



Department of Commerce and Economic Development

NEWS RELEASE

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Gov. Christie Whitman Announces Awarding of State Grants to Blinds To Go, Inc.; 500 New Jobs to be Created in Lakewood

Gov. Christie Whitman today announced the awarding of state grants and loans to Blinds To Go, Inc. which will help the company create 500 new jobs in New Jersey. The company is building a new assembly and distribution center in the Lakewood Urban Enterprise Zone.

"I am happy to announce that as a result of our efforts to attract more jobs to New Jersey, Blinds To Go -- a growing Canadian company -- has selected this location for its new \$21 million assembly and distribution facility," Whitman said. "The fact that we are here today -- to announce yet another company coming to our state -- shows that we are succeeding in making New Jersey an attractive place to live, work, raise a family and open a business."

"It shows that our 14 tax cuts have made a difference," the Governor said. "It shows that our business incentive programs really work. It shows that 196,000 new jobs that the private sector has created didn't just spring up out of nowhere. And it shows that growing businesses like Blinds to Go recognize that New Jersey is on the right road to a better future."

"We're known as the State of New Jobs because our Urban Enterprise Zone program has helped entrepreneurs in our urban areas get more than just the crumbs from the table -- they're getting a piece of our expanding economic pie," Whitman said.

Construction of the 100,000 square foot facility, located on Cedarbridge Avenue in Lakewood, is expected to be completed in 1998. It will employ 300 workers in its first year of operation and 200 more workers in its second year.

Blinds to Go, Inc., a manufacturer and retailer of window blinds and shades, was approved for an \$872,000 Business Employment Incentive Program (BEIP) grant from the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (EDA). The company also was approved by the New Jersey Urban Enterprise Zone Authority for interest free loans of \$3 million and a \$1,050,000 grant from the Lakewood Urban Enterprise Zone Assistance Fund. The

company also was approved for a New Jersey Department of Labor customized training grant of \$500,000 to help conduct a worker training program.

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