

Jackson - A Great Place to do Business!

- Urban location directly on Interstate-94 and US-127 highways, strategically positioned to supply the automotive market and other industries.
- Corporate airport in Jackson, plus Detroit and Lansing airports are both within a 1-hour drive.
- Approximately 350 firms in Jackson, about 60% sell to the automotive market.
- Availability of workers skilled in automotive parts production and assembly.
- One of the lowest costs locations to do business in Michigan and the Midwest.
- Utility rates are competitive with other Midwest locations.
- The state and local tax burden is 13th lowest in the United States.
- An Economic Development staff poised to help your business succeed.

Incentives for Businesses:

Jackson has set up five tax-free areas within the County in order to attract new business investment and job creation. These areas, known as "Renaissance Zones," are free from all state and local taxes for up to 15 years. Most of these areas are former industrial sites, with good roads and services available.

These areas have the tax benefits already in place, and there is nothing necessary in order to qualify for the tax exemption, no application process, no forms to fill out, no fees to be paid, and no hassles. A company or individual simply needs to purchase some property in one of these areas and begin building. The only requirement is that the business or individual must not be delinquent in any state or local taxes in order to qualify for the tax-exempt status.

The Renaissance Zone is the most powerful market-based incentive available for businesses looking to relocate or expand their operations, but their designation does not last forever. All of the Zones in Jackson County were granted their tax-free status on January 1, 2000 and were designated for 12 years, with a buildup of 25% in each of the next three years, until the normal tax status is resumed after 2015. The clock is ticking on these Zones, and the maximum benefit continues to tick away. Contact us today to see how we can assist your business in relocating into one of our Renaissance Zones.

Jackson Small Business Development Center

The Jackson Small Business Development Center provides assistance to potential entrepreneurs and existing business owners to help them start or grow their businesses in Jackson.

Economic Development Incentives/Services

- 100% personal property tax abatement in the City of Jackson, if eligible.
- 50% real and personal property tax abatement throughout Jackson County, if eligible.
- Renaissance Zone Availability—No personal or real property taxes and no state taxes or local taxes through the year 2015 (note: phase-in of taxes occurs starting in year 2013).
- CDBG funds for infrastructure improvements, if eligible.
- State and federal employment and training dollars, if available and/or eligible.
- Identifying, securing and screening employees.
- Direct project management assistance to handle all permitting, site searches and relocation issues.
- Use of project office during new business start-up phase.

Jackson Area Manufacturers Association (JAMA)

JAMA is a not-for-profit association of manufacturers and associate partner members in Jackson County. JAMA's mission is to champion activities and create an environment that provides tools and resources to area manufacturers, assisting them in continuous improvement and success. JAMA is devoted to finding solutions to help our members maintain and improve their bottom line.

JAMA is a volunteer organization focused on helping improve business processes and practices by being a leader in technology information and training, offering state governmental help and guidance, educational assistance and workforce development. To achieve its goals, JAMA provides an open forum atmosphere where members cooperate in developing and promoting solutions that enhance the prosperity of the manufacturing industry in Jackson County and surrounding areas.

JAMA members work together because they believe there is strength in numbers and that critical issues facing Jackson manufacturing can be addressed that might otherwise be impossible to tackle by a single company. Through cooperation, JAMA members believe their efforts will result in the resounding success of all of the members, the manufacturing community, and the community as a whole.

JAMA represents the interests and needs of nearly 200 members, ranging from small manufacturing companies to international corporations. In fact, manufacturers who are members of JAMA employ more than 20 percent of Jackson County's workforce.

Technical Assistance Center for South Central Michigan

The Technical Assistance Centers, (formerly The Centers for State and Federal Procurement), were established in Onaway, Michigan in 1981. The concept and benefits of selling to the governments were so well received by the economic development community that in 1984 grants to help fund the Technical Assistance Centers were made available by both the State (Michigan Jobs Commission) and the federal government (Department of Defense). There are now more than 100 Technical Assistance Centers located throughout the United States, 12 of which are located in Michigan.

The Technical Assistance Center in Jackson was established in 1982. The Technical Assistance Center of South Central Michigan is housed with The Enterprise Group, a non-profit organization. The procurement program is administered by The Enterprise Group and executed by the Technical Assistance Center staff. The Technical Assistance Center assists businesses, in a seven county area, in acquiring federal and state government contracts. The Center also helps identify international product and service markets for companies wanting to export. The TAC's budget is composed of grants from both the state and federal government as well as in-kind services (i.e.; use of office equipment, furniture, computers, bookkeeping services, etc.) provided by the Jackson Alliance.

The TAC's services include but are not limited to:

- Orientation to the procurement system
- One-on-one counseling
- Bid preparation assistance
- Targeting government markets
- Daily listings of government bids
- Subcontracting opportunities
- Government specifications for bidding
- Training seminars and conferences
- Procurement resource library
- Bid history and contract award results
- Placement of firm on vendor lists
- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) assistance
- Export counseling and market planning
- Analysis of firms readiness to export
- Identifying countries that buy products or service
- Listings of export trade leads
- Assistance preparing export documents
- Payment and finance options
- Government regulations necessary for exporting
- Training seminars and trade show opportunities
- Extensive export resource library

Michigan Economic Development Corporation:

MISSION STATEMENT: *The Michigan Economic Development Corporation provides support to the Michigan Technical Assistance Centers located throughout the state. This network of 12 locally-based offices provides government contract assistance. Highly skilled professionals assist businesses in acquiring federal and state government contracts.*

Successes for Jackson County:

Overall, 27 companies expanded in 2002, creating over \$94 million in new investment, creating approximately 700 new jobs, and retaining 1,440 jobs within the county.

Jackson County has formed a Brownfield Redevelopment Authority to help local businesses and prospective businesses take advantage of the tax benefits of redeveloping abandoned or underutilized industrial sites. Current state legislation limits environmental liability for new purchasers and developers of these sites, making them more attractive to redevelop.

The Emerging Marketplace for High Tech, R & D

Jackson's industrial base has paved the way for growing technology and R&D sectors. More than ever, Jackson employees are developing products from conception to production. Jackson is creating a 1000-acre high-tech industrial park straddling two townships that will bring 2,000 + jobs over the next several years.

The Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc.

Who we are: The Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc. is a partnership between the principal economic development entities in Jackson County, local units of government and our business leadership. Our economic development agency, chamber, tourist bureau, manufacturer's association and business development organizations are all conveniently located in a one-stop shop that provides businesses and visitors alike easy access to information about our community and the resources that are available in Jackson County to help business succeed.

What we do: *Manage and provide single-point access to the combined resources and talents of the:*

- Economic Development Division, which includes The Jackson County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and The County Economic Development Corporation
- The Greater Jackson Chamber of Commerce
- The Jackson Area Manufacturers Association
- The Jackson County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- The Procurement Technical Assistance Center
- The Jackson Small Business & Technology Development Center

Combined, these organizations serve to:

- Provide customized business services and solutions to entrepreneurs, start-up companies, and businesses looking to relocate, expand or contract operations.
- Market and sell Jackson County as a great place to locate and expand businesses to industrial, commercial and retail businesses that we wish to bring to Jackson.
- Serve as project managers for companies looking to move to Jackson County.
- Redevelop or reuse existing industrial infrastructure for the betterment of the community and help put in place new infrastructure to respond to market opportunities.
- Help build and promote consensus between local units of government to create a better environment for the economic growth of Jackson County.
- Champion and/or support initiatives that advance or preserve Jackson County's ability to compete nationally and globally for new investment, technology and jobs.
- Enhance the economic vitality and diversity of the community through targeted recruitment activities.

MISSION STATEMENT: *To Champion The Diverse Economic Development and Vitality of Jackson County.*

A Vision for the Future: Jackson County is a state-of-the-art community where business and government work to encourage new diverse business development, further the success of existing businesses, and revitalize the urban core while maintaining the area's high standard for quality of life.

As a state-of-the-art community, the goals are for Jackson to enjoy:

- World-class industrial facilities
- A friendly environment that embraces a balanced land use plan
- World-class education, health and recreation
- Technological driven manufacturing processes
- Proactive, innovative and collaborative leadership from both the private and public sectors
- A commercially thriving downtown area that is the envy of every city in Michigan

Quality of Life in Jackson County

■ Jackson was originally the hub of the county's railroad, and for over a century it has been known as the crossroads of Michigan. In this modern time, Jackson is accessible from Interstate 94, US 127, M-50, and M-60 as well as the rail lines, making Jackson County a great location for both businesses and residents.

■ Jackson County has plenty of options for recreational activities. From golf to shopping, to festivals, there's plenty to do. The Jackson Symphony Orchestra and the Potter Center offer shows; summers light up with all sorts of contests, tournaments, festivals and parades.

■ NASCAR Winston Cup and Busch Series races occur regularly at nearby Michigan International Speedway. During the summer, The Speedway is host for the Michigan 400 and the K-Mart 400, both popular races for the two-mile track, which has reserved seating for over 125,000 race fans. The track also hosts an IRL race in July.

■ Restaurants in Jackson are strong, too. Greater Jackson offers over 88 full-service restaurants, more than 55 fast food restaurants, 13 ethnic restaurants, over 18 pizzerias and nearly 20 bakeries. Jackson has been designated as one of America's best markets in which to open a restaurant.

■ Just about every weekend during the summer you can find a festival in the area, from the Rose Festival during the month of June to the Hot Air Jubilee and RACEWeek in July, the four-week-long Michigan Shakespeare Festival, and the Midwest's largest Civil War Muster in August. Jackson has all the action, whether for couples, families or groups of many. Outdoor events are easy to enjoy. Jackson County is host to over 500 holes of golf, 188 lakes and 27 public parks covering 17,000 acres. With the third largest number of public golf courses per capita in the United States and the second oldest harness racing track in the nation, there is year 'round fun indoors and out.

■ Jackson is a community steeped in history. In 1830, the community that was settled a year earlier was given the name of Jacksonburgh in honor of Andrew Jackson. That name was changed to the tongue-twisting "Jacksonopolis" and then ultimately (and mercifully) shortened to Jackson in 1833. On July 6, 1854, the Republican Party was founded in Jackson in order to help fight the spread of slavery. Six years later, Abraham Lincoln became the first Republican president. Jackson became an important player in the Civil War as home to the main Union training camp in the state of Michigan. Jackson was also home to the state's first prison, a stop on the "Underground Railroad" used by slaves to escape to freedom, and a pioneer in the automobile industry.

■ Traditional shoppers seeking large retailers are in luck, as are those who enjoy seeking out specialty shops and antique collections. Jackson County is strong in collectibles and you can always take a break at Gramer's Candies, a Jackson tradition for over 75 years. Antique treasures can be found in small boutiques throughout Jackson County, and during November, January, February and March, Jackson hosts a regional antique show and sale. At the other end of the spectrum, Jackson offers exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities, including rocker Ted Nugent's hunting preserve. Visit some of America's most extensive outfitters, including Schupbach's and Knutson's.

Quality of Life Extras

- Jackson County has two state-of-the-art hospitals with a total of 535 beds.
- Jackson County houses the City of Jackson Police Department, Sheriff's Department, a State Police Post and National Guard Armory.
- There are 43 firefighters with three stations in the City. Jackson has a Class IV Fire Rating; there are more volunteer and professional stations throughout the County.
- One district library with 13 branches throughout the County with 300,000 volumes.
- Over 250 Churches
- 20 hotels with a total of 1,110 beds.
- Average temperature range: January, 15-29° F and in July, 61-83° F
- Average annual snowfall is 393 and average annual rainfall is 293
- Altitude 900-1100 ft. above sea level for Jackson County and 920-925 ft. above sea level for the City of Jackson.
- 707 Square miles

Education

Jackson County has 12 school districts consisting of: Columbia, Concord, East Jackson, Grass Lake, Hanover Horton, Jackson Public Schools, Michigan Center, Napoleon, Northwest, Springport, Vandercook Lake and Western, along with three Charter schools, with a total enrollment of 29,531. In addition, Jackson County has 15 private or parochial schools with approximately 3,500 students.

Colleges in Jackson County: Jackson Community College, Baker College, Spring Arbor University, Michigan State University Extension—Jackson County, Sienna Heights Extension, and Michigan Virtual University.

Colleges within one hour of Jackson include: Adrian College, Albion College, Eastern Michigan University, Western Michigan University, Hillsdale College, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Concordia College, Great Lakes Bible College, Sienna Heights College, Kellogg Community College, Lansing Community College, Washtenaw Community College, Olivet College and Cooley Law School.

Educational Attainment

High school diploma	78.0%
Some college or Associates Degree	30.7%
Bachelor's degree	27.4%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau—2000 Census/Michigan Department of Career Development 2003, Jackson County.

In Closing: To get information about Jackson, or for help with moving to, or starting a business in Jackson, it only takes one phone call to The Enterprise Group of Jackson, Inc (EG). The EG was established in 1997 to lead business recruitment and retention in our area.
Call 517-788-4455 Ext. 206