



Commercial Air Service Restoration Program Guidelines

The Commercial Air Service Restoration Program provides Ohio's commercial airports the opportunity to work collaboratively through public and private partnerships to retain and restore air service opportunities for economic development. The program was established to assist business attraction and retention efforts across the state by providing support for air service in qualifying markets where airlines have canceled or are planning to cancel service. The program will also establish special requirements for Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) in partnership with the Kenton County Airport Board.

This program will serve communities and sponsors of commercial service airports that cannot sustain the full cost of an air service incentive. For domestic service, JobsOhio will provide limited, short-term (6 to 12 months) funding to support agreements with commercial air carriers. For international service, JobsOhio may provide multi-year (up to 36 months) support.

The program is designed to create and retain seat capacity and destinations at participating airports that were self-sustaining before the pandemic event and result in retained business, commerce, and other additional benefits in the surrounding community. The amount of funds awarded will be determined by the type of air service proposed, the level of support and financial commitment offered by the local community, and the availability of JobsOhio funds for this type of economic development activity.

Overview

JobsOhio will accept applications to the program on an ongoing basis. Applicants are encouraged to first complete a pre-screening process before incurring costs associated with developing reports and research that are necessary to use when communicating with commercial airlines as JobsOhio may be able to assist the applicant with this process.

Eligible applicants must have strong local support (local matching funds preferred) and strategic marketing plans that include local business letters of support. The program may be used to match Federal Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) funds and other federal air service funding programs.

Domestic and International Program Details

- The length of commitments for domestic service will span up to 12 months
- The length of commitments for international service will span up to 36 months
- Service to typical business markets or large airline hub airports are eligible; typical leisure destinations will be considered on a case-by-case basis if there is a compelling economic and community impact
- The applicant will make significant contributions to an incentive program which may include marketing funds, waiver of airport operating rates and charges, and a cash match
 - JobsOhio will provide up to \$1,000,000 for each domestic route depending on distance flown, number of flights, and aircraft type
 - JobsOhio may provide more than \$1,000,000 for each international route depending on distance flown, number of flights, and aircraft type
 - Non-hub and small hub airports will provide a match that is up to 20% of the JobsOhio incentive commitment
 - Medium and large hub airports will provide a match that is up to 30% of the JobsOhio incentive commitment

Eligibility

This incentive grant program is open to any airport located in the State of Ohio, and CVG in the State of Kentucky, that is certified under FAA Part 139 Airport Certification and any airline with a FAA Part 121 Commercial Operators Certificate.

Eligible applicants must also:

- Prove the absence or suspension of any daily nonstop service to the targeted market from the applicant community as a result of COVID-19 (this may include a public announcement by an airline that the targeted market is suspended and/or removal of the service from airline computer reservation systems)
- Secure commitments for the balance of the JobsOhio incentive requirement including waiver of landing fees, terminal rents, and marketing if it does not cause a financial hardship on the applicant airport
- Secure airline service commitment to provide service to the targeted market with a mutually agreeable service pattern
- Secure a mutually agreeable timeline to review key performance indicators for the targeted market with JobsOhio and applicant community
- Submit strong supporting application documents including letters of support from the business community and a business plan that justifies the incentive in a manner acceptable to JobsOhio

Application Requirements

Applicants are to submit a letter requesting support to the JobsOhio network regional partner for assistance. The following information should be included in the request:

- City pairs considered
- Analytical data that supports the proposed service
- Letters of support from business community and local officials
- Magnitude (monetary value) of air service incentive being considered
- Other incentives being provided by local community in addition to monetary incentives
- General statement for why applicant feels that service is sustainable long term and could be supported by the community
- Requested time period for JobsOhio support (to make the service successful)
- Any other relevant information available at the time of the request

Selection Considerations

The amount of funds awarded for each commitment will be determined by the type of air service proposed, the level of support and matching funds offered by the local community, and the availability of JobsOhio funds for this type of economic development activity.

Disbursement of Funds

The applicant should propose a preferred budget. Actual disbursement schedules will be approved by JobsOhio and communicated to the applicant with the incentive award offer.

Guiding Principles

- The primary focus is to work collaboratively through public and private partnerships to maximize restoration of air service that supports the economic vitality of the state
- These projects should have significant economic impact on the local region's business community surrounding the applicant airport
- The objective is to assist in providing catalytic air service incentives and subsidies that support the restoration of air service to critical business markets across the state of Ohio; however, there is no guarantee financial support will be divided equally across the state, or the six JobsOhio defined regions