

Self-Sufficiency Fund

For Business Partners



The Self-Sufficiency Fund Program assists businesses and trade unions by financing the development and implementation of customized job training projects for new and current workers. Self-Sufficiency Fund grants deliver businesses customized training solutions that support workforce hiring efforts and skills upgrading for current workers. The purpose of the Self-Sufficiency Fund is to provide training for targeted employment opportunities primarily for adult Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients as well as those individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance.

Becoming a Partner

To be considered for a grant, the private business, business consortium or trade union must:

- Partner with an eligible grant applicant, which is a public community or technical college, state extension service, or a private, non profit community-based organization that is certified as a 501(c)(3).
- Be actively involved in the planning and design of the customized training project.
- Sign an agreement with the grant applicant outlining each entity's roles and responsibilities in the training project, including reporting requirements related to trainee participation.
- Provide equal employment opportunity documentation as well as information on the occupations for training, employment benefits, wages and social security numbers for trainees.
- Use WorkinTexas.com to post openings for new workers trained under the project.

Grant Award Information

Self-Sufficiency Fund grants for projects serving a single business may be limited to \$500,000. Tuition, curriculum development, instructor fees and training materials can be included in the grant. Support services such as transportation, childcare, and other work-related expenses for training participants are also eligible costs. Grants are typically 12 months in duration.

Quality Proposals

Quality training projects will align with legislative direction and match business needs with innovative training solutions. Collaboration between businesses, Local Workforce Development Boards, and training partners is required. Criteria considered in making funding recommendations include:

- A commitment to help increase the skills levels and wages of trainees.
- The provision of employment benefits, including medical insurance, for trainees.
- The level of contributions from other resources that are committed to the project, including those from the private partners.
- Positive economic impact on the local region.
- The applicant's current and past performance on Self-Sufficiency Fund grants.
- Equitable geographic distribution of funds.
- Cost per trainee in comparison to the state average.

For more information on the Self-Sufficiency Fund, including the Proposal Submission Packet and Frequently Asked Questions, access: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/ssfintro.html>. For assistance, email customizedtraining.solutions@twc.state.tx.us or call 512.463.8844.

*The Texas Workforce Commission provides equal access to all programs and activities.
Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities
Relay Texas: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) 1.800.735.2988 (Voice)*



Self Sufficiency Fund- Transitioning Foster Youth Project

The Texas Workforce Commission offers funding through the Self-Sufficiency Fund for job-readiness and job-specific skills training leading to employment and self-sufficiency for young adults transitioning out of the foster care system.

Required Partners:

Local Foster Youth Transition Center –

- May act as grant applicant and project administrator, or may agree for community college or another local 501(c)(3) to take that role
- Identifies and recruits local business into the partnership
- Works with the business and community college (or other training provider) to design a project and training program based on the business' skills requirements.
- Completes and submits the required proposal packet to TWC.
- After grant award, identifies and recruits eligible foster youth into the project
- Provides intensive case management to ensure successful completion of training and retention of employment for at least 90 days of employment
- May provide job readiness and life skills training
- As project administrator, reports training and employment progress and expenditures to TWC.

Local Business –

- Has openings for full-time, permanent jobs that can be filled by properly trained young adults
- Works closely with staff of community college and foster youth transition center to establish a training program designed to produce good prospects for employment and advancement with the company
- Agrees to interview all successful graduates of the training, and hire those who are qualified
- Helps the staff of the foster youth transition center in completing the required grant application documents for TWC, including the Private Partner Information Form.

Local Public Community College – (Optional Partner)

- May act as the grant applicant and administrator, at request of the transition center
- Typically provides the business-related skills training required by the business partner
- Works with the business and transition center to develop a training curriculum that will produce qualified applicants for the business's job openings
- Assists the staff of the foster youth transition center in completing the required grant application documents for TWC.
- Works closely with the foster youth transition center and case managers to ensure that the trainees have the support they need to successfully complete the training
- Reports training activity and progress to project administrator.

Local Workforce Development Board –

- May provide introductions and otherwise facilitate the relationship between the transition center and prospective business partners
- Establishes a referral process with the transition center to facilitate inclusion of eligible foster youth coming through local one-stop workforce centers
- Provides one-stop employment and support services to project trainees.

Web Site: Self-Sufficiency Fund

E-mail questions or comments: CustomizedTraining.Solutions@twc.state.tx.us

Call toll-free: (877) 463-1777