FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT:

WHY IT MATTERS TO A COMMUNITY

When a foreign-owned firm decides to invest outside its home country, it can choose among thousands of places around the globe.

Why not your community?

Foreign direct investment (FDI) creates high-paying jobs, spurs innovation, and drives exports, making it essential to economic growth and prosperity in U.S. communities.

Communities that don't integrate with the global economy risk being left behind – but that integration doesn't happen on its own.

To attract foreign investment to a community, economic developers build relationships with targeted foreign firms, industries and communities. It's a process that requires strategy and persistence, but when done effectively can lead to transformative economic growth for a community.

IN ADDITION TO DIVERSIFYING ECONOMIES AND EXPANDING TAX REVENUES, FOREIGN FIRMS OFTEN:

- **Import innovation, new ideas and diversity**
- **Support local businesses by opening export markets abroad**
- **Enhance a community's reputation among other international firms as an attractive place to invest**
- **Make local economies more resilient to regional and national fluctuations**

FDI HAS A BIG IMPACT ON THE U.S. ECONOMY!

Amount foreign direct investors spent to acquire, establish, or expand businesses in the U.S. in 2018

$296.4 BILLION

Number of U.S. workers employed by foreign-owned firms in 2017

7.6 MILLION

Average annual compensation of U.S. workers at foreign-owned firms in 2016

$81,000

Amount foreign-owned firms contributed to U.S. exports in 2017

$382 BILLION

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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL