

TIFWorks 50/50

Frequently Asked Questions

What is TIF?

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is a special funding tool used by the City of Chicago to promote public and private investment across the City. An incremental portion of the property taxes generated within these “TIF districts” is allocated for economic development and public works projects and initiatives. A portion of those funds has been reserved for the TIFWorks Training program for businesses located within authorized TIF districts through an act of the City Council of Chicago. If a business is not located in an authorized TIF district, then it is not eligible to apply for a TIFWorks grant.

What is TIFWorks 50/50?

TIFWorks 50/50 is a small, training grant available to eligible businesses located in authorized TIF districts. It is a matching grant in which the business pays for at least half of the eligible training costs. There is a short application with a quick review process. The maximum grant award is \$10,000 to train existing employees or \$15,000 to train new hires who are also Chicago residents. The grant is administered by approved Local Industrial Retention Initiatives (LIRIs). The LIRI staff can provide technical assistance with the application process.

What Businesses Are Eligible to Apply?

- 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 an hour or higher.
- Applicants must have no existing TIFWorks grants outstanding.

Am I in a 50/50 TIF district?

The following is a list of TIF districts in the City of Chicago where the TIFWorks 50/50 has been authorized and the corresponding Local Industrial Retention Initiative (LIRI) organization administering the program.

Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council

Midway Industrial Corridor TIF
Stockyards Annex TIF

Calumet Area Industrial Commission

Lake Calumet Industrial Corridor TIF
South Chicago TIF

Eighteenth Street Development Corporation

Pilsen Industrial Corridor TIF

Greater Northwest Chicago Development Corporation

Galewood/Armitage TIF
Pulaski Industrial Corridor TIF

Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago

Kinzie Industrial Corridor TIF

Greater Southwest Development Corporation

Greater Southwest Industrial Corridor (West) TIF
Greater Southwest Industrial Corridor (East) TIF

Lawndale Business Renaissance

Roosevelt Cicero Industrial Corridor TIF
Western Ogden TIF

North Branch Works

Addison South TIF
North Branch South TIF Goose Island TIF

Peterson Pulaski Business & Industrial Council

Elston/Armstrong Industrial Corridor TIF
Peterson Pulaski TIF

How do I apply?

- 1) Confirm that you are in an eligible TIFWorks 50/50 TIF District.
- 2) Contact your designated Local Industrial Retention Initiative (LIRI).
- 3) Fill out application completely and provide requested training documentation.
- 4) Once you have received approval on your application, you may proceed with training.
- 5) After your training is completed, provide requested documentation to the LIRI to apply for reimbursement.

What is the maximum grant amount allowed under TIFWorks 50/50?

The maximum grant (match) for a company training existing employees is \$10,000 per company. The maximum grant (match) for a company hiring new employees (Chicago residents) is \$15,000 per company and \$5,000 per new hire.

What is scofflaw?

As part of the application process, the City requires business owners (more than 7.5%) to provide Drivers' License, License Plate and Social Security numbers. With this information, the City performs a review to see if the owners have any unpaid parking tickets, water bills, past due license fees, or other indebtedness owed to the City of Chicago. All unpaid debts to the City must be paid and documented in order to receive grant payment. Additionally, all such individuals must be current on all child support payments (if applicable).

How does 50/50 reimbursement work?

- 1) After the 50/50 application is approved and the training is completed, the business provides the required training and payment documentation to the LIRI.
- 2) The LIRI submits a voucher to the City for reimbursement.
- 3) In 3-5 weeks after submitting a complete voucher to the City, the LIRI should receive an electronic payment from the City. The LIRI reimburses the business directly.

Who do I contact to get additional information or to help me apply?

For more information, please contact:

Dawn Fuentes
Department of Planning and Development
121 N. LaSalle Street
Chicago, IL 60602
312-744-4171
dawn.fuentes@cityofchicago.org