An Investment in Citizenship

EB-5 & REGIONAL CENTERS
- Five departments
- About 35 employees
- Economic Development District (EDD)
- 11 county 22 cities and service region
- 2 Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs)
- 500,000 regional population
**EB-5: BACKGROUND**

- Employment Based (Immigration)
- Visa program created under Immigration Act of 1990
- Expedites green cards for foreign nationals who make U.S. investment
ADVANTAGES OF EB-5 CENTER

- Win/Win for Investors, Investees, and the U.S.
  - Investor gets “green cards” and permanent residency
  - Investees get loans for development at below market rates
  - Jobs are created in the U.S. thus stimulating the economy
  - Examples of projects include, hotels, manufacturing and distribution facilities, infrastructure
EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS

- Hotels
- Manufacturing
- Distribution Facilities
- Infrastructure
- Machinery
ADVANCED CITIZENSHIP

- Financial Vetting - *lawfully earned the requisite investment*

- Background Check
  - Family history

- 3-5 Year Timeframe for Citizenship
FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Foreign Direct Investment

Year

Dollars in Trillions

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Minimum threshold is $500,000 investment in a regional center. The minimum qualifying investment either within a high-unemployment area or rural area. A targeted employment area is an area that, at the time of investment, is a rural area or an area experiencing unemployment of at least 150 percent of the national average rate. A rural area is any area outside a metropolitan statistical area or outside the boundary of any city or town having a population of 20,000 or more according to the decennial census.
JOB CREATION REQUIREMENTS

- Create or preserve at least 10 full-time jobs

- Job Creation within two years (or under certain circumstances, within a reasonable time after the two-year period)

- Jobs must be direct or indirect
  - Indirect only count for regional centers
What is a Regional Center?

- Focuses on a specific geographic area within the U.S. and seeks to promote economic growth through increased export sales and productivity.

- The investment could only be received by an economic unit defined as a Regional Center.

- Designated by United States Citizen Immigration Services (USCIS).
REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONAL CENTER DESIGNATION

- Economic Impact Analysis
- Regional Business Plan
- Legal Presentation/I-526 Documents

Regional Center Designation
PROCESS AFTER REGIONAL CENTER DESIGNATION

I-526 Immigrant Petition By Alien Entrepreneur

- Approved
  - $500,000 to Partnership Account
    - $500,000 Released to Investees (Project)

- Denied
  - $500,000 Returned to Investor
INVESTMENT AND RECRUITMENT

Who Applies for Regional Center designation?

Who is going to recruit program participants?

Who pays who?
MIDDLE GEORGIA REGIONAL CENTER PROCESS

1. Middle Georgia Regional Commission Contracts with GADC
2. GADC Recruits
3. GADC paid by the individual securing Visa
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