

Self-Sufficiency Fund

Merging Business Needs with Customized Training Opportunities for Job Seekers

Workforce Businesses Services
Texas Workforce Commission
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<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/sdfintro.html>



TEXAS
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

Self Sufficiency Fund

Provides training for targeted employment opportunities for:

- Adult Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients
- Individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance (i.e. Individual earns less than \$37K per year and is the parent of a dependent child)

Customized Training

- Designed to meet the needs and special requirements of a business or trade union
- Customization extends beyond standard courses
- Overall unique design may include
 - Customizing the curriculum
 - Scheduling classes around the employees' schedules
 - Developing company specific instructional examples
 - Addressing needs in real time with real situations



Eligible Grant Recipients

- A business, business consortium, or trade union partners with the following eligible grant recipients:
 - Public community or technical college
 - State extension service
 - Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)
 - Private Non-profit or community based organization that has been certified as a 501(c)(3)

Eligible Training Providers

- Public community and technical colleges
- The Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX)
- State extension service
- A community-based organization (CBO)
- Other eligible organizations, including business partners, with whom the grant recipient has subcontracted to provide training

Partnerships

- Businesses and trade unions
- Public community or technical colleges, Texas Engineering Extension Service, community-based organizations
- Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB)



Roles for Business Partners

- Partner with an eligible grant recipient
- Be actively involved in the planning and design of the customized training project
- Employ participants who successfully complete the training program and retain them for at least 90 days after training completion
- Sign an agreement with the grant recipient outlining each entity's roles and responsibilities

Roles for Business Partners

- Disclose any other local, state or federal grant funds sought or awarded for the proposed training project
- Provide:
 - Equal opportunity employment documentation
 - Information on employment benefits
 - The wage information for trainees
 - Social security numbers for trainees

Roles for Colleges and CBOs

- Connect with LWDB, economic development and local businesses to learn business training needs and maintain ongoing relationships with partners
- Develop a quality proposal with business partners, actively involving them in the planning and design of the customized training project
- Develop a sound implementation plan
- Get project underway early to maximize chance for success
- Understand reporting requirements and submit trainee and financial reports promptly

Roles for Local Workforce Development Boards

- Identify local business training needs
- Convene project partners
- Identify and refer eligible trainees
- Complete proposal review & comment form identifying:
 - Project strengths and weaknesses
 - How the project supports the strategic goals and objectives of the Board
 - Points of alignment with local targeted industries and demand occupations

Grant Awards

- Year-round application / quarterly awards
- May be up to \$500,000 for a single business
- Can cover tuition, curriculum development, instructor fees, training materials, and support services, such as:
 - transportation
 - childcare
 - work-related expenses for training participants
- Typically, 12 month contract

Quality Proposals

Criteria for Funding Recommendations:

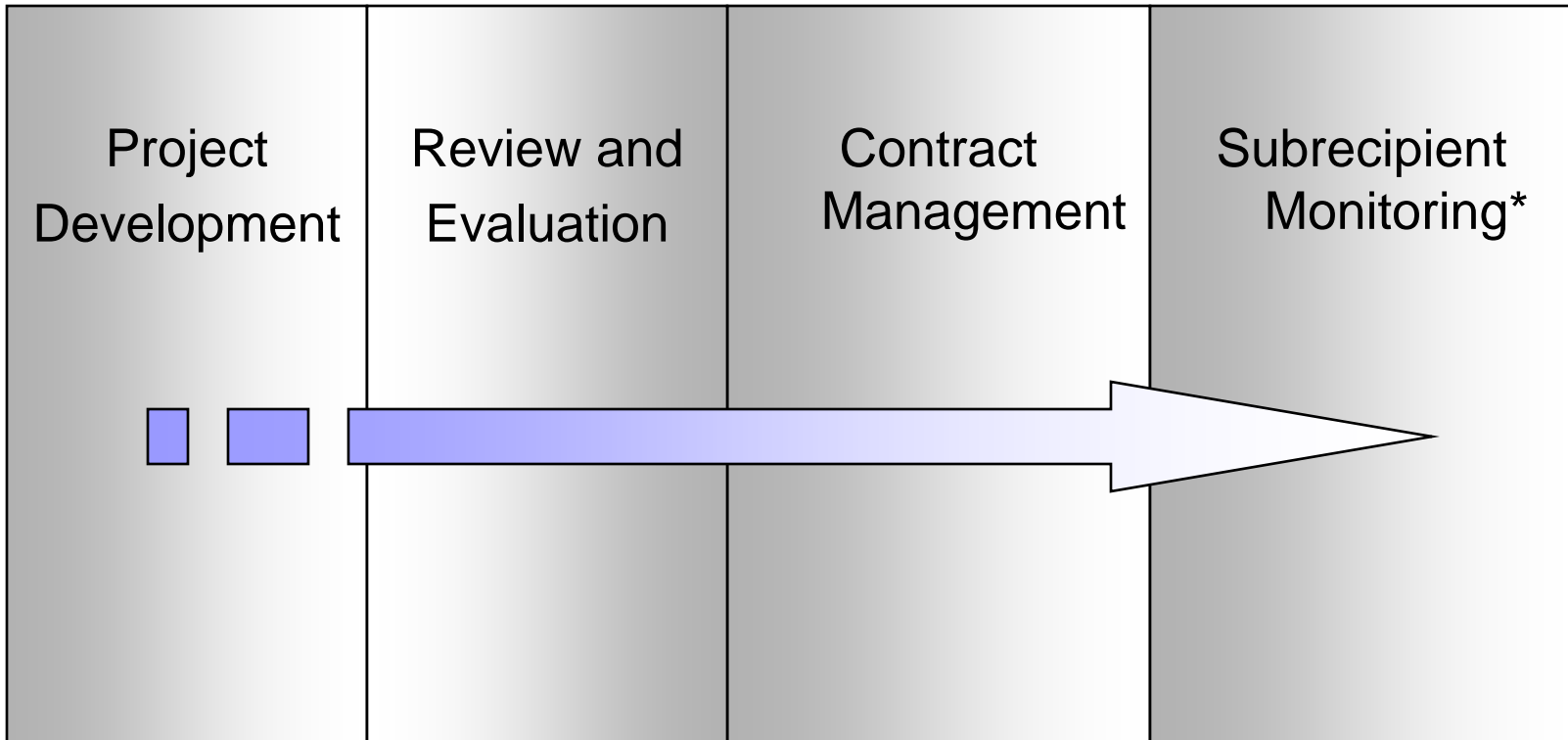
- A commitment to help increase the skills levels and wages of trainees
- Established referral procedure with the Board to identify TANF/Choices participants who may be trainee candidates
- The provision of employment benefits, including medical insurance, for trainees
- The level of contributions from other resources that are committed to the project, including those from the private partners

Quality Proposals

Criteria for Funding Recommendations:

- 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
- Positive economic impact

Program Management



*Subrecipient Monitoring usually occurs during the active life of a contract.

Outreach & Customer Support

- Connects businesses with community college and workforce board partners
- Advises colleges during project development
- Provides on-going technical assistance
- Reviews draft proposals

Proposal Review

- Conducts review & evaluation
- Coordinates requests for information process
- Handles communication during review period
- Makes recommendations for funding

Contract Management

- Completes contract development & review
- Conducts contract orientation
- Provides on-going technical assistance
- Processes amendments & reporting
- Assists with close-out process

Is your point of contact throughout contract

Subrecipient Monitoring

Process includes:

- Risk Assessment
- Engagement Letter & Document Request
- On-Site Reviews
- Entrance Conference
- Exit Conference
- Findings & Issues

Additional Information

Visit: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/ssfintro.html>

- Proposal Submission Forms
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Information for Business Partners
- Links to Additional Resources

Contact

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