, an eligible advanced energy project, or an eligible logistics and distribution project, architectural, engineering, and legal services fees and expenses, the costs of conducting any other activities as part of a voluntary action, and such other expenses as may be necessary or incidental to the establishment or development of an eligible project, an eligible innovation project, an eligible research and development project, an eligible advanced energy project, or an eligible logistics and distribution project, and reimbursement of moneys advanced or applied by any governmental agency or other person for allowable costs.

(B) "Allowable innovation costs" includes allowable costs of eligible innovation projects and, in addition, includes the costs of research and development of eligible innovation projects; obtaining or creating any requisite software or computer hardware related to an eligible innovation project or the products or services associated therewith; testing (including, without limitation, quality control activities necessary for initial production), perfecting, and marketing of such products and services; creating and protecting intellectual property related to an eligible innovation project or any products



or services related thereto, including costs of securing appropriate patent, trademark, trade secret, trade dress, copyright, or other form of intellectual property protection for an eligible innovation project or related products and services; all to the extent that such expenditures could be capitalized under then-applicable generally accepted accounting principles; and the reimbursement of moneys advanced or applied by any governmental agency or other person for allowable innovation costs.

(C) "Eligible innovation project" includes an eligible project, including any project facilities associated with an eligible innovation project and, in addition, includes all tangible and intangible property related to a new product or process based on new technology or the creative application of existing technology, including research and development, product or process testing, quality control, market research, and related activities, that is to be acquired, established, expanded, remodeled, rehabilitated, or modernized for industry, commerce, distribution, development of tourism attractions or professional sports facilities, or research, or any combination thereof, the operation of which, alone or in conjunction with other eligible projects, eligible innovation projects, or innovation property, will create new jobs or preserve existing jobs and employment opportunities and improve the economic welfare of the people of the state.

(D) "Eligible project" means project facilities to be acquired, established, expanded, remodeled, rehabilitated, or modernized for industry, commerce, distribution, development of tourism attractions or professional sports facilities, or research, or any combination thereof, the operation of which, alone or in conjunction with other facilities, will create new jobs or preserve existing jobs and employment opportunities and improve the economic welfare of the people of the state. "Eligible project" includes, without limitation, a voluntary action. For purposes of this division, "new jobs" does not include existing jobs transferred from another facility within the state, and "existing jobs" includes only those existing jobs with work places within the municipal corporation or unincorporated area of the county in which the eligible project is located.

"Eligible project" does not include project facilities to be acquired, established, expanded, remodeled, rehabilitated, or modernized for industry, commerce, distribution, development of tourism attractions or professional sports facilities, or research, or any combination of industry, commerce, distribution, development of tourism attractions or professional sports facilities, or research, if the project facilities consist solely of point-of-final-purchase retail facilities. If the project facilities consist of both point-of-final-purchase retail facilities and nonretail facilities, only the



portion of the project facilities consisting of nonretail facilities is an eligible project. If a warehouse facility is part of a point-of-final-purchase retail facility and supplies only that facility, the warehouse facility is not an eligible project. Catalog distribution facilities are not considered point-of-final-purchase retail facilities for purposes of this paragraph, and are eligible projects.

(E) "Eligible research and development project" means an eligible project, including project facilities, comprising, within, or related to, a facility or portion of a facility at which research is undertaken for the purpose of discovering information that is technological in nature and the application of which is intended to be useful in the development of a new or improved product, process, technique, formula, or invention, a new product or process based on new technology, or the creative application of existing technology.

(F) "Financial assistance" means inducements under division (B) of section 166.02 of the Revised Code, loan guarantees under section 166.06 of the Revised Code, and direct loans under section 166.07 of the Revised Code.

(G) "Governmental action" means any action by a governmental agency relating to the establishment, development, or operation of an eligible project, eligible innovation project, eligible research and development project, eligible advanced energy project, or eligible logistics and distribution project, and project facilities that the governmental agency acting has authority to take or provide for the purpose under law, including, but not limited to, actions relating to contracts and agreements, zoning, building, permits, acquisition and disposition of property, public capital improvements, utility and transportation service, taxation, employee recruitment and training, and liaison and coordination with and among governmental agencies.

(H) "Governmental agency" means the state and any state department, division, commission, institution or authority; a municipal corporation, county, or township, and any agency thereof, and any other political subdivision or public corporation or the United States or any agency thereof; any agency, commission, or authority established pursuant to an interstate compact or agreement; and any combination of the above.

(I) "Innovation financial assistance" means inducements under division (B) of section 166.12 of the Revised Code, innovation Ohio loan guarantees under section 166.15 of the Revised Code, and



innovation Ohio loans under section 166.16 of the Revised Code.

(J) "Innovation Ohio loan guarantee reserve requirement" means, at any time, with respect to innovation loan guarantees made under section 166.15 of the Revised Code, a balance in the innovation Ohio loan guarantee fund equal to the greater of twenty per cent of the then-outstanding principal amount of all outstanding innovation loan guarantees made pursuant to section 166.15 of the Revised Code or fifty per cent of the principal amount of the largest outstanding guarantee made pursuant to section 166.15 of the Revised Code.

(K) "Innovation property" includes property and also includes software, inventory, licenses, contract rights, goodwill, intellectual property, including without limitation, patents, patent applications, trademarks and service marks, and trade secrets, and other tangible and intangible property, and any rights and interests in or connected to the foregoing.

(L) "Loan guarantee reserve requirement" means, at any time, with respect to loan guarantees made under section 166.06 of the Revised Code, a balance in the loan guarantee fund equal to the greater of twenty per cent of the then-outstanding principal amount of all outstanding guarantees made pursuant to section 166.06 of the Revised Code or fifty per cent of the principal amount of the largest outstanding guarantee made pursuant to section 166.06 of the Revised Code.

(M) "Person" means any individual, firm, partnership, association, corporation, or governmental agency, and any combination thereof.

(N) "Project facilities" means buildings, structures, and other improvements, and equipment and other property, excluding small tools, supplies, and inventory, and any one, part of, or combination of the above, comprising all or part of, or serving or being incidental to, an eligible project, an eligible innovation project, an eligible research and development project, an eligible advanced energy project, or an eligible logistics and distribution project, including, but not limited to, public capital improvements.

(O) "Property" means real and personal property and interests therein.

(P) "Public capital improvements" means capital improvements or facilities that any governmental



agency has authority to acquire, pay the costs of, own, maintain, or operate, or to contract with other persons to have the same done, including, but not limited to, highways, roads, streets, water and sewer facilities, railroad and other transportation facilities, and air and water pollution control and solid waste disposal facilities. For purposes of this division, "air pollution control facilities" includes, without limitation, solar, geothermal, biofuel, biomass, wind, hydro, wave, and other advanced energy projects as defined in section 3706.25 of the Revised Code.

(Q) "Research and development financial assistance" means inducements under section 166.17 of the Revised Code, research and development loans under section 166.21 of the Revised Code, and research and development tax credits under sections 5733.352 and 5747.331 of the Revised Code.

(R) "Targeted innovation industry sectors" means industry sectors involving the production or use of advanced materials, instruments, controls and electronics, power and propulsion, biosciences, and information technology, or such other sectors as may be designated by the director of development.

(S) "Voluntary action" means a voluntary action, as defined in section 3746.01 of the Revised Code, that is conducted under the voluntary action program established in Chapter 3746. of the Revised Code.

(T) "Project financing obligations" means obligations issued pursuant to section 166.08 of the Revised Code other than obligations for which the bond proceedings provide that bond service charges shall be paid from receipts of the state representing gross profit on the sale of spirituous liquor as referred to in division (B)(4) of section 4301.10 of the Revised Code.

(U) "Regional economic development entity" means an entity that is under contract with the director to administer a loan program under this chapter in a particular area of this state.

(V) "Eligible advanced energy project" means an eligible project that is an "advanced energy project" as defined in section 3706.25 of the Revised Code.

(W) "Eligible logistics and distribution project" means an eligible project, including project facilities, to be acquired, established, expanded, remodeled, rehabilitated, or modernized for transportation logistics and distribution infrastructure purposes. As used in this division, "transportation logistics



and distribution infrastructure purposes" means promoting, providing for, and enabling improvements to the ground, air, and water transportation infrastructure comprising the transportation system in this state, including, without limitation, highways, streets, roads, bridges, railroads carrying freight, and air and water ports and port facilities, and all related supporting facilities.

(X) "Professional sports facility" has the same meaning as in section 5516.01 of the Revised Code.