

CRITICAL SKILLS INITIATIVE

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

These Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) were developed as a supplement to the Critical Skills Initiative Application Packet. The Application Packet, FAQ updates, and more Critical Skills Initiative information can be found on the [ApprenticeshipTexas](https://www.apprenticeshiptexas.gov) webpage. Questions about this initiative can be emailed to ApprenticeshipTexas@twc.texas.gov.

Q. Who are eligible grant recipients?

- A. A Texas-based employer who:
- is the Registered Apprenticeship (RA) sponsor; or
 - has a signed employer agreement with a RA sponsor; and
 - demonstrates a critical skill need in one or more of the following occupational fields:
 - machinist;
 - assemblers and fabricators;
 - auto service technicians;
 - supply chain and logistics; and
 - related critical skills occupations.

Q. Is there a maximum request amount?

- A. The maximum amount that can be requested is five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000).

Q. What is the average cost per new apprentice in a Critical Skills project?

- A. The average cost target for a new apprentice cannot exceed four thousand dollars (\$4,000).

Q. What is the typical length of a Critical Skills grant?

- A. The standard length of time for a Critical Skills grant is eighteen (18) months. Projects allow time for development and planning so that deliverables can be accomplished with the grant period.

Q. What are the application submission deadlines?

- A. Applications may be submitted year-round, pending funding availability. Funding is awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of technical assistance prior to application submission. Contact our ApprenticeshipTexas Team at ApprenticeshipTexas@twc.texas.gov.

Q. What is a New Apprentice?

- A. A participant who is newly enrolled or registered in a RA Program for the first time during the grant period of performance and receiving Texas wages.

Q. What can the Critical Skills funds be used for?

- A. Funds can be used to support the apprenticeship registration, costs related to curricula development, related instruction or training for apprentices (in-person, online, or hybrid), books and training materials for apprentices, instructor costs, and mentor activities.

Q. Are there unallowable costs in Critical Skills projects?

- A. Yes, the Critical Skills funds cannot be used towards the following costs:
- food and beverage costs;
 - alcoholic beverages;
 - entertainment;
 - goods or services for personal use;
 - expenditures for construction, purchases, additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations, or alterations to land, facilities, and buildings (whether leased or owned);
 - pre-award costs;
 - stipends to participants;
 - participant wages;
 - door prizes, and other giveaways;
 - foreign travel;
 - out-of-state travel;
 - vehicles; and
 - equipment⁺.

⁺Equipment is not an allowable cost under this Application. Equipment is defined as an article of nonexpendable, tangible, personal property having a useful life of more than one year, and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 or more.

Q. Will there be reporting requirements for these projects?

- A. Upon award, grantees will be required to submit quarterly progress reports, quarterly data submissions (using TWC's online Apprenticeship Information Management System), monthly expenditure reports (via TWC's Cash Draw and Expenditure Reporting System), a financial closeout package, a final progress report, and at times ad-hoc reports to TWC.

Q. Who is the eligible population to be served?

- A. The eligible population to be served under this initiative consists of New Apprentices who are:
- Texas residents;
 - age 18 or older;
 - US citizens or individuals certified to work in the United States; and
 - if male, meet [Selective Service](#) requirements.

Eligible participants are persons 18 years of age and older who are not enrolled in a RA Program at the time of initial grant service. TWC is particularly interested in increasing the diversity of RA Program populations by actively recruiting women, people of color, formerly incarcerated individuals, and persons with disabilities, as well as the protected groups identified in [29 CFR Part 30](#). TWC also remains committed to prioritizing veterans.

Q. Can an application be resubmitted if denied?

- A. Applicants are encouraged to take advantage of technical assistance prior to application resubmission to improve elements that did not meet application requirements. Contact our ApprenticeshipTexas Team at ApprenticeshipTexas@twc.texas.gov.