

## Job Creation Grant Revisions

The list of High Unemployment Areas (HUAs) has been updated for Grant Year 2018. This list is updated during the qualification year with data from the Virginia Employment Commission. Previously, positions paying less than 175 percent of the federal minimum wage were not eligible for the JCG. However, an amendment to the statute now allows otherwise eligible businesses in high unemployment areas paying 150 percent of the federal minimum wage (\$10.88/hour) to receive grants. The current high unemployment area zones authorized by this provision are listed below.

2019 Enterprise Zone Grant			
High Unemployment Areas (HUA)			
Brunswick County	32*	City of Hopewell	9
City of Covington	53*	City of Martinsville	36, 54*
City of Danville	1, 57*	Northampton County	26*
Dickenson County (Clintwood & Haysi)	49	City of Petersburg	10
City of Emporia	43*	Wise County	52
<p><i>*The following communities in joint zones are NOT HUAs: Mecklenburg County, Alleghany County and Town of Clifton Forge, Pittsylvania County, Greensville County, Henry County and Accomack County. Businesses in these communities are not eligible for the reduced wage threshold.</i></p> <p><i>Source: DHCD based on the LAUS Unit and Bureau of Labor Statistics 2018 Annual Virginia Unemployment Report.</i></p>			

**Brunswick County and the City of Emporia are now considered High Unemployment Area (HUA) zones.** Businesses in these zones are eligible to apply for the \$500/PFTE Job Creation Grant at the reduced wage rate threshold of 150% of the Federal Minimum Wage (FMW) or \$10.88 per hour.

**The following localities are no longer considered HUA zones:**

City of Franklin	Mecklenburg County
City of Galax	Page County
Greensville County	City of Portsmouth
Halifax County	Prince Edward County
Henry County	Richmond County
Lancaster County (Kilmarnock)	Tazewell County

Businesses in these zones that have previously applied for the JCG as HUA applicants may continue to qualify for the \$500 grant at the reduced wage threshold of \$10.88/hour for the remainder of their 5-year grant period. However, **any new business applying for the JCG in these zones must pay a wage rate threshold of at least 175% of the FMW (\$12.69/hour) to be eligible for the grant.**

Any business applying as an HUA applicant must use form **EZ-JCG-HUA** and fill out the **JCG-HUA Worksheet**. These documents are specifically tailored to accommodate the reduced wage rate threshold.