



**RESOLUTION TITLE: TO UPDATE THE PROVISIONS OF THE GASTON COUNTY INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM TO EXTEND THE SMALL BUSINESS INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM THROUGH CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

**WHEREAS,** the Gaston County Board of Commissioners has supported economic development for more than twenty years, with an emphasis on tax base development, employer diversification, and job creation; and,

**WHEREAS,** The Commission recognizes the need to provide programs and financial support to strengthen and diversify the County's economy, because tax base development is the key to the County's fiscal health; and,

**WHEREAS,** it is important not only to attract new investment but also to encourage existing businesses to expand and reinvest in their Gaston County operations; and,

**WHEREAS,** the Gaston County Small Business Investment Grant Program is intended to combat the effects of the recession and high rate of unemployment, and to provide an inducement for new business to locate in Gaston County and encourage existing business to expand in Gaston County; and,

**WHEREAS,** the proposed Small Business Program provides a temporary grant to companies investing in Gaston County that is based upon the investment made by the company in calendar year 2026 upon the following conditions:

- Investment Grants will be based on the net increase in tax value of all real property, machinery and improvements above the base year prior to investment. No grant will be given to a company that would reduce their tax payment to an amount lower than the previous tax year.
- Asset purchases, mergers and acquisitions of existing companies already paying taxes in Gaston County would not qualify for the program.
- Grant funds will represent a percentage of the company's tax payment. The company must be current with all other payments required by Gaston County.

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I, Donna S. Buff, Clerk to the County Commission, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of action taken by the Board of Commissioners as follows:

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To Update the Provisions of the Gaston County Investment Grant Program to Extend The  
Small Business Investment Grant Program Through Calendar Year 2026  
Page 2

- The Gaston County Board of Commissioners may modify or eliminate the program subject to meeting existing grant obligations in effect at the time.
- No company may transfer grant agreement or contracts without explicit approval by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners that the Gaston County Investment Grant Program as adopted by Resolution No. 2006-065, dated February 9, 2006, is hereby amended to approve the one-year extension of the Gaston County Small Business Investment Grant for the 2026 calendar year.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Small Business Investment Grant program shall sunset on December 31, 2026, and shall apply to investments made during the 2026 calendar year.

## Local Investment Grant Program

### Availability

The following investment grant program is available in Gaston County, Gastonia, Bessemer City, Belmont, Cherryville, Dallas, Mount Holly, Stanley and Cramerton.

### Purpose

The Gaston County Board of Commissioners has supported economic development for more than twenty years with an emphasis on tax base development, employer diversification and job creation. The Commission has recognized the need to provide programs and financial support to strengthen and diversify the County's economy. Tax base development is a key concern for the County's fiscal health. It is essential not only to attract new investment but also to encourage existing business to expand and reinvest in their Gaston County operations. The Gaston County Investment Grant Program (GCIGP) is intended to provide an inducement for new business to locate in Gaston County and encourage existing business to expand.

### Grant Program Description

The program provides grants to companies investing in Gaston County. The grant will be established by an application with Gaston County. The company must pay their taxes in full each year based on the actual tax value of the property or investment. If the company meets all of the criteria in the application, a portion of the property tax will be returned as a grant. The amount of the grant is based on a sliding scale.

Investment Grants will be based on the increase in tax value of all real property, machinery and improvements above the base year prior to investment. No grant will be given to a company that would reduce their tax payment to an amount lower than the previous tax year. Purchases of any existing Gaston County facility or equipment will not qualify for the program.

All grant monies will be taken directly from the company's tax payment. The company must be current with all other payments required by Gaston County.

The Gaston County Board of Commissioners may modify or eliminate the program subject to meeting all existing grant obligations in effect at the time. No company may transfer grant agreements or contracts without explicit approval by the Gaston County Board of Commissioners.

Companies in the following North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 1997 and 2000 Revisions are eligible for the grants:

| Category of Business  | NAICS Code          |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Manufacturing         | 31 – 33 (NAICS 97)  |
| Warehousing           | 493 (NAICS 97)      |
| Data Processing       | 51821 (NAICS 2000)  |
| Retail                | 44-45 (NAICS 2000)  |
| Homes for the Elderly | 623312 (NAICS 2000) |

### **Industrial Grant 1**

All investment in real property, new machinery and equipment over \$1,000,000.00 would be eligible for a grant as shown below.

- Year 1 - 90% property tax grant
- Year 2 - 80% property tax grant
- Year 3 - 70% property tax grant
- Year 4 - 60% property tax grant
- Year 5 - 50% property tax grant

### **Industrial Grant 2**

All investments in real property, new machinery and equipment over \$15,000,000.00 would be eligible for a grant as shown below.

- Year 1 - 90% property tax grant
- Year 2 - 80% property tax grant
- Year 3 - 70% property tax grant
- Year 4 - 60% property tax grant
- Year 5 - 50% property tax grant
- Year 6 – 40% property tax grant
- Year 7 – 30% property tax grant
- Year 8 – 20% property tax grant
- Year 9 – 10% property tax grant

### **Industrial Grant 3**

All investments in real property, new machinery and equipment over \$30,000,000.00 would be eligible for a grant as shown below.

- Year 1 - 90% property tax grant
- Year 2 - 85% property tax grant
- Year 3 - 80% property tax grant
- Year 4 - 75% property tax grant
- Year 5 - 70% property tax grant
- Year 6 – 65% property tax grant
- Year 7 – 60% property tax grant
- Year 8 – 55% property tax grant
- Year 9 – 50% property tax grant
- Year 10 – 45% property tax grant

### **Industrial Grant 4**

All investments in real property, new machinery and equipment over \$50,000,000.00 would be eligible for a grant as shown below.

- Year 1 - 85% property tax grant
- Year 2 - 85% property tax grant
- Year 3 - 85% property tax grant
- Year 4 - 85% property tax grant
- Year 5 - 85% property tax grant
- Year 6 – 70% property tax grant
- Year 7 – 70% property tax grant
- Year 8 – 70% property tax grant
- Year 9 – 70% property tax grant
- Year 10 – 70% property tax grant

### **Retail Grant**

All retail investments with an aggregate investment of \$40,000,000.00 would qualify for a grant as shown below.

- Year 1 - 90% property tax grant
- Year 2 - 80% property tax grant
- Year 3 - 70% property tax grant
- Year 4 - 60% property tax grant
- Year 5 - 50% property tax grant

The Gaston County Investment Grant Program is intended to diversify the tax base, improve employment opportunities for Gaston County citizens, and create an increase in the net depreciable taxable value of the tax base of Gaston County. The Gaston County Tax Department and the Gaston County Economic Development Commission shall establish procedures for the implementation of the Program. Grant applications shall be reviewed and verified by the Tax Department and the EDC. Any interpretation of the application and/or approved Grant of the program to a specific project shall be subject to a yearly review by the EDC and Tax Department for eligibility in accord with this policy statement and shall be final.

### **Small Business Grant: (Temporary – Limited to Investments in Calendar Year 2026)**

Business investments made during calendar year 2026 in an amount equal to or greater than \$10,000 and less than \$10,000,000 would qualify for the following grant.

The grant is 50% of the net new county taxes paid on qualifying investments within the parameters and guidelines of the Small Business Investment Grant program.

If your business is eligible, please go to [www.gastongov.com](http://www.gastongov.com) and click on SBIG (Small Business Investment Grant) for guidelines and an application. Applications for this grant are to be filed with the Gaston County Tax Department.