

Your business belongs here — locate, expand and flourish in Allegany County.

Looking to locate, expand, launch, or simply maintain your business in Allegany County? The ACIDA offers strategic incentives to lower costs, support growth, and ensure your business thrives.

➤ Tax & Financial Incentives

Reduce upfront costs, improve ROI, and enhance your long-term profitability.

Highlights:

- Sales tax exemptions for eligible projects on equipment and construction materials purchases.
- Mortgage recording tax exemption when acquiring or financing real property through the ACIDA.
- Option for real property tax abatement / PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) arrangements to reduce property tax burden during development or expansion.
- The Application Fee is \$500, and ACIDA fees for projects equal 1% of total capital investment.

What this means for you: Lower total project cost, improved cash flow, and more resources to reinvest in operations, workforce, or equipment.

➤ Local Development Corporation (LDC)

The LDC broadens funding options and enhances local support.



Benefits:

- Low-Interest Revolving Loan Funds (RLF): Access gap financing for land acquisition, building construction, or equipment purchases with rates typically below market averages.
- Strategic Gap Financing: The LDC specializes in "subordinated debt," allowing us to partner with a primary lender to cover the final 10-20% of a project's cost.
- Rapid Local Approvals: Unlike state-level grants, our Board of Directors is comprised of local stakeholders who understand the Allegany County economy, resulting in faster decision cycles and localized underwriting.

What this means for you: The LDC framework is built to make your setup and expansion smoother and more cost-effective.

➤ Micro-Enterprise Grant Program

Designed for smaller businesses (5 or fewer employees), this Allegany County grant can provide up to \$35,000.

Details at a glance:

- Grant size: Minimum \$10,000 → Maximum \$35,000.
- Funds can be used for machinery, equipment, furnishings/fixtures, inventory, operating costs/working capital.
- **Ineligible costs include:** Construction/renovation/leasehold improvements & demolition.
- Business must have 5 or fewer employees, one of whom is an owner. Startup businesses encouraged.
- Project qualifies if owner is low-to-moderate income OR the grant will create at least one full-time equivalent job available to a low-to-moderate income person.

- Location requirement: The business must be located in Allegany County and complete an entrepreneurship training course and a business plan with ACCORD or IncubatorWorks.

What this means for you: If you're a smaller enterprise or startup, you can get meaningful grant support to acquire essential equipment, stabilize operations and accelerate growth — with fewer hurdles than larger capital-intensive projects.

➤ Why choose Allegany County & the ACIDA?

- Strategic location with access to regional markets, transportation corridors, low cost of operation, and a business-friendly community.
- ACIDA's mission: To promote business retention, growth, and expansion in Allegany County by incentivizing construction/rehabilitation of facilities and equipment
- You gain local partner support: ACIDA works with you from application through implementation, helping navigate incentives, approvals, and compliance.
- A tailored ecosystem: Whether you're a manufacturer, service provider, startup, or micro-enterprise — ACIDA's programs are designed to span the spectrum.

➤ Next Steps for Interested Businesses

1. Schedule a consultation with ACIDA staff to review your project concept, eligibility, and timeline.
2. Prepare your basic project snapshot: business type, investment size, location, ESD incentives, job creation projection.
3. Explore which incentive pathway fits best: large-scale expansion (tax incentives + LDC), or smaller scale startup (micro-enterprise grant + LDC).
4. Submit an application: Visit ACIDA.org: For grants use MicroEnterprise application form. For tax incentive use ACIDA financial assistance application. For loans use LDC loan application form.
5. Begin training (for micro-enterprise applicants): Completion of entrepreneurship course and business plan through IncubatorWorks or ACCORD (required).

➤ Contact & Support

For more information, visit: ACIDA.org or contact the ACIDA team directly as indicated below.

Craig Clark, P.E., Ph.D

Executive Director

Phone: 585-449-2047

Email: craig.clark@alleganyco.gov

Melissa Pingitore

Assistant Director

Phone: 585-449-2047

Email: melissa.pingitore@acida.org

Note: Incentive programs, eligibility criteria, and timelines may change — please confirm details with ACIDA staff before proceeding.

