

# Skills Development Fund

## Information for Business Partners



The Skills Development Fund program assists businesses and trade unions by financing the design and implementation of customized job training projects. This fund successfully merges business needs and local customized training opportunities into a winning formula to increase the skills levels and wages of the Texas workforce.

### Becoming a Partner

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

- Partner with an eligible grant applicant, which is a public community or technical college, the Texas Engineering Extension Service, or a private, non profit community-based organization in partnership with one of these institutions.
- Be actively involved in the planning and design of the customized training project.
- Pay wages to the employees who successfully complete the training program that are equal to or greater than the prevailing wage for the occupation in the local labor market.
- Disclose any other state or federal grant funds sought or awarded for the proposed 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

Grants for a single business may be limited to \$500,000. Tuition, curriculum development, instructor fees and training materials can be included; however, trainee wages, drug testing and certain travel costs and equipment purchases cannot be covered. Contracts are typically 12 months in duration.

### Quality Proposals

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

- Positive economic impact on the local region.
- The applicant's current and past performance on Skills Development Fund grants.
- Equitable geographic distribution of funds.
- Inclusion of small- and medium-sized businesses.
- The fiscal stability of the business partners.
- Cost per trainee in comparison to the state average.

For more information on the Skills Development Fund, including the Proposal Submission Packet and Frequently Asked Questions, access: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/sdfintro.html>. For assistance, email [customizedtraining.solutions@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:customizedtraining.solutions@twc.state.tx.us) or call 512.463.8844.