

## **What is the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program?**

The primary purpose of the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Program is to attract foreign investment to the U.S while providing the foreign investor the opportunity to obtain permanent residence in the U.S for himself and his immediate family. In some cases, the foreign investor must invest a minimum of \$1 million in a commercial enterprise, while in other cases, the minimum is \$500,000. The smaller number applies if the commercial enterprise is located in (a) an area of high unemployment, currently defined as an area with more than 150% of the national average unemployment rate, or (b) a rural area, currently defined as an area that is not in an MSA and is not within a municipality with population of over 20,000.

One of the key requirements of the program is that the commercial enterprise must create or preserve a minimum of 10 jobs. In some cases, only direct jobs can be counted. In other cases, indirect and induced jobs can also be counted. For that to occur, the commercial enterprise must be an affiliate of a regional center. The program also requires an economic analysis that demonstrates the commercial enterprise will have a positive economic impact on the region in which it is located, as well as have a positive impact on the region's demand for business services and household earnings.