

TIFWorks 50/50 Eligibility

Through the TIFWorks program, the City seeks to strengthen Chicago's businesses by supporting training to upgrade the skills of existing and new employees. In the 50/50 program, the City offers small, matching training grants to reimburse businesses for eligible training in authorized 50/50 TIF districts.

Business Eligibility

Each business must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible to apply for 50/50:

- Applicants must be located in an authorized 50/50 Tax Increment Finance (TIF) district.
- The 50/50 program targets manufacturing or industrial businesses. Other types of businesses will be considered on a case-by-case basis. *Service, retail and construction companies are not eligible for 50/50.*
- Employees to be trained must be in full-time, permanent positions. Employee wages must be at \$10.50 (Chicago minimum wage) an hour or higher.
- Applicants must have no existing TIFWorks grants outstanding.

Training Eligibility

The City is looking to promote more advanced (mid/high-level) training where skills, certifications and experience are transferable to other positions. We seek to support training that is strategic in which the company is focused on improving an aspect of the business operations, such as:

- Manufacturing
- Quality Systems
- Technology
- Supply Chain
- Marketing & Sales
- Management

Examples of mid/high level-training topics include, but are not limited to, manufacturing processes, welding, machining, maintenance, LEAN, ISO, Six Sigma, SQF, marketing diversification, export, product development, sales, customer service, Information Technology, Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) website design, energy management and senior leadership development.

We have established a goal of funding a ratio of **at least** 70% mid/high-level training; but low skills training may be eligible for a lower ratio.

The following training is considered low-level:

- Safety/OSHA required training (excluding forklift training)
- Outlook/email training
- Beginning Office training (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Remedial Education
- English As a Second Language (ESL)

The following is ineligible training per the TIFWorks Ordinance:

- Human Resource administration practices, including but not limited to compensation systems, administration and benefits, employee discipline procedures, interviewing or diversity training
- Educational degrees/for credit courses including General Equivalency Degree (GED) programs
- Stand-alone basic and/or remedial skills training (i.e. without a vocational training/occupational focus)
- Apprenticeship training