

**TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION
SELF-SUFFICIENCY FUND**

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Self-Sufficiency Fund (SSF) grant program provides training that may lead to permanent employment opportunities for adult recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) as well as those individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance.

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS:

- Eligible participants for training are adult TANF recipients, individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance, and noncustodial parents who earn less than \$37,000 annually.
- Documentation is required to establish and provide proof of participant eligibility.
- Applicants are encouraged to work closely with the Local Workforce Development Boards and Workforce Solutions Offices to assist with screening and identifying eligible participants, and to be a source of referral for eligible participants.
- 60 percent of trainees in the project will be required to complete training and be placed in full-time, permanent employment for consideration of a successful project.

BUSINESS PARTNER REQUIREMENTS:

- Businesses are not required to be partners in the project.
- Letters of support from local businesses will be required to be submitted with the application, indicating support of job-skills training to be offered in the project.
- Job placement for participants who successfully complete training may be with any employer, not only those with a documented letter of support.

TARGETED INDUSTRY CLUSTERS:

- Training must lead to an acceptable industry-recognized certificate or credential. An acceptable certificate is a document awarded in recognition of the attainment of measurable technical or occupational skills necessary to gain employment or advance within an occupation. These technical or occupational skills are based on standards developed or endorsed by employers. A course that merely awards a certificate of completion cannot be used to apply toward this requirement.
- Training must be provided in one of the following industry clusters:
 - Advanced Technologies and Manufacturing
 - Aerospace and Defense
 - Biotechnology and Life Sciences
 - Information and Computer Technology
 - Petroleum Refining and Chemical Products
 - Energy
- Training may be for occupations within industries designated as ancillary or support to the core cluster industries. All training must establish a career path toward higher-level occupations.

OTHER:

- Targeted cost per trainee: \$2,100
- Targeted cost is to cover both training costs and support services per participant.
- Grant contract training period is typically up to 12 months.