

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. The grant does not have to be paid back.
- There is a short 3-page application with a quick review process. The maximum grant award is \$10,000 per company to train existing employees or \$15,000 to train new hires who are also Chicago residents (maximum \$5,000 each). It can also be used to pay for the wages (half) for up to three months of on-the-job or internal training for new hire Chicago residents.
- The grant is administered by approved Local Industrial Retention Initiatives (LIRI) organizations that will help 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 above.
- Applicants must have no existing TIFWorks grants outstanding.

How do I apply?

Contact the designated Local Industrial Retention Initiative (LIRI).

Confirm that you are in an eligible TIFWorks 50/50 TIF district.

Give your completed application, the requested training documentation and supplemental information to the LIRI.

After your application is approved, you may proceed with training.

Once your training is completed, provide requested training and payment documentation to the LIRI. The LIRI will then submit a voucher to the City for reimbursement.

[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 Corp

Pilsen Industrial Corridor TIF

Greater Northwest Chicago Development Corp

Galewood-Armitage TIF
Pulaski Industrial Corridor TIF

Greater Southwest Development Corporation

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

Industrial Council of Nearwest Chicago

Kinzie Industrial Corridor TIF

Lawndale Business Renaissance

Roosevelt Cicero Industrial Corridor TIF
Western Ogden TIF

North Branch Works

Addison South TIF
North Branch South TIF

Peterson Pulaski Business & Industrial Council

Elston-Armstrong TIF
Peterson-Pulaski TIF

[What about training part-time, seasonal, or temp-to-permanent employees?](#)

Only permanent and full-time employees can be trained using TIFWorks 50/50, and their wages must be at \$10.50 an hour or above. For new hires, their date of employment must be after the 50/50 application is submitted and approved. If an employee has already been hired, apply under the incumbent program.

[What training is eligible?](#)

Training costs that are eligible under the TIFWorks 50/50 program should be related to more advanced (mid/high-level) types of training, where skills, certifications and experience are transferable to other positions. The City prefers that the grant be put towards strategic training which is focused on improving an aspect of the business operations, such as:

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

What training is eligible? (continued)

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.

The goal for eligibility is to have 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), and apprenticeship training.

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. A business may apply for one or more grants up to the maximum program assistance.

Will there be enough TIFWorks 50/50 funds for all applicants?

Each Tax Increment Financing (TIF) district authorized to have the 50/50 program has limited funds reserved for the program. If demand for the funds is greater than the available funding supply, then a lottery will be conducted to determine the order in which each grant application may be accommodated. If any surplus funds become available, they will be allocated to waitlisted applicants.

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?

After the application is approved and the training is completed, the business provides the required training and payment documentation to the LIRI.

The LIRI submits a voucher to the City for reimbursement.

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?

Janita Tucker

Peterson Pulaski Business and Industrial Council

5724 N. Pulaski Road

Chicago, IL 60646

312-866-2900

jtucker@ppbic.org