

CHAPTER 812. RURAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

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CHAPTER 812. RURAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

§812.1. Purpose and Goal.

- (a) Purpose. The purpose of this chapter is for the Agency, in consultation with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, to establish and administer the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program, as set forth by Texas Labor Code, Chapter 302, Subchapter J, under which the Agency may award grants to one or more eligible nonprofit organizations for the purpose of improving workforce development outcomes in rural areas.
- (b) Goal. The Rural Workforce Development Grant Program's goal is to provide technical assistance and support to institutions of higher education and school districts located in rural areas of the state in aligning and delivering workforce training and higher education programs to address skills gaps to meet urgent workforce demands of rural areas.

The provisions of this §812.1 adopted to be effective August 16, 2026, 51 TexReg 5249

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§812.2. Definitions.

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

- (1) Eligible Applicant--A nonprofit organization as defined under Texas Labor Code, §302.301.
- (2) Grantee--A recipient of a grant from the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program.

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§812.3. Program Funding.

In addition to any money appropriated for the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program, the Agency may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source for the program.

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SUBCHAPTER B. PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

§812.11. Grant Eligibility.

To be eligible for a grant under the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program, an eligible applicant must:

- (1) demonstrate experience in effectively providing technical assistance and support to institutions of higher education or school districts located in a rural area of this state in aligning and delivering workforce training and higher education programs to address skills gaps to meet the area's urgent workforce demands; and
- (2) satisfy any other relevant grant eligibility criteria as outlined in the grant application.

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§812.12. Grant Application.

To apply for the grant, an eligible applicant must submit a grant application in accordance with the procedure specified in the grant application.

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§812.13. Grant Requirements.

- (a) The grant contract must provide the Agency an opportunity to periodically evaluate the performance and outcomes of the grantee to ensure the public purpose of improving rural workforce development is accomplished.
- (b) Grant money awarded to an eligible nonprofit organization under the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program shall be used by the organization only for costs associated with providing technical assistance and support to an institution of higher education or school district located in a rural area of this state in aligning and delivering workforce training and higher education programs to address skills gaps to meet the area's urgent workforce demands.

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§812.14. Review and Reporting Requirements.

To maintain eligibility to receive grant payments, a grantee must comply with all review and reporting requirements specified in the grant contract. Failure to comply with the review and reporting requirements may result in termination of the grant award and the entity being ineligible for future grants under this chapter.

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§812.15. Annual Report.

The Agency shall annually report on the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program's effectiveness, including any grants awarded during the most recent state fiscal year. Not later than December 1 each year, the Agency shall submit this report to the:

- (1) governor;
- (2) lieutenant governor;
- (3) speaker of the house of representatives; and
- (4) each standing committee of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over workforce development.

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