Incentive Math for Site Selectors: Authorization Ceilings, Performance Clawbacks & Multi-Year Payouts

Pillar: Competitor States | **Basis:** Program Document Comparison | **Primary Source:** TX / FL / AL / CO / WA Program Docs | **As Of:** Verified Nov 16, 2026

Headline figures like Texas's $300M SEARF appropriation, Florida's up-to-$134M Relativity package, or Alabama's >$50M Huntsville package are authorization ceilings or multi-year performance abatements—not upfront checks—and must be evaluated against clawbacks, capex matches, and 8-to-10-year payout horizons.

Documented Policy & Site-Selection Record

• Fund Pool vs. Single-Firm Award: Texas's $300M SEARF expansion is a statewide competitive pool shared across companies and universities—not a single firm's grant.

• Eligibility Ceiling vs. Cash: Florida's up-to-$134M Relativity SIP agreement is a multi-year co-investment ceiling through 2034 conditioned on private capex and job milestones.

• Contract & Clawback Gates: Alabama's >$50M Blue Origin package required ULA's BE-4 contract selection and verified Huntsville hiring/investment before incentives vested.

• Tax-Credit Timing: Colorado's JGITC offsets state income tax over 8 years as payroll grows, meaning pre-revenue R&D teams see limited immediate cash benefit.

Incentive Instrument Mechanics Across Five States

State	Headline Figure	True Instrument Type	Key Condition / Gate
Texas	$300M (SEARF)	Statewide grant pool ceiling	Competitive application; TX execution
Florida	Up to $134M (Relativity)	Project infrastructure ceiling	Capex match & jobs through 2034
Alabama	>$50M (Blue Origin)	Performance abatement/reimburse	ULA BE-4 contract & 300–342 jobs
Colorado	JGITC (Multi-million)	8-yr income tax credit	Net-new jobs above local avg wage
Washington	$350K (Portal SRF)	Targeted EDO bridge grant	Bothell expansion; 100+ / 700 jobs

Founder, Staffer & Site-Selector Takeaways

• Founder Takeaway: Discount headline incentive numbers by payout horizon, matching-capex requirements, and legal/compliance overhead before comparing states.

• Staffer Takeaway: Never report an authorization ceiling as cash spent.

Cross-Cluster Links & Primary Sources

• **WA Space Cluster Hub (#1382):** https://bcesg.org/washington-space-cluster-census/

• **Portal Space Systems WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/portal-space-systems-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Relativity Space Kent WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/relativity-space-kent-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Blue Origin WA Profile:** https://bcesg.org/blue-origin-washington-space-cluster-profile/

• **Texas Space Commission (Office of the Governor):** https://gov.texas.gov/organization/texas-space-commission

• **Space Florida (Spaceport Improvement Program):** https://www.spaceflorida.gov/

• **Colorado OEDIT Job Growth Incentive Tax Credit:** https://oedit.colorado.gov/job-growth-incentive-tax-credit

• **RCW 43.330.090 (WA Strategic Reserve Fund):** https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=43.330.090

Provenance Note: Comparative financial-structure analysis of TX, FL, AL, CO, and WA program rules. Non-advocacy brief.