



## **LONE STAR WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE FUND FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) were developed as a supplement to the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund (LSWF) Application. The Application, FAQ updates, and more LSWF information can be found on the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund Webpage. Any questions about this document can be directed to [skills@twc.texas.gov](mailto:skills@twc.texas.gov).

### **1. Q: When can applications be submitted for the LSWF program?**

**A:** Applications may be submitted year-round. Applicants are highly encouraged to take advantage of technical assistance prior to final Application submission by contacting the email listed above.

### **2. Q: How will I be notified about the status of my Application?**

**A:** TWC will keep Applicants informed of the status of their Application throughout the evaluation period. An Applicant will be notified within 24 business hours from the date of receipt whether it contains all the required components. Once all documents have been received, the application will be evaluated. Should clarification or additional information be required in the evaluation process, the information will be requested from the Applicant before the evaluation can be completed. Extensive and/or multiple clarifications required during the review process may affect the evaluation timeline.

### **3. Q: Who are eligible grant recipients?**

**A:** Eligible grant recipients include:

- Public junior colleges;
- Public technical institutes; or
- Nonprofit organizations.

### **4. Q: How can TWC's Employer Engagement and Community Outreach (EECO) team assist in the development of an LSWF application?**

**A:** The EECO Team can help convene meetings between Applicants and interested businesses. Staff can also provide technical assistance during the project development phase and in completing the LSWF Application. To request technical assistance, call 877-463-1777 or email [skills@twc.texas.gov](mailto:skills@twc.texas.gov).

The information provided in this document is intended to be a guide to the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund and is subject to change. For the latest information on the program, please contact the Employer Engagement and Community Outreach team at [skills@twc.texas.gov](mailto:skills@twc.texas.gov).

**5. Q: What is a CIP code?**

**A:** CIP is an acronym for Classification of Instructional Programs. This code provides a categorical coding scheme for accurate tracking, assessment, and reporting of training activity. The CIP code directory can be found at the National Center for Educational Statistics Website.

**6. Q: What is a NAICS code?**

**A:** The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) has replaced the US Standard Industrial Classification system. NAICS was developed jointly by the United States, Canada, and Mexico to provide comparability in statistics about business activity across North America. You can access NAICS codes on the [U.S. Census Bureau Website](#).

**7. Q: What is a SOC code?**

**A:** SOC is an acronym for Standard Occupational Classification Code. SOC is the system federal statistical agencies use to classify workers into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, or disseminating data. For an application to be considered, program participants must be trained with the skills needed to acquire one of the high demand occupations on LSWF's [High Demand Occupations List](#). The SOC Code is required for the occupations listed in an LSWF proposal. You can access SOC codes on the [U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Website](#).

**8. Q: Can LSWF funds be used to pay for administrative costs?**

**A:** Yes. However, the [Texas Education Code § 134A.011](#) limits these costs to ten percent (10%) of the total award amount.

**9. Q: Why are Social Security Numbers (SSN) required for program participants?**

**A:** One of the key pieces of information required for reporting monthly participation and status in a LSWF project is the participant's SSN. The SSNs are used to confirm the identity of the participants receiving the training. TWC recommends that the Applicant discuss the SSN requirement with program participants at the earliest opportunity. Failure to report the SSN for a participant will result in the Grant Recipient not being able to count that participant in its performance.

**10. Q: Can an Applicant apply to multiple TWC programs simultaneously?**

**A:** Yes, Applicants can participate in multiple programs simultaneously, however the participants can only be trained in one (1) grant at a time.

**11. Q: Is there a limit on the total grant amount one organization can receive?**

**A:** Yes, based on recommendations from the LSWF Advisory Board, the Commission adopted parameters for fiscal year 2024 that limit the maximum award amount one (1) organization can receive to \$250,000.

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**12. Q: Is there a limit on total funding per training program participant?**

**A:** Yes, based on recommendations from the LSWF Advisory Board, the Commission adopted for fiscal year 2024 a maximum cost per program participant of \$7,500 for the state share. The cost may be higher once the grantee contributes additional funds to the project.

**13. Q: What is the typical length of a training program under LSWF?**

**A:** The typical length of time for an LSWF training program is eighteen (18) months. Training projects should be developed and planned so that training can be accomplished within this time period. TWC will only issue contract amendments and extensions under extenuating circumstances. At least 50% of training program participants must be placed into a full-time occupation earning at least a self-sufficient wage within six (6) months of successful training program completion.

**14. Q: Is there a limit on how many times one organization can apply for this grant program?**

**A:** No, one organization can apply an unlimited number of times, so long as they do not exceed the maximum total award amount of \$250,000 per fiscal year.

**15. Q: Are program participants able to be placed into public sector occupations?**

**A:** No, program participants must be placed into occupations occurring in the private sector.

**16. Q: What occupations are considered high-demand and high-growth?**

**A:** The list of occupations eligible to be trained under this program can be found on the [LSWF Webpage](#).

**17. Q: The Application requires that forty percent (40%) of the training costs come from another source. What does that mean?**

**A:** For each project, the Applicant must identify a source to cover at least 40 percent of the project costs. The funds must come from sources other than state government funding. Examples could include, but are not limited to, a grant from a foundation, private funds from an employer, or a federal source, if those funds were not appropriated to a state entity as part of the state budget. The 40 percent funds cannot be in-kind in nature, such as donations, goods, services, etc. It must be revenue contributed to the overall cost of the project.

**18. Q: The Application requires that a local businesses complete the Employer Input Form. What constitutes a local business?**

**A:** We ask that a private, for-profit businesses from your [Local Workforce Development Area](#) complete an Employer Input Form, which can be found on the [LSWF Webpage](#) under Forms.

**19. Q: The Application requires program participants to be placed into an occupation earning a self-sufficient wage, what is a self-sufficient wage?**

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**A:** The definition of a self-sufficient wage differs for each county in the state. Self-sufficient wages can be found on the [LSWF Webpage](#), under Forms. The self-sufficient wage can apply to the county in which the employee resides, or where the employer is located.

**20. Q: Does LSWF cover equipment purchases?**

**A:** No, this grant does not allow for equipment purchases.