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GASB Requires Governments to Disclose Information on Tax <u>Abatements.</u>

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued <u>final guidance</u> on August 14, 2015 that requires state and local governments for the first time to disclose information about tax abatement agreements.

Governments often agree to abate or reduce the taxes of individuals and corporate taxpayers to promote economic development, job growth, redevelopment of blighted or underdeveloped areas, and other actions that are beneficial to the government or its citizens.

The disclosure requirements in GASB Statement No. 77, Tax Abatement Disclosures, are designed to provide financial statement users with essential information about these agreements and the impact that they have on a government's finances.

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