

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION

SKILLS FOR VETERANS INITIATIVE

Program Overview

Introduction

The Skills for Veterans Initiative (SVI) is a new initiative by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to address the unique challenges and training needs of post-9/11 era Texas veterans returning home and entering the Texas Workforce. TWC has set aside \$1million to this special initiative that will strive to enhance the skills of veterans thereby benefitting the employer's business operations.

Individuals who are post 9/11 era veterans, especially those veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)/Operation New Dawn (OND) or Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), and are newly hired, are eligible to participate in this training initiative through their employers.

As the SVI grant recipient, a local public community or technical college or the Texas Engineering Extension Service (College) will be the fiscal agent of this program and will be the recipient of grant funds that will pay for training provided to veterans under this initiative. The college will work closely with the business in identifying appropriate training courses that will enhance the skills of veterans and benefit the employer's business operations.

Eligible Applicants

- To participate in the SVI program, a business must:
 - Be a private business, including private non-profit hospitals
 - Employ at least one full time, permanent individual;
 - Be financially stable;
 - Be liable to pay Unemployment Insurance contributions to TWC and be in compliance with the reporting and payment requirements; and
 - Be in compliance with the Texas Business and Commerce Code.

Program Information:

- The program will cover the following costs:
 - Tuition and fees costs for course offerings provided by public community and technical colleges in the local area – see listing of eligible institutions. (*Important Note: the SVI program will not cover costs for course offerings from third-party vendors, universities, or proprietary or vocational schools*);
 - Up to \$1,450 to be utilized in a 12-month period for an eligible post-9/11 era veteran who meets the definition of a new employee. Funding for training for this individual is not available after this 12-month period.
- For the purposes of this program, a **new employee** is defined as an individual who is hired in the three months prior to TWC's receipt of the application requesting training.
- For the purposes of this program, a post-9/11 era **veteran** will be identified by the submission of a copy of the Veteran's Form DD-214 (Member-4 copy). A copy of this form will be required with the application submission.
- Businesses will be responsible for all course costs not covered by SVI funding.
- It is a requirement of the program that the hourly wage of each employee for whom training is being requested meets or exceeds the prevailing wage for that occupation in the local labor market. TWC will use local labor market wage data to determine if this requirement is met
- For more information please visit: <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/skills-veterans-initiative.html>