



## EB-5 101

### What is the EB-5 program?

The EB-5 program was created by the U.S. government in 1990 to improve economic conditions, especially in economically distressed areas by attracting foreign capital to support investments that create local jobs.

### What are the EB-5 capital requirements?

Under the program, each foreign investor is required to demonstrate that at least 10 new jobs were created or saved as a result of the EB-5 investment, which must be a minimum of \$1 million, or \$500,000 if the funds are invested in certain high-unemployment or rural areas.

In 1992, Congress enhanced the economic impact of the EB-5 program by permitting the designation of Regional Centers to pool EB-5 capital from multiple foreign investors for investment in approved economic development projects within a defined geographic region. Today, 95 percent of all EB-5 capital is raised and invested by Regional Centers.

### Who runs the EB-5 program?

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) run the program, must approve all economic development projects, and are assisted at the regional level by EB-5 Regional Centers.

### What is an EB-5 Regional Center?

An EB-5 Regional Center is an organization, designated and regulated by the USCIS, which facilitates investment in job-creating economic development projects by pooling capital raised under the EB-5 immigrant investor program. Regional Centers can be publicly owned, (e.g. by a city, state, or regional economic development agency), privately owned, or be a public-private partnership.

### What do EB-5 Regional Centers do?

- Identify investment opportunities that will create jobs in local communities, often in partnership with economic development agencies.
- Ensure that the investment offering complies with federal and state securities laws and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission regulations as well as specific EB-5 requirements.

### Why is the EB-5 Investment Program Important?

A comprehensive peer-reviewed economic study found that during fiscal year 2012, investments made through the EB-5 program contributed \$3.39 billion to U.S. GDP and supported over 42,000 U.S. jobs.