

## **Midwest Center for Foreign Investment “The EB-5 Possibility Center”**

### **Receives USCIS “Regional Center” Approval and Certification**

Dr. Robert E. Robbins, a surgeon from Elizabethtown and former Chairman of the Board of ZirMed, one of the fastest growing private companies in the U.S., along with his investment partner, Dr. Jay Sheth are now bringing new jobs to Kentucky and Southern Indiana through a job creation program created by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).

Their organization, the Midwest Center for Foreign Investment (MCFI), has been certified and designated by the USCIS as a “Regional Center” to manage foreign investment through the EB-5 visa pilot program which allows foreign nationals to obtain conditional “green card” status for themselves, their spouse and all unmarried children under the age of twenty-one when they invest in an enterprise in the U.S. and by virtue of that investment ten new jobs are created. The program is aimed at stimulating the U.S. economy by creating jobs for U.S. workers and legal permanent residents.

On July 28, 2010 MCFI received approval and certification by the federal government for an EB-5 “Regional Center” based in Louisville. The MCFI “EB-5 Possibility Center” is authorized to finance commercial projects in three Kentucky counties - Jefferson, Bullitt and Hardin and two Indiana counties – Floyd and Clark.

MCFI was developed to spur job creation and to help fund projects in this area by bringing investment dollars from foreign investors who, in exchange for their investment, can qualify for permanent residency status. Today’s global economy requires a new means to assure that Kentuckiana captures this uniquely driven foreign investment. With the economy changing, the MCFI Regional Center provides a new funding source that can assist many local developers obtain the investment dollars they require to finance projects.

Foreign investors are drawn to invest in safe, sound and secure business developments which are qualified by the USCIS through Regional Centers, as an easier and faster path to U.S. residency and citizenship. Additionally, the investor’s spouse and all unmarried children under age twenty one (21) qualify for residency and conditional green card status, which allows their children to apply to American colleges as domestic students. The Federal government, via the Department of Homeland Security, conducts background checks on those investing to qualify investors and to verify that the source of capital for investment is legitimate.

Once investors meet the immigration qualifications and their project is qualified by the USCIS, they will receive a two-year conditional residency (green card) immediately. After two years and if the project in which they invest is successful and continues to

provide ten new jobs, the foreign investor may apply for permanent resident status, leading to U.S. citizenship. The foreign investor may live anywhere in the U.S. however their investment will create jobs in Kentuckiana. Although the EB-5 program speeds up the green card application process, it does not guarantee citizenship.

The main purpose of the EB-5 visa program is to create long-term jobs through foreign investment in projects requiring funding which may not be available from conventional sources. The minimum investment threshold for the foreign investor is \$500,000 which must create a minimum of 10 new jobs if the project is located in a designated "Targeted Employment Area" (TEA) or a Rural Area (RA). For each 10 jobs created in an area not designated as a TEA or RA, an investment of \$1,000,000 is required.

Working for MCFI is Katherine Johnson, Chief Operating Officer. Denis Frankenberger, will act as Director of Marketing-USA and Don Sandusky will act as Director of Marketing -International. MCFI has contracted with Greg Solomos of Grandbridge Real Estate Capital as an underwriting consultant and investment analyst of the projects we offer. The international law firm of Smith, White, Sharma, Yashki, Halpern and Ishar, LLLP., with offices in Atlanta, Chicago and New York, as well as Mumbai, Ahmadabad, Chennai, Delhi and Hyderabad in India has been engaged to handle immigration matters. They will be coordinating their services with several local and regional law firms to facilitate foreign individuals in filing applications and meeting requirements for green card status.

In recent years Regional Centers elsewhere have furnished financing for call centers, large industrial and manufacturing facilities, hotels, restaurants, call centers, office buildings, housing, bio and green technology projects, senior living retirement communities, developments around military bases and other projects. Current development projects being considered for funding by MCFI include RobinBrooke, an Assisted Living and Retirement Community in Elizabethtown, the Indigo Hotel, Guthrie Lofts, and the Liberty Green projects in Louisville and the Charlestown Landing project in Charlestown, Indiana. Other projects being considered by MCFI include a major office building in Louisville and assisting the BRAC redevelopment at Fort Knox, Ky.

The EB-5 Visa Pilot Program allows foreign nationals living outside the United States to invest in businesses in the United States, and if as a result of their investment ten (10) new jobs are created and maintained, the foreign national has the right to receive a U.S. visa. To this end, geographic areas assigned and designated by the USCIS as "[Regional Centers](#)" have been established to manage and oversee the funds that are invested by foreign nationals in projects that qualify for the EB-5 visa program. As such, MCFI has now been designated as a Regional Center by the USCIS for the Louisville and Elizabethtown Metropolitan Service Areas.

If you would like more information about this topic, our launch party, or to schedule an interview, please contact Katherine Johnson at our local office located at 888 West Market Street, Suite 100, Louisville, Kentucky 40202. e-mail [k.johnson@mcfiusa.com](mailto:k.johnson@mcfiusa.com) Our web site address is [mcfiusa.com](http://mcfiusa.com)

