



# TOWN OF ISLIP INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## UNIFORM TAX EXEMPTION POLICY

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The Town of Islip Industrial Development Agency (TOIIDA) provides financial assistance (tax-exempt or taxable bonds and/or straight lease transactions) for projects which promote the economic growth and health of Islip Town and the Long Island region. TOIIDA provides financial assistance to all projects and facilities as defined in Title I of Article 18A of the General Municipal Law. These projects and facilities include, but are not limited to: industrial, manufacturing, research and development, warehousing, commercial, office, recreation and civic facilities. Also included are: affordable housing, senior housing, assisted living facilities, brownfield redevelopment projects and projects that eliminate commercial blight. Certain retail projects are included (those that are in conformance with Sec. 862 of the NYS GML, those that are part of a mixed use downtown redevelopment plan and those that involve the elimination of community blight).

All projects receiving financial assistance through TOIIDA are eligible for various tax exemptions and abatements.

### I. REAL PROPERTY TAXES

- A. **Real Property Tax Abatement:** TOIIDA provides real property tax abatements in the form of reduction of existing taxes and/or freezing existing taxes and/or abating the increased assessment (value added) as a result of the project. Real property tax abatements may be structured in the form of fixed annual payments with or without scheduled increases over a period of time or in the form of abatements of the increased assessment that results from the project over a period of time or in the form of reduction of the existing taxes with a phase in back to the original tax level over a period of time.

Each project is reviewed and evaluated on a case by case basis. The Agency review utilizes criteria that measure the projects level of significance and/or strategic value and/or impact upon the Town of Islip at both the micro and macro level as well as upon Long Island as a Region and/or the State economy.

As a general rule, the term of the real property tax abatement is ten years. The basic real property tax abatement provided by the TOIIDA is based upon the equivalent of Section 485-b of the New York State Real Property Tax Law. This section provides for a 50% real property tax abatement on the increased assessed value in the first year; 45% real property tax abatement in the second year; 40% abatement in the third year and thereafter declining 5% per year over a ten year period. A 485-b real property tax abatement is the minimum that TOIIDA provides. An enhanced real property tax abatement is considered and/or provided under the following circumstances:

1. **Existing Vacant Facilities & Brownfields:** In order to encourage “reuse” and upgrading of existing building stock and environmentally damaged properties commonly referred to as brownfields, TOIIDA may provide an enhanced real property tax benefit and abatement for projects involving vacant existing facilities and brownfields. The benefits may include freezing or reducing the assessment base of the pre-improved facility and granting of abatements that are equivalent of double the benefits provided by Section 485-b of the Real Property Tax Law. These abatements will consist of a 100% abatement on the increased assessed value in the first year; a 90% abatement in the second year; and 80% abatement in the third year and thereafter declining 10% per year over a ten year period.
2. **Significant/Strategic Projects:** TOIIDA may provide enhanced real property tax abatements (double 485-b) to projects that are considered significantly and strategically important to the economic well being of Islip Town and the Long Island region. Provision of an enhanced real property tax abatement would be considered for high-tech and biomedical manufacturing; research and development; computer and data processing facilities; financial (back office) operations; professional services industry; corporate, national or regional headquarters; and projects deemed significant to the revitalization of distressed communities. Each project eligible for enhanced property tax abatement is evaluated pursuant to the guidelines/criteria contained in Attachment 1.
3. **Projects within the boundaries of the former Empire Zone:** TOIIDA provides enhanced real property tax abatement to projects located within the boundaries of the former State designated Empire Zone. The enhanced property tax abatement consists of a 100% abatement on the increased assessed value for the first 5 years; 90% in year 6; 80% in year 7 and thereafter declining 10% per year through year 14.
4. **Housing projects:** For qualified housing projects (affordable housing, senior housing, assisted living facilities) that provide a public benefit in accordance with the Town of Islip Comprehensive Plan and related Planning Department studies, TOIIDA may set flat PILOT payments on a per unit, per year basis. The length and terms of these agreements will be determined on a case-by-case basis, based upon such factors as affordability, market conditions & the extent of public subsidies and participation in the project.
5. **Civic Facilities (Not-for-Profits):** TOIIDA provides property tax exemption for projects owned by 501(c)(3) corporations, equivalent to the exemption (100%) these not-for-profit corporations would receive under the RPTL, absent the involvement of the agency. For projects leased by 501(c)(3) corporations, TOIIDA provides a 100% abatement on any improvement to real property for the term of the lease, as long as the facility is used exclusively for, and in furtherance of, their 501(c)(3) mission.
6. **Blighted Commercial Properties:** TOIIDA may provide enhanced property tax abatements (double 485-b) for projects that eliminate community blight as defined in Chapter 6A, Article II of the Islip Town Code.
7. **Mixed Use properties in Downtown Commercial Corridors:** TOIIDA may provide enhanced real property tax abatements (double 485-b) for projects on which a combination of residential and commercial construction work is performed to create a building used for mixed residential and commercial purposes. Such projects must

be located within proscribed downtown corridors as contained in the Suffolk County Industrial and Commercial Incentive Board Plan adopted in 1999, as amended and/or those projects governed by Chapter 68 of the Town Code known as Downtown Development Districts and Business Districts.

8. **Town and/or other Municipally Owned Property:** Property owned by the Town of Islip and/or another municipal entity that is sold and/or leased to a private developer and/or private company may qualify for a 100% abatement and/or an enhanced abatement for periods up to 15 years. However, no village taxes will be abated in any PILOT Agreement entered into under this provision.
9. **Large Employment Generators:** Projects that create or retain 500 jobs or more may qualify for tax abatements for periods of up to 20 years. For new construction, this would be in the form of a 100% abatement the first year and declining 5% per year for 20 years. For existing buildings, the benefits may include reducing existing real property taxes and/or freezing the real property tax base and/or granting real property tax abatements on the increased value that result from the project for periods up to 20 years.

B. **Projects in Foreign Trade Zone:** For projects located within Islip's Foreign Trade Zone, all payments are made pursuant to land lease with the Town of Islip's Foreign Trade Zone Authority.

C. **Recapture of Benefits:** Projects that receive enhanced real property tax abatements are subject to the recapture of benefits pursuant to the following schedule:

Within 1 year	100%
Within 2 years	100%
Within 3 years	50%
Within 4 years	25%
After 4 years	0%

The above term period is from the effective date of the PILOT Agreement. Imposition of any recapture is at the sole discretion of the TOIIDA and is reviewed/considered on a case by case basis. Reasons for the recapture of benefits include the following:

1. Sale or closure of the facility and departure of the company from the Long Island region.
2. Significant change in the use of the facility and/or the business activity of the company.
3. Significant employment reductions not reflective of the company's (normal) business cycle and/or local and national economic conditions.

D. **Deviations from Policy:** TOIIDA reserves the right to deviate from its uniform real property tax abatement policy under special/extraordinary circumstances. Deviations can take the form of providing less or more in the way of real property tax abatements. These deviations would be done by reducing or increasing the percentage of the annual abatement, or by reducing or increasing the term of the PILOT Agreement, or by doing a combination of both. Provision of less in the way of real property tax abatements is applicable to projects that are subsequent phases of a previously TOIIDA financed, multi-phased project and/or TOIIDA determines that the benefit provided by these projects merits a reduced level of incentive

(cost). Provision of more in the way of real property tax abatements is applicable to projects that are considered extremely significant and vital to the economic health and well-being of Islip Town and the Long Island Region. Any applicant may apply in writing to TOIIDA for increased real property tax abatement benefits setting forth reasons for a proposed deviation from the uniform policy. Such requests should set forth specific data and information which would cause TOIIDA to deviate from its uniform policy focusing, in whole or part, on the guidelines and criteria set forth in Attachment 1 hereto. Each time TOIIDA propose to deviate from its uniform real property tax abatement policy, it will provide written notification with any explanation for the deviation to the chief executive officer of each affected taxing jurisdiction.

## **II. SALES TAX EXEMPTIONS**

- A. **Eligible Expenses:** TOIIDA provides sales tax exemptions on all materials and/or equipment used or incorporated into the project during the initial construction/renovation and equipping of the project. TOIIDA does not provide sales tax exemption for ongoing expenses after the project is completed.
- B. TOIIDA executes a sales tax exemption agreement with the project occupant that contains an expiration date for the continued availability of sales tax exemptions. The expiration date is based upon the anticipated project completion date. Should the project not be complete by the expiration date, the project occupant must request an extension of the expiration date from TOIIDA.
- C. **Reporting Requirements:** Project occupants (agents) are required to annually file a statement of the value of all sales tax exemptions claimed for the year to the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance. TOIIDA requires that each project occupant (agent) provides the Agency with a copy of that annual filing.
- D. **Deviations from Policy:** TOIIDA reserves the right to deviate from its uniform sales tax exemption policy under special/extraordinary circumstances. Deviations can take the form of providing less or more in the way of sales tax exemptions. These deviations would be done by reducing the full sales tax exemption to a partial sales tax exemption for the initial project completion period or by extending the term of the sales tax agreement to include ongoing operating expenses. Provision of less in the way of sales tax exemption is applicable to projects that are subsequent phases of a previously TOIIDA financed multi-phase project and/or TOIIDA determines that the benefit provided by these projects merits a reduced level of incentive (cost). Provision of more in the way of sales tax exemption is applicable to projects that are considered extremely significant and vital to the economic health and well-being of Islip Town and the Long Island region. Any applicant may apply in writing to TOIIDA for increased sales tax exemptions setting forth reasons for a proposed deviation from the uniform policy. Such request should set forth specific data and information which would cause TOIIDA to deviate from its uniform policy focusing, in whole or in part, on the guidelines and criteria set forth in Attachment 1 hereto. Each time TOIIDA deviates from its uniform sales tax exemption policy, it will provide written notification, with an explanation for the deviation, to the chief executive officer of each affected taxing jurisdiction.

## **III. MORTGAGE RECORDING TAX**

All TOIIDA assisted projects are eligible for exemption from the mortgage recording tax

- A. **Project Related Financing:** Financing secured by a mortgage which is directly related to the project is exempt from the mortgage recording tax
- B. **Non-Project Related Financing:** Financing secured by a mortgage which is not directly related to, or a part of, the project, are not eligible for exemption from mortgage recording tax.
- C. **Deviations from Policy:** TOIIDA reserves the right to deviate from its uniform mortgage recording tax exemption policy under special/extraordinary circumstances. Deviations can take the form of providing less or more in the way of mortgage recording tax exemptions. These deviations would be done by reducing the mortgage recording tax exemption from a full exemption to a partial exemption or by allowing all or part of the non-project related financing to be exempt from mortgage recording tax. Provision of less in the way of exemption from mortgage recording tax is applicable to projects that are subsequent phases of a previously TOIIDA financed multi-phase project and/or TOIIDA determines that the benefit provided by these project merits a reduced level of incentive (cost). Provision of more in the way of exemption from mortgage recording tax is applicable to projects that are considered extremely significant and vital to the economic health and well-being of Islip Town and the Long Island region. Any applicant may apply in writing to the TOIIDA for increased mortgage recording tax exemptions setting forth reasons for a proposed deviation from the uniform policy. Such request should set forth specific data and information which would cause TOIIDA to deviate from its uniform policy focusing in whole or in part on the guidelines and criteria set forth in Attachment 1 hereto. Each time TOIIDA proposes to deviate from its uniform mortgage recording tax exemption policy, it will provide written notification with an explanation for the deviation to the chief executive officer of each affected taxing jurisdiction.

# **ATTACHMENT 1**

## **ENHANCED REAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT GUIDELINES/CRITERIA**

TOIIDA considers the following significant indicators when determining whether to provide enhanced real property tax abatements. (These determinants are not all inclusive and are not in priority order):

1. ***Economy:*** Local and regional economic conditions at the time of application.
2. ***Jobs:*** The extent to which the project will directly create or retain permanent private sector jobs as well as “temporary” jobs during the construction period. In addition, the level of secondary “multiplier” jobs that will be created or retained as a result of the project.
3. ***Project Cost/Payroll:*** Level of direct annual payroll that results from the project as well as secondary “multiplier” payroll and payroll during the initial construction period.
4. ***Project Purpose:*** Type of industrial or commercial activity proposed for the facility.
5. ***Site Alternatives:*** Likelihood that the project will locate elsewhere resulting in subsequent real economic losses for retention projects and possible failure to realize future economic benefits for attraction projects.
6. ***Project Location:*** Nature of the property before the project (vacant land, vacant buildings, distressed community, Former Empire Zone, blighted property, downtown corridor).
7. ***Project Benefits:*** Amount of private sector investment as a result of the project and the level of additional revenue for local taxing jurisdictions.
8. ***Project Costs:*** Impact of the project and the proposed abatements/exemption on local taxing jurisdictions and extent to which will require additional services from local government entities.