



On October 6, of 2009, Governor Janice K. Brewer delegated the authority to the Arizona Commerce Authority to certify high unemployment areas that meet the qualifications for the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Visa Program administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).

Title 8, Code of Federal Regulations section 204.6(e) defines a “high unemployment area” as one that is a particular geographic or political subdivision located within a metropolitan statistical area or within a city or town having a population of 20,000 or more within the state and has experienced an employment rate of at least 150% of the national average. The national average unemployment rate for 2010, calculated by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, was 9.6%.

Commerce is certifying high unemployment areas or Targeted Employment Areas (TEA) that qualifies under the standards set by USCIS. This certification lowers the minimum investment to \$500,000.00 with an employment creation of 10 jobs and allows for multiple investors. Entities with projects that involve foreign investment and will like to know if the location qualifies as a TEA, please submit a business plan or description of the project along with the location of such project to fernando@azcommerce.com for evaluation.

For more information please contact Fernando C. Jimenez, at 602-845-1257 or via email: fernando@azcommerce.com