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Zenta hiring zooms ahead

Mortgage firm grows quickly in Charlotte business park hit hard by subprime layoffs

Charlotte Business Journal - by [Adam O'Daniel](#) Staff writer

You can't help but sense the irony at the growing offices of **Zenta Mortgage Services** in south Charlotte: The site where hundreds of mortgage professionals lost their jobs amid the subprime meltdown is now the center of a mortgage processing comeback.

Zenta is hiring hundreds of employees to process mortgage work that banks outsource. This week it announced 100 openings it needs to fill immediately. The jobs are based at the Forest Park business development off Arrowood Road in buildings once used as the headquarters for now-defunct subprime lender **Equifirst Mortgage Corp.**

The hiring is the latest phase in a 1,000-job expansion tied to \$10 million in state tax incentives that the company and N.C. Gov. Bev Perdue announced in December. Already 350 workers have been hired. And that number could top 500 by the end of the year, officials say.

The goal is to add 1,000 jobs over five years.



photo JEN WILSON

Zenta CEO Henry Hortenstine and N.C. Gov. Bev Perdue share a moment at the Dec. 22 press conference announcing the company's expansion here.

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aodaniel@bizjournals.com

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