

ORDINANCE NO. 698

AN ORDINANCE of the City of Lakewood Council Adopting a New Chapter to Title 2, Administration and Personnel, to the Lakewood Municipal Code, "Lakewood Family-Wage Jobs Credit Program"; Setting an Effective Date; and Establishing a Sunset Date.

WHEREAS, household income in the City of Lakewood lags behind other counties in the Puget Sound region; and

WHEREAS, more than 16,000 Lakewood residents commute outside of the City for work, increasing traffic congestion and decreasing community involvement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood is committed to partnering with business, labor, and community leaders to increase local family-wage jobs; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood recognizes the critical role businesses play in creating vibrant communities and is actively working to encourage businesses to choose Lakewood; and

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood requires payment of certain permits and fees pertaining to construction of commercial buildings and facilities; and

WHEREAS, in order to support and incentivize the creation of local family-wage jobs, the City Council desires to rebate a portion of the permit and fee payments made by employers; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the creation of new family-wage jobs, the rebate will be available to those employers that made payments for construction fees and permits and who provide evidence that they have created five or more new family-wage jobs of indefinite duration in the City of Lakewood; and

WHEREAS, providing the family-wage job credit will help to increase the number of higher paying jobs in the City of Lakewood, make the City a more attractive place to start or grow a business, enhance economic activity, and expand the tax base; and

WHEREAS, the rebate will be limited to maximum one-time rebate of \$275 per new family-wage job created; and

WHEREAS, the public benefits derived from the creation of a new family-wage job will exceed the value of the rebate provided. An example of one public benefit is increased local sales tax revenue which is estimated to be \$280 or more for incomes of at least \$50,000 per year.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON, DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A new Chapter, Chapter, 2.100 is hereby added to Title 2, Administration and Personnel, as follows:

2.100.010 Title.

This Chapter shall be officially cited as the Lakewood Family-Wage Jobs Credit Program.

2.100.020 Purpose.

The purpose of this Chapter is to encourage businesses to create new family-wage jobs in the City of Lakewood by crediting certain charges and fees associated with establishing or expanding a business.

2.100.030 Definitions.

"Credit" means a monetary payment or reduction in present or future balance due to the Department.

"Department" means the Community and Economic Development Department.

"Eligible charges and fees" means monetary payments paid by the family-wage jobs credit applicant or the applicant's agent to the City of Lakewood after December 31, 2018, for building permits, Downtown Plan traffic mitigation fees, critical area review, and land use actions, such as conditional permits and variances. Expressly excluded from the definition of eligible charges and fees are state building code charges and fees, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department charges and fees, recordation fees, fire inspection charges and fees, residential land use action charges and fees, and residential building permit or associated application charges and fees.

"Eligible employer" means an individual or entity that has created and filled at least five new family-wage jobs in the City of Lakewood after January 1, 2019, and has paid, or whose agent has paid, an eligible charge or fee to the City of Lakewood.

"Eligible employer" excludes a public agency.

"Family-wage job" means an ongoing employment relationship of indefinite duration in which an employee is compensated by an employer at a gross annualized rate, excluding employer-paid benefits such as health benefits and pension payments of any type, at or above 80 percent of the most recent calculation of Pierce County's median annual household income by the Washington State Office of Financial Management, which is \$52,197 for calendar year 2019.

"New family-wage job" means a family-wage job that an employer did not advertise or fill in the previous calendar year that results in a net increase in employees employed by the employer in The City of Lakewood compared to the previous calendar year.

“Public Agency” includes the federal government or any federal department or agency, Indian tribes, Washington state, all departments, agencies, boards and commissions of Washington state, Pierce County, school districts, fire districts, all municipal corporations, special service districts, and any other political subdivisions of Washington state.

2.100.040 Family-Wage Jobs Credit.

Eligible employers may apply to the Community and Economic Development Department for a credit in the amount of \$275 per new family-wage job created in the City of Lakewood, up to the maximum allowed credit amount.

The maximum allowed credit amount is the total of eligible charges and fees paid to the City of Lakewood by the eligible employer or the eligible employer's agent. Credit payments shall be subject to funds available from other sources appropriated for this purpose. Eligible employers may apply multiple times but may not receive credits exceeding the maximum allowed credit amount for each eligible family-wage job they created.

2.100.050 Administration.

The Community and Economic Development Department is responsible for administering this Chapter.

The Department shall create and make publicly available a standard application that enables the Department to determine applicant eligibility for a credit under the provisions of this Chapter. The Department may require applicants provide Wage and Hour Reports (Form 5208) as submitted to the Washington State Employment Security Department, with social security numbers redacted, and may require applicants provide other information deemed necessary by the Department Director.

The Department must review applications for completeness prior to acceptance and no credit may issue without Department approval. Approved credits must be processed in a reasonably expeditious manner.

2.100.060 Reconsideration.

Within seven working days of the date of the Director's decision, aggrieved applicants may file with the Department a written request for reconsideration based on any one of the following grounds:

- A. Errors of procedure or misinterpretation of fact, material to the party seeking the request for reconsideration.
- B. Additional supporting information will demonstrate the applicant's eligibility for a credit under this Chapter.

Upon receipt of a request for reconsideration, the Director shall review said request considering the record and take such further action as is deemed proper including,

but not limited to, requesting a response from another party, denying the request, granting the request, and may render a revised decision. The result of the reconsideration is the final determination.

2.100.070 Sunset.

The Department shall not accept any applications for a credit utilizing the provisions of this Chapter after December 31, 2020. This Chapter shall sunset on December 31, 2021.

Section 2 Severability. If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phrase of this ordinance is declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining parts of this ordinance.

Section 3. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take place thirty (30) days after its publication or publication of a summary of its intent and contents.

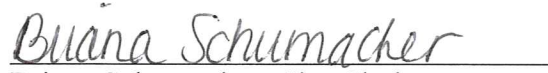
ADOPTED by the Lakewood City Council this 5th day of November, 2018.

CITY OF LAKEWOOD




Don Anderson, Mayor

Attest:



Briana Schumacher, City Clerk

Approved as to Form:



Heidi Ann Wachter, City Attorney