

1) May funds be awarded directly to a business for its project?

- a. Yes. The Texas Semiconductor Innovation Fund was established, in part, to provide grants to business entities with an established presence in the state of Texas to encourage economic development and industry advancement related to semiconductor manufacturing and design.

2) How will the grants be administered?

- a. A business may be eligible for a reimbursement-based grant in relation to a project that aligns with the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Consortium’s strategic plan. Applications will be evaluated based on several factors including the amount of the capital investment, jobs created, the size and scope of the project, and the expected impact to the local and regional economy and to the industry in the state.

3) Are letters of recommendation required for the Texas Semiconductor Innovation Fund Application?

- a. A TSIF applicant is not required to submit letters of recommendation or support with its application. However, the application requires the signature from an authorized community representative (i.e., local or regional economic development organization, city manager, or county administrator). The signature indicates that the community is aware and supportive of the proposed project.

4) Is a local economic development incentive required to receive a TSIF grant?

- a. A local economic development incentive is not required to apply, but a local economic development incentive does show that the community is supportive of a proposed project.

5) What is the deadline to apply?

- a. The Texas CHIPS Office (“TCO”) will accept applications on a rolling basis with no application deadline until TSIF funds are exhausted. An application will not be processed until the TCO determines it is complete. Upon determination of completeness, the TCO will process applications in the order in which they were received.

6) Section 481.658(b)(2) of the Texas Government Code establishes that the TSIF may be used to “award grants to business entities with an established presence in this state.” How may a business determine whether it has an “established presence” in Texas?

- a. Most entities must register with the Office of the Texas Secretary of State to transact business in Texas—regardless of whether they are incorporated in Texas or another jurisdiction. For those entities, at a minimum, to demonstrate its “established presence,” an applicant must be registered to transact business in this state.

For entities not incorporated in Texas that are not required to register to transact business in this state, the applicant must demonstrate its “established presence” by maintaining a permanent physical presence in the state or by showing it has registered under section 9.003 of the Texas Business Organizations Code.

7) Does a business have to be pursuing Federal CHIPS funding to be considered?

- a. No, there is no requirement for an applicant to be pursuing a grant from the federal CHIPS and Science Act.

8) Does the project require the creation of jobs and investment to be eligible or deemed “existing” to apply?

- a. Job creation and capital investment are two important factors in the assessment and scoring of a business entity’s grant application, but an application will not be disqualified if the project to which it relates does not create jobs or yield capital investment.

9) Can a project that has already been announced still apply for TSIF?

- a. Yes. Initiatives that have been announced are not prohibited and may be eligible for TSIF funding.

10) Can a TSIF Private Enterprise grant be used for private sector employee salaries?

- a. Applications that seek reimbursement of salaries will not be disqualified if the project to which the application relates is a design project. The TSIC also especially welcomes design projects with additional investments (i.e., capital expenditures, etc.) in addition to salaries.

11) How can the public learn about future Executive Committee meeting dates and times and access the meeting, virtually?

- a. All past, current, and future Executive Committee Meetings have and will be posted on the Texas Secretary of State’s Open Meeting webpage. The site’s link is below.
 - i. <https://www.sos.texas.gov/open/index.shtml>
- b. First, select the “View Current Open Meetings” Quick Link.
- c. Second, search for the meeting information by inputting the agency’s name which is the “Office of the Governor, Economic Development and Tourism Office.”
- d. Third, the meeting information can also be identified by selecting the specific meeting month and day.
- e. Fourth, the link to the meeting registration will be in the meeting agenda.