



Our mission is to place North Texans in jobs and equip workers with the skills that foster economic growth.

Dedicated to helping North Texas employers and job seekers succeed, Workforce Solutions North Texas provides services to employers and job seekers in the following counties: Archer, Baylor, Clay, Cottle, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger and Young.

Through partnerships and frequent communication, the Board works to support regional economic growth and economic self-sufficiency. In addition to sharing information and working closely with independent school districts, Region 9 Education Service Center, community colleges, and Midwestern State University, the Board works to ensure that child care quality is nurtured beginning as early as possible to prepare an educated, self-sufficient workforce.

Workforce Solutions is led by a local board consisting of volunteer members, a majority of whom come from private industry. It is part of a statewide system of local boards which set policy and oversee expenditures of funds in their individual areas. These boards are non-profit and receive funding from the U.S. Department of Labor through the Texas Workforce Commission.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Looking back at the past 25 years of our organization since 1996 when the Workforce Solutions North Texas Board was formed, I am proud of all that we have accomplished. It is important to reflect on the past as we move into the future, and I look forward to what 2022 will bring. The COVID-19 pandemic we endured the last two years has been tough. Maybe tougher than anything we have endured before, there is no denying that; however, while we can keep mindful of those challenges, I am even more excited to celebrate our accomplishments despite them, including the hardy staff who have endured as well.

Our 2021 journey started out just as 2020 had ended—staff were still working from home and we were providing virtual services to our customers. While we had mastered and excelled at remote service delivery, our staff, employers, and customers were growing more and more weary of separation. The time came in March of 2021 when I knew I needed to move from my dining room table at home and venture back into the office. If I didn't make that move, how could I expect any of my staff to come back to the office either? Just as quickly as we had transitioned a year earlier to serving virtually, we began making plans for all staff to transition back into the office for face-to-face appointments. We transitioned staff back over time to be able to fully open all four of our North Texas centers to 100% capacity by June 1, 2021.

Although we are now completely open to the public for face-to-face services, we continue to benefit from virtual technology. We can now offer customers a choice of whether to connect with us virtually or in person. Additionally, customers who do not have a means to travel to an office for services can now connect with our employment experts without the extra hardship of finding a ride. When you think back to all the harsh uncertainties that came along with the pandemic, it is easy to forget just how far we have come. Our investment in advanced technology, however, and the options it has opened for customers and staff is a true success that cannot be denied.

In the Fall of 2021, we began hosting in-person hiring events and job fairs again. This alone was met with huge fanfare from the communities, businesses, and staff who had dearly missed that personal connection. As thankful as we are for the opportunities virtual technology advancement has brought to North Texas, there is nothing that can replace the in-person touch and the business-to-business camaraderie that comes out of these events!

I am excited to continue growing our community partnerships and lead our workforce with an open mind of forward thinking and innovation to achieve future successes like the ones we have experienced in 2021. Thank you for continuing to let Workforce Solutions North Texas be the answer to your employment needs. We look forward to continuing serving you for another 25 years!

Lisa McDaniel

Lisa McDaniel
Executive Director

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I have served on the Workforce Solutions North Texas Board since 1998, and I was honored to be asked to preside as Chair for the 2022 term. Through my time on the board, there have been many ups and downs in the economy that have impacted the local workforce, but none as unique as the challenges faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am proud to belong to an organization that created unique ways of contacting and reaching out to workforce clients that they encountered during COVID-19.



As we move into 2022 and our country shifts back into what we see as normal, I look forward to the opportunities that we can give individuals seeking employment and the creative ways that the North Texas Workforce Staff and Board Staff establish to reach our clients.

Kristin Morris

Kristin Morris

Board Chair

Senior Vice President and Trust Officer, American National Bank & Trust

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristin Morris
Board Chair

Rhonda Schreiber
Vice Chair

Glenda Ramsey
Secretary/Treasurer

Lee Ritchie, Jr.
Immediate Past Chair

Toni Alonzo

Marsha Anderson

Mary Aranda

Michael Blevins

Leslie Chalmers

Billy Clark

Taylor Davis

Darren Francis

Keri Goins

Lee Harvey

Steve M. Halloway

Tracey Jennings

Synthia Kirby

Brandon Litteken

Anthony Louis

Michelle Nelson

Debbie Powell

Mileasha Rizan

Crystal Sanders

Jim Sjolander

Dirk Welch

Linda Whitaker

Julie Young

CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Randy Jackson
Archer County

Rusty Stafford
Baylor County

Mike Campbell
Clay County

Karl Holloway
Cottle County

Mark Christopher
Foard County

Ronald Ingram
Hardeman County

Brian Keith Umphress
Jack County

Kevin Benton
Montague County

Woody Gossom
Wichita County

Greg Tyra
Wilbarger County

John C. Bullock
Young County

Stephen Santellana
Wichita Falls Mayor

BUSINESS SERVICES

The Workforce Solutions North Texas Business Services team has the knowledge and resources employers need to find employees, build the workforce, and assist with employee retention. This team assists businesses in the North Texas area with no-cost solutions through every stage of their workforce needs. Some of our services available to employers include:

- Talent recruitment and retention
- Training opportunities
- Tax incentives
- Host job fairs and hiring events
- Digital solutions
- Labor market information
- Layoff assistance
- Fidelity Bonding

“We love being invited to your job fairs. We love the fact that you reach out and are very personal. We look forward to your job fairs! They’re very professional, always helpful from the moment we arrive until we leave.”



ARMY & AIR FORCE EXCHANGE SERVICE Drive-Thru Hiring Event



**Thursday, October 14
12pm - 3:30pm**

Workforce Solutions North Texas
4309 Old Jacksboro Hwy | West Parking Lot
Wichita Falls, TX 76302





1,415
Employers
Served



**NORTH TEXAS
HIRING WEEK**



CONNECT VIRTUALLY
March 29 - April 2
Veteran Entry 1 PM - 2 PM
Open Entry 2 PM - 4 PM

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
NORTH TEXAS

Call Workforce Solutions at
940.322.1801 (Option 2) for
1-on-1 assistance

- Mar. 29
Healthcare
- Mar. 30
Manufacturing
- Mar. 31
State of Texas and
Criminal Justice
- Apr. 1
Retail and
Hospitality
- Apr. 2
General
Session

Workforce Solutions North Texas is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: (800)735-2999 (TDD) or (800)735-2988 (Voice) or 711.



7,267
Job Orders

28,149
Job Referrals





11,946
Services to
Employers





The Pursuit of Advanced Training in High-Demand Skills (PATHS) for Texas program, which stems from a grant totaling \$5.4 million from the Walmart Foundation, is a statewide initiative that leverages Texas' existing workforce development strengths in partnerships to expand training opportunities for Texans working in retail. This initiative is accomplished through industry and nationally recognized training and upskilling opportunities to aid employee retention, support career advancement, and promote success for workers and job seekers in customer-facing industries.

PATHS is available at no cost to participants through Workforce Solutions North Texas and four other Workforce Development Boards throughout Texas. Workforce Solutions North Texas received \$90,000 to serve employers and workers in our 11-county area.

THANK YOU TO OUR TRAINING PARTNERS



PENN FOSTER



SKILLS
Development Fund



The Skills Development Fund COVID-19 Special Initiative was awarded to North Texas to support business training needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it was shifting production to meet the demand or training on specific COVID health and safety procedures, we were ready to help. During the grant period, this funding provided \$97,837.80 in training for health insurance billing, customer service, and medical practices related to COVID in the healthcare industry; production and safety training for manufacturing expansion; and even sales and human resource training for an event company.

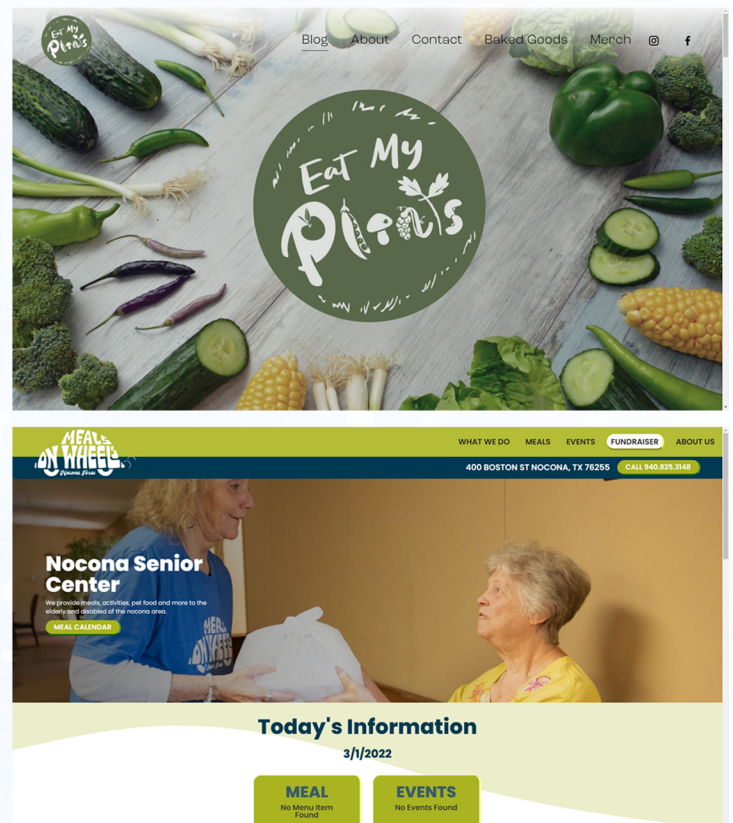
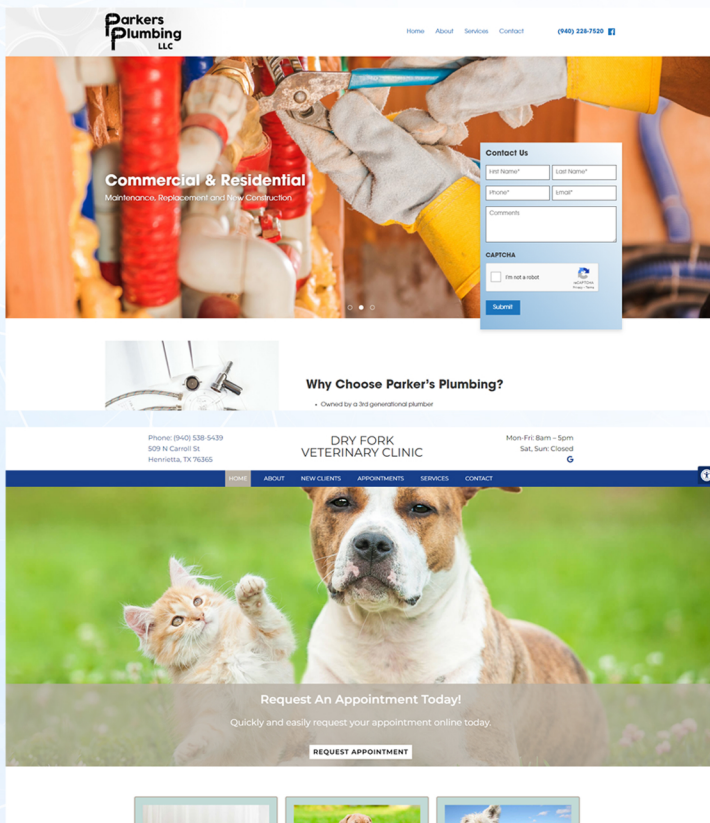
In all, we supported six businesses and upskilled 69 workers to meet the demands the pandemic imposed. Additionally, nine unemployed individuals completed Nursing Assistant training, and of those, seven found employment by the end of their program.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



The Website Development Project is funded through a grant from the IKEA US Community Foundation. Workforce Solutions North Texas was awarded \$50,000 in grant funding. This project aims to provide technological solutions for Texas businesses as a direct response to COVID-19.

Through this project, we provided funding to rural retail and service-providing businesses in the North Texas area to build their website and fund its maintenance for one year with the goal of job retention and growth. Retailers were able to expand their reach beyond their geographical restraints through online commerce. Service-providing businesses were able to improve health and safety measures by reducing face-to-face contact through technological advances such as online scheduling, preliminary diagnoses, and more.



Above are a few of the completed websites through this project. Left to right, top to bottom: Parkers Plumbing, Eat My Plants, Dry Fork Veterinary Clinic, Nocona Senior Center - Meals on Wheels



VETERAN SERVICES

At Workforce Solutions North Texas, it is our privilege to serve the veterans and their spouses in our service area. If you have served in the U.S. Armed Forces or are an eligible spouse, we are honored to assist you in your job search and training needs. We offer veterans priority service that is catered to individual needs with the help of our partnerships with the Texas Veterans Commission and local employers and organizations.



1,325
Veterans Served



Hiring & You!

Red, White



Pictured is Jared Elkins, Military Family Support Liaison, Lisa McDaniel, Executive Director, Les Trobman, General Counsel for Texas Workforce Commission, and Melayia Crum, Veterans Career Advisor from Texas Veterans Commission.

Workforce Solutions North Texas hosted the tenth annual statewide Hiring Red, White, & You! (HRWY) on November 4 at Midwestern State University and virtually. HRWY connects veterans, transitioning military members, and military spouses to employers across Texas.



45 North Texas Employers **73** Job Seekers Attended

Thank You to Participating Employers

- Army & Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES)
- ABM Technology & Manufacturing
- Big Brothers Big Sisters
- Boys & Girls Club
- City Of Wichita Falls
- Clinics of North Texas
- Crunch Fitness
- Elwood Staffing
- Express Employment Professionals
- Graham Oaks Care Center
- Graham Tank Trunks
- Howmet
- KAUZ
- KPC Promise
- Midwestern State University
- MyStaf
- NAF
- National Guard
- North Texas State Hospital
- North Texas Works
- Premium Retail Services
- Region 9 ESC

- Rolling Plains Management Corporation
- Spherion Staffing and Recruiting
- T Square Logistics
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- Texas Veterans Commission
- Texhoma Christian Care Center
- The Mentor Network/Sevita
- Turner & Allen, P.C.
- Texas Department of Transportation
- UPS
- Vernon College
- Visiting Angels
- Vista Skilled Nursing and Rehab
- Waste Connections
- Wayne's Auto Repair
- WFPD Dispatch (City of Wichita Falls)
- Wichita County
- Wichita County Sheriff's Office
- Wichita Falls Independent School District
- Work Services Corporation
- Workforce Solutions North Texas
- YMCA of Wichita Falls



EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Workforce Solutions North Texas is the one stop shop to help job seekers through various stages of their search. We provide tools and guidance to ensure success in the North Texas job market.

Our no-cost services and programs are designed to help individuals at different stages of their career. Our services include:

- Job fairs and hiring events
- How-to workshops
- Education and training opportunities
- Financial assistance for education and supplies
- Financial assistance for child care
- Transportation assistance
- Interview preparation and resume support
- Computer and internet access
- On-the-job training
- Career counseling and exploration
- Priority services for veterans and foster youth
- Labor market and wage information
- Fidelity Bonding

11,800

Distinct Individuals Served

583

Job Seekers Entered Employment

(Staff-assisted)

160

SNAP E&T Customers Served



"I cannot say enough how helpful and at ease the assistant made me feel with the help that she provided. She provided me with all the help I needed to get started back in the workforce. Her help was lifesaving."



"I learned a lot from the staff at Workforce Solutions. They are the epitome of professionalism, and their knowledge is unrivaled."



"Michael explained the services and virtual resources that are available to help me find employment. He also provided a web address to help understand the salary range to expect in my area for my current career and provided contact information for a career change that I am considering. Michael was very courteous and knowledgeable."

108
TANF/Choices
Customers Served



NORTH TEXAS

WORKS



North Texas Works is designed to help job seekers secure the education, training, and support necessary to succeed in the workforce while providing skilled workers to match local employers needs. The North Texas Works program is funded by the Department of Labor through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

114
Adult and
Dislocated Worker
Program Participants

15
Youth Program
Participants

46%
Increase in Average
Quartile Earnings
Post Program

SPOTLIGHT: DEMETRIUS

Demetrius, a North Texas Works participant, was approved for CDL training and started at Continental Truck Driving School in September 2020. He had several barriers to employment including an extensive criminal history. He finished his training and obtained his CDL permit in December 2020.

Demetrius was very grateful and said, "Thanks to my case manager, Ms. Cynthia Humphrey, I was able to get funding and complete truck driving school. She was very helpful and made the process very easy. If you want to change your career path, I recommend this program." He found employment at TransVerge Freight Systems in January 2021.



SPOTLIGHT: EUNICE



Eunice entered the North Texas Works program to attend nursing school at Vernon College in January 2020. She is from another country, so she had a language barrier. She also has no family or relatives here for a support system. WIOA funding and support helped her overcome these barriers. She said, "WIOA has been of great help to me, especially when the COVID pandemic struck, and I lost my part-time job."

Eunice earned an Associate in Applied Science in Nursing from Vernon College in May 2021. While in training, she earned two awards: one for academic excellence and the Faculty Scholastic award. Eunice found employment as a Graduate Nurse at Advanced Rehab and Healthcare of Wichita Falls in May 2021 making \$31/hr.

She said, "Thank you from the bottom of my heart. I wouldn't have made it this far without you. The tuition, Needs Related Payment checks, gas, and scholastic materials. I can add emotional, my list would be endless because all these factors go hand in hand. I emerged the best student in the nursing program. I am lost for words. You made this happen for me. Thank you so much!"

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Scott Felion, Business Services Consultant (left), and Brandie Carlson, WIOA Youth Career Specialist (right), spoke with seniors from Bowie ISD about job-readiness, interview skills, WorkinTexas.com, and the North Texas Works program.

WORKS



STUDENT SUCCESS: STERLING

With the help of North Texas Works, Sterling began attending Pharmacy Technician training at Vernon College in August 2020. Before he completed training, he got a job working part time at United Regional Health Care System as a part-time Pharmacy Technician.

North Texas Works helped Sterling pay for college tuition, fees, books, supplies, and transportation.

Sterling finished school in May 2021 and obtained his Pharmacy Tech license. He started working full-time at

United Regional when he completed training.

Sterling said, "I would not have been able to attend college or even know where to begin without the help of this program. They helped with tuition, getting supplies I needed for class as well as supplies needed for the job. They were there to help me every step of the way. Thank you all I would not be where I am today without the help of this program. I am now making an excellent life for me and my family and I have the WIOA program and all the workers to thank for that, so from the bottom of my heart thank you all."

“ I would not have been able to attend college or even know where to begin without the help of this program. **”**

SUCCESS SHOUTOUTS

“

Thanks to my case manager and the WIOA program. I owe so much gratitude to both for my life today. Dreams really do come true. Thank you again!

”



“

The orientation has given me hope that I will be able to find work by using the program described. The step-by-step checklist is most helpful. It was discussed thoroughly and clearly. We were given the opportunity to ask questions, and these were answered with patience.

”



“

I am honored and beyond grateful to have been selected as a recipient of the Workforce Solutions WIOA Program. This program allowed me to solely focus on my studies, which contributed to me successfully completing the Vernon College ADN program. WIOA not only paid my tuition, but also bought my textbooks, provided gas cards, paid some bills due to COVID season, provided NRP checks and paid my BON/ NCLEX fees in addition to UWORLD.

WIOA has lightened my financial burden and given me the opportunity to reach my full potential in the VC ADN program. My case managers deserve a special shout out. Danae and Jesse were very helpful in every aspect during my nursing school journey, and I am grateful for each and every one of them. Thank you, ladies, and thank you WIOA!

”

CAREER EXPLORATION

We hosted the annual Jobs Y'all Career Expo through a live virtual event in September 2021 for eighth-grade students. Students were able to explore good-paying and meaningful careers in growing Texas industries. Local businesses, colleges, and community partners offered information sessions about career opportunities and educational requirements for their career fields. There were 17 career sessions and one job-readiness session for students to explore. This event was hosted in partnership with Region 9 Education Service Center.

THANK YOU TO OUR
EVENT PARTNER

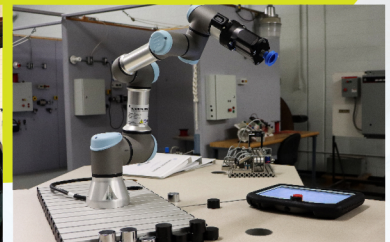


314

Students Attended

18

Career Sessions



TRANSITION FAIR



We hosted the 14th Annual Jobs Y'all Transition Fair and Disability Mentoring Day for high school juniors and seniors with disabilities within our region. This event focused on equipping students with tools for advanced planning for postsecondary goals to ensure better access to the support and services necessary to reach their

desired outcomes. Our keynote speaker was Julian Alvarez, Commissioner representing Labor for Texas Workforce Commission.

Agencies, employers, vendors, local businesses, and community service providers participated in the event. The virtual fair had two pavilions: 18 Career Exploration and 24 Community Resource booths. This event was open to students, parents, and teachers. Approximately 80 people attended.

65

Students Registered

42

Career and
Community
Resource Booths



THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT COMMITTEE

Amerigroup

The Arc of Wichita County

Disability Mentoring Day

Midwestern State University

Region 9 Education Service Center

Texas Workforce Commission - Vocational Rehabilitation Services

The Arc of Wichita County

CHILD CARE SERVICES


The Child Care Services program provides financial assistance to eligible families to promote long-term self-sufficiency by enabling parents to work, attend school, or participate in job training programs. Selecting child care services is one of the most important decisions working parents and caregivers make.

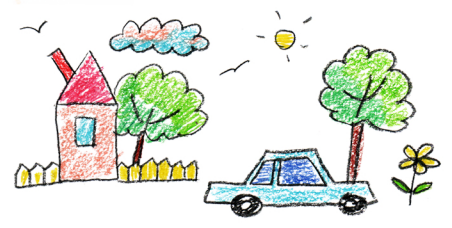
Quality early learning environments and the people who work in them play an important role in child development. Numerous research studies have shown that children who attend higher-quality early learning programs are more prepared for school entry than children who do not attend high-quality programs.

High-quality child care keeps children safe and healthy. The experiences and interactions children have in their early years help to build a foundation for future learning.

Workforce Solutions North Texas administers the Texas Rising Star (TRS) program which is a quality rating and improvement system for child care programs participating in the Texas Workforce Commission's Child Care Services program. Texas Rising Star certification is available to licensed centers and licensed and registered child care home facilities that meet the certification criteria.



Texas 
Rising Star



2021 CHILD CARE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS NORTH TEXAS CHILD CARE

- Purchased 87 Activity Display Centers for 30 TRS classrooms. Investment = \$7,393.84
- Purchased dramatic play centers for 5 TRS facilities. Investment = \$12,503.65
- Provided Child Development Associate training to 16 Child Care workers through Vernon College..



40%
Texas Rising Star
Accredited Centers

2,037
Children in
Care

45%
Of Children Enrolled
at a TRS Center

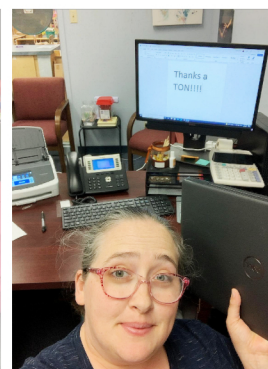


TECHNOLOGY NEEDS INITIATIVE

In January 2021, Workforce Solutions North Texas Child Care conducted a Technology Needs Assessment with all rural child care providers and all Texas Rising Star providers. The assessment targeted technology needs to help these small businesses sustain and possibly grow amidst the pandemic.

The Child Care office distributed equipment to 49 child care providers in an effort to promote small business growth and development and provide the technological tools to aid in improving the quality of child care at each facility. The total investment from this project was \$69,143.89.

Technology Needs Initiative	
Equipment	# of Items
Tablet	32
Desktop computer	25
Microsoft Office subscription (lifetime)	25
Laptop computer	21
Scanner	13
All-in-one copier/fax/scanner/printer	11
Printer	7
Wireless keyboard/mouse	6
Fax machine	1
Total number of items	141
Total investment	\$69,143.89



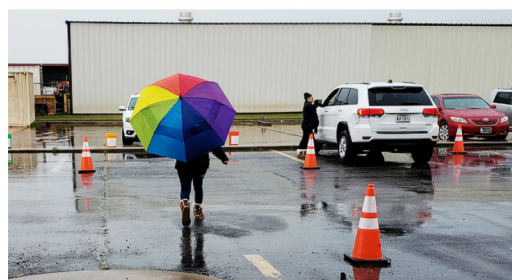
DRIVE-THRU ENROLLMENTS

To meet the increasing demands parents and guardians faced, we set up several child care enrollment drives to help clear the child care assistance waiting list.

Child Care staff successfully collected enrollment forms, required documentation, and conducted placement interviews car-side. These applications were immediately processed, and many families were placed in care the same day with 100% placed within 24 hours.

Drive-thru Enrollments

Total number of applicants reached	188
Applicants who scheduled drive-thru appointments	91
Applicants who attended appointments	78
Drive-thru applicants determined eligible	68
Total number of children placed from drive-thru appointments	77
Applicants who received a determination packet via mail	97
Applicants who received a packet and were determined eligible	37
Total number of children placed from packets mailed	62
Total number of families determined eligible	105
Total number of children placed	139
<i>**85.71% of applicants attended scheduled appointments**</i>	





TEXAS WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWS-VRS) is a core partner within the Texas Workforce System to support job seekers with disabilities as they prepare for, obtain, or maintain competitive integrated employment. Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services are available to eligible individuals with disabilities at Workforce Solutions offices across Texas.



While the goal of VR services is employment, the VR process is a customized approach, ensuring that a person with a disability is equipped with the right supports, skills and training needed for a successful employment outcome. VR Staff collaborate with Workforce Solutions staff to support job seekers with disabilities and deliver career-focused education, training, and apprenticeships, job development, and paid work experience, among other employment supports.

601
Individuals with
Disabilities Served
in the North Texas
Workforce Area

During Program Year 2020*, VR assisted 65,121 individuals with disabilities, including 601 in the North Texas Workforce Development Area, to help them achieve, retain and advance in meaningful employment and independence.

*Vocational Rehabilitation Program Year is from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

START MY VR

Start My VR - A New Online Self-Referral Tool for Vocational Rehabilitation Services



*Vocational
Rehabilitation
puts your
abilities to
work*

Start My VR



Also introduced in FY 2021, "Start My VR" is an online self-referral portal for prospective vocational rehabilitation customers, providing a convenient way for individuals with disabilities who are seeking employment to inquire about Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services and/or be connected to a VR staff member.

The Start My VR online tool has proven successful in reaching more individuals with disabilities to ensure they are aware of how VR services can benefit them, and to ensure that

Texas employers benefit from the many talented individuals with disabilities who can join their workforce.

WE HIRE ABILITY

A new employer recognition program 'We Hire Ability' celebrates and highlights Texas employers for their commitment to hiring individuals with disabilities and recognizing their important role in helping to ensure a diverse and inclusive Texas workforce.

Employers recognized through the We Hire Ability program are committed to employing people with disabilities in an integrated workplace setting, and with at least 10 percent of their Texas-based workforce comprising people with disabilities. During its inaugural year, TWC recognized nine We Hire Ability employers.

Does your company
attract diverse
candidates?



Pre-Employment Transition Services



Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWS-VRS) provides pre-employment transition services (Pre-ETS) to students with disabilities to assist them in making a smooth transition from school to postsecondary education, training or employment.

Pre-employment transition services can begin as early as age 14 and continue to age 22. Services are delivered in five categories as designated through the federal Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA). They are: Career Exploration, Work-Based Learning, Counseling on Post-Secondary Opportunities, Workplace Readiness, and Self-Advocacy.

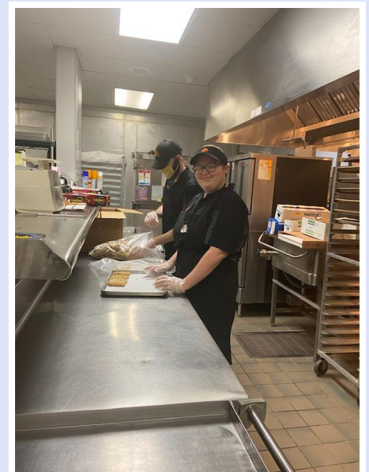
TWS-VRS provides these services in partnership with independent school districts, education service centers, colleges and universities, local workforce development boards, employers, community rehabilitation programs, and other community partners.



STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: ADYSON

Workforce Solutions North Texas and TWS-VRS teamed up with Burkburnett Independent School District (BISD) to provide students with disabilities opportunities for year-round paid work experience through a new School-to-Work program. Students may work up to 20 hours per week for a 12-week period.

Adyson, a participant in the School-to-Work program, has worked at the Burkburnett High School's Bulldog Shop and the high school's cafeteria, and now she is looking forward to a new assignment – all of which are providing her with more diversified skills. With a big smile, Adyson says of her experience, "It's been crazy and stressful, but I really like to join in and I'm making money."



Not only are the learned skills valuable for Adyson, but she has also earned her food handler's certification which she will be able to use once she is out of school.

Adyson has acquired transferable skills from her work assignments in the School-to-Work program, such as customer service, timeliness and teamwork. These skills have increased her employability and job readiness, as well as better preparing her for employment upon completion of school. With the support of the Vocational Rehabilitation team that includes Adyson's VR transition counselor, BISD teachers, and the Student HireAbility Navigator at Workforce Solutions North Texas, Adyson is set for success.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY: BEN

A passion for theatre leads Ben to his perfect summer job through Summer Earn & Learn



For Wichita Falls student Ben Austin, his summer job got him one step closer to his dream job of one day working at Disney World. Acting in theatre is Ben's greatest passion. He is well on his way to making his dream come true, having already performed on stage in 15 productions at the Wichita Theatre. Some of Ben's performances include stage productions of *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, *The Lion King* and *Peter Pan*.

This past summer, Ben had an opportunity to learn the inner workings of a theatre by stepping off the stage and into the back of the house through a summer job at the Backdoor Theatre in Wichita Falls.

Through the **Summer Earn and Learn Program**, Ben, who is on the Autism spectrum, was employed for seven weeks and assisted with ushering, office organization and daily upkeep of the theatre, while also acquiring knowledge about the operation of the business.

His experience working at the Backdoor Theatre contributes to his chosen vocational goals of obtaining employment in the theatre arts career field and obtaining necessary postsecondary training at Vernon College for sound engineering.

Ben's journey began while he was in high school when he connected with TWS-VRS and his VR counselor Jamie Long.

"Ben has participated in Summer Earn and Learn twice and his vocational and job readiness skills have grown, as well as his maturity and confidence," said Jamie. **"He has become more independent, and I have no doubt that with his determination and passion, he can do whatever he puts his effort toward."**

VR has supported Ben on his journey with career exploration and assessments, increased self-advocacy and access to supports through Vernon College's Office for Students with Disabilities, work-based learning placements, and financial support in his postsecondary training. He is also residing on campus and has increased his independent living skills for long-term success.

SUMMER EARN AND LEARN

Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) is a partnership between the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Workforce Solutions Boards, and Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWS-VRS). This partnership works with local employers who open their doors to students with disabilities aged 14-22 for eight weeks during the summer. Through work-based learning, youth earn a paycheck while learning new skills and gaining professional experience. Employers, in turn, use SEAL to find qualified job seekers with disabilities.

Statewide, 2,147 students, including 22 in North Texas, participated in the Summer Earn and Learn program during summer 2021. Additionally, 1,095 employer worksites, of which 20 were in North Texas, participated in SEAL, offering invaluable work experience opportunities to the students participating in the program.



"I love working with the kids."
Riley, Kemp Center for the Arts



"I had a great time."
Parker, City of Wichita Falls
Animal Services

22
Students
Completed
Work Readiness
Training

20
Employers
Participated in
the SEAL
Program



"I am hoping to come back soon!"
Jason, Workforce Solutions North Texas



"This is the perfect placement for me."
Kameron, Southwest Boys and Girls Club



"Maybe I can do it again next year for the fourth time."
Holly, Wichita Falls Youth Symphony



"I have learned so much in this job."
Cameron, Wichita Falls Ford

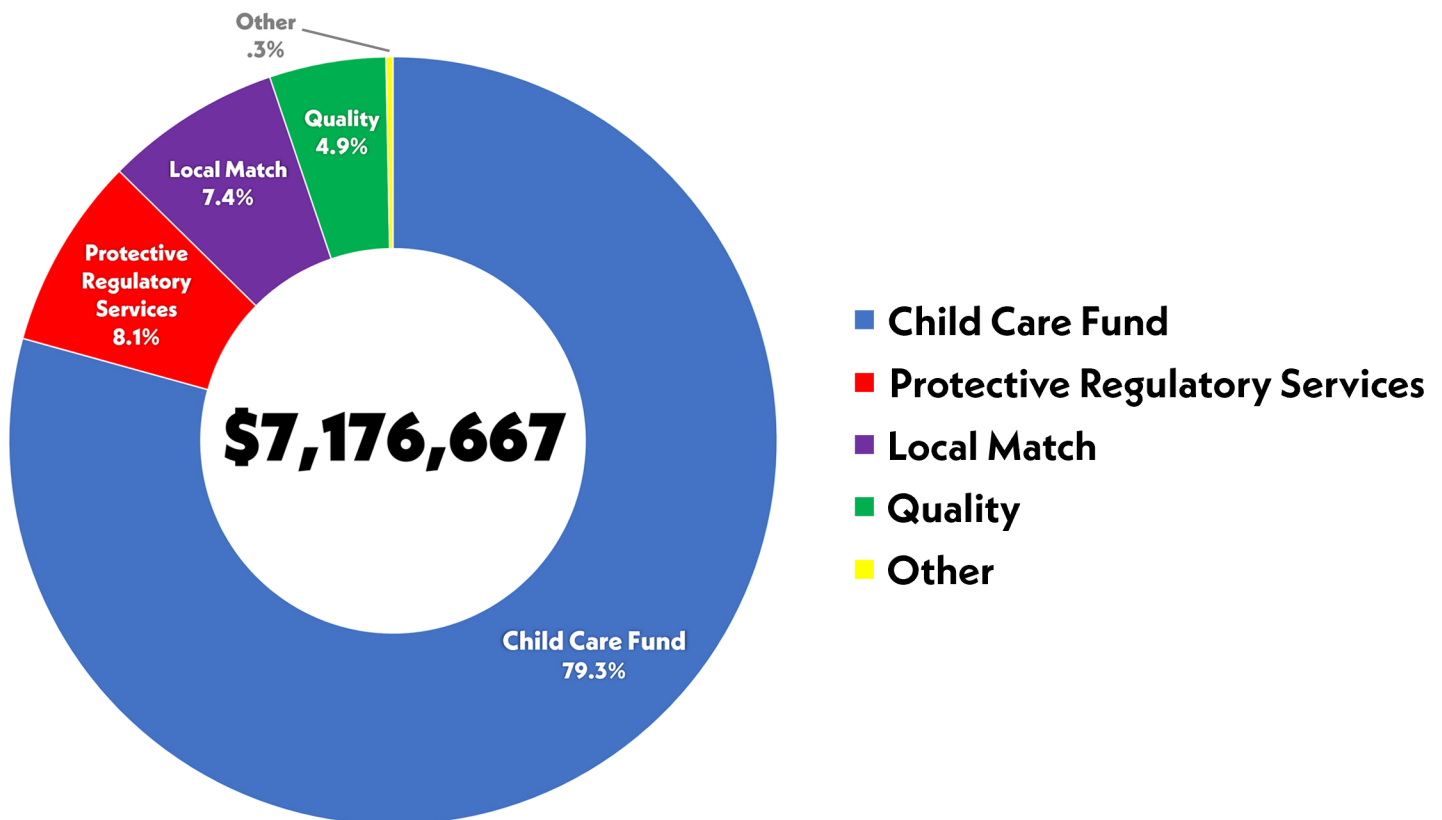
FINANCIALS

Financials reported are for expenditures occurring between January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021

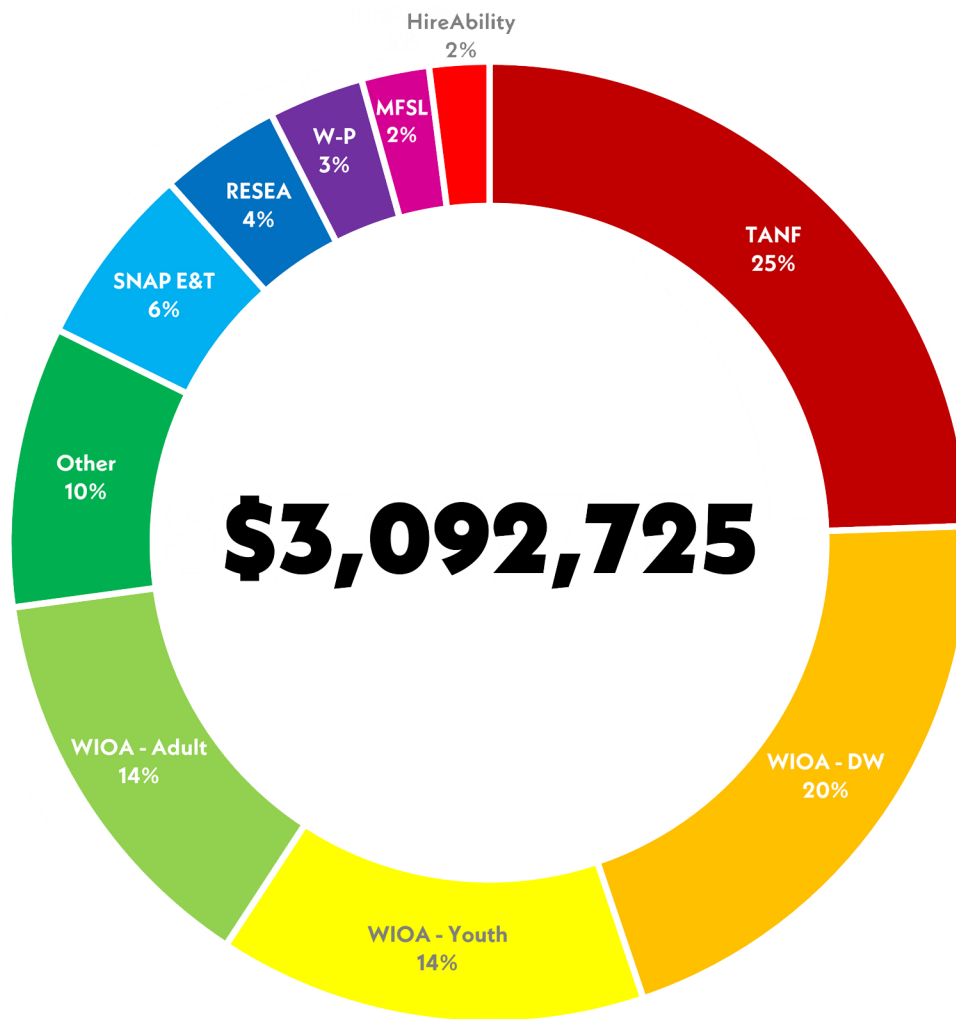
BOARD PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

Child Care	\$7,176,666.92
WIOA	\$1,666,301.90
TANF	\$756,068.26
Other Workforce Development	\$670,355.18
Other Infrastructure	\$151,406.54
Total	\$10,420,798.80

CHILD CARE EXPENDITURES



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES



Workforce Development Program Key

MSLF - Military Family Support Liaison

RESEA - Re-Employment Services and Eligibility Assessment

HireAbility - Student HireAbility

SNAP E&T - Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training

TANF - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

W-P - Wagner-Peyser Employment Services

WIOA - Adult - Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act - Adult (18+)

WIOA - DW - Dislocated Worker

WIOA - Youth - Youth (14-24)

Other - Includes the following small, supplemental, and special grants:

Skills Development Fund COVID-19 Special Initiative 3.1%

WIOA Alternative Funding 1.8%

Summer Earn and Learn 1.3%

Paid Work Experience .6%

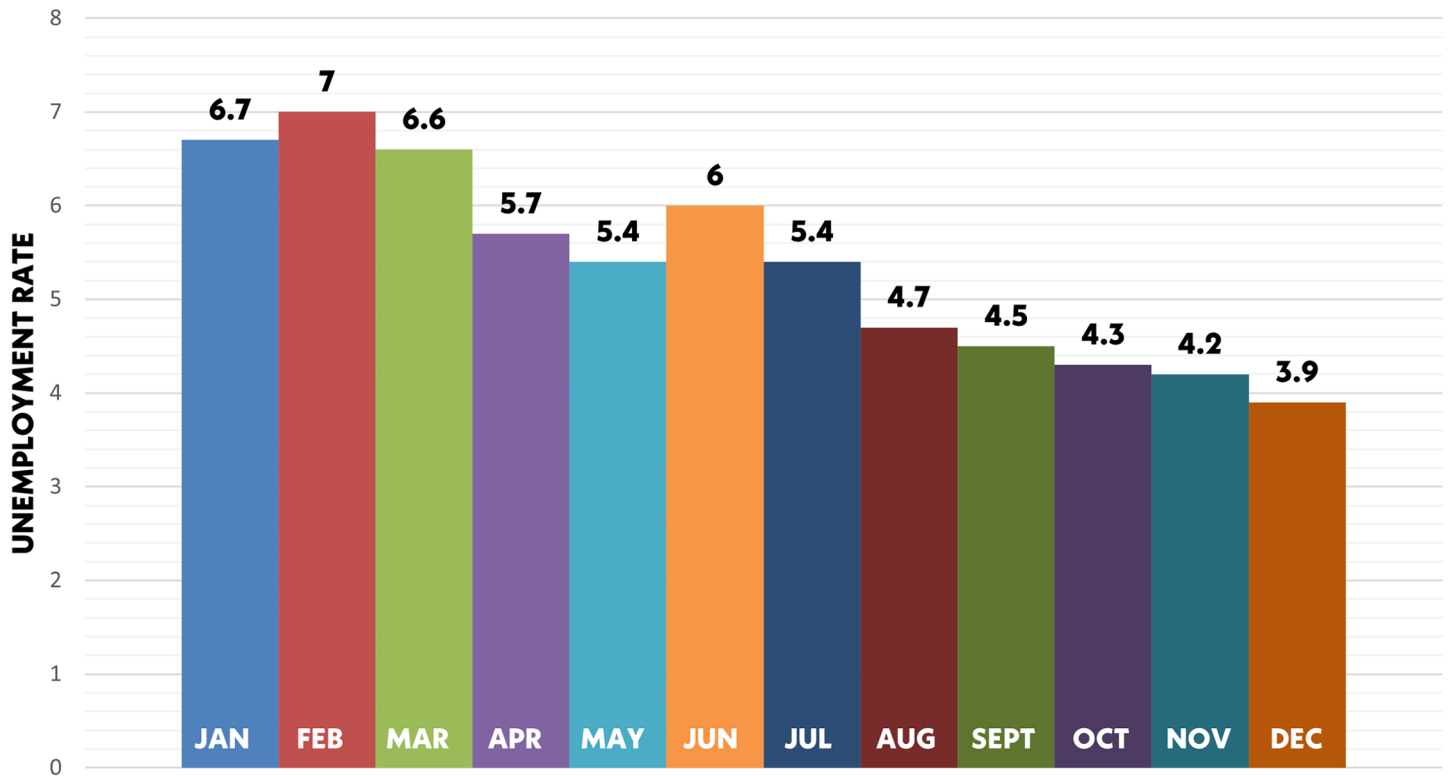
Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) .5%

Helping Others Manage Electronically (HOME) .5%

Pursuit of Advanced Training in High-Demand Skills (PATHS) .2%

UNEMPLOYMENT

North Texas Unemployment 2021



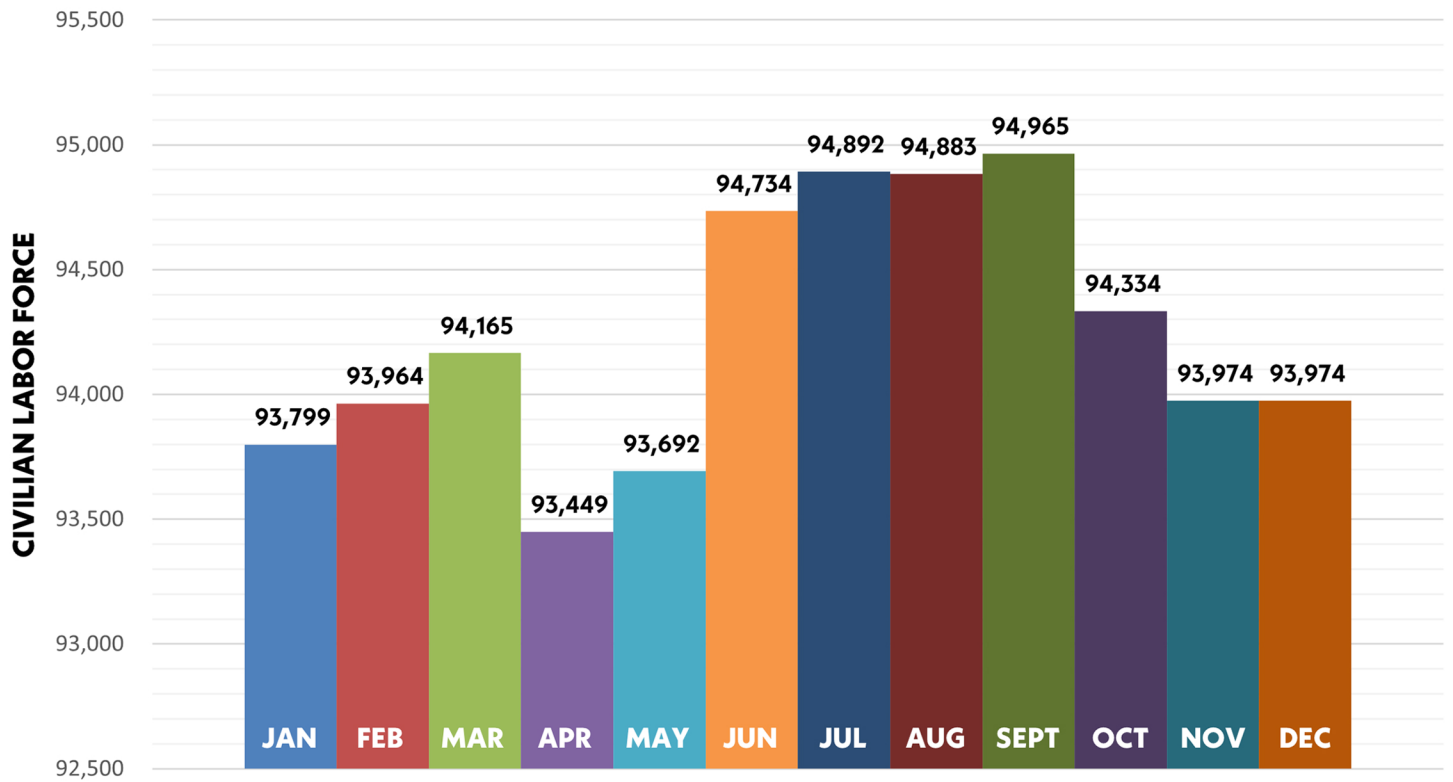
The Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program is a federal-state cooperative effort in which monthly estimates of total employment and unemployment are prepared. These estimates are key indicators of local economic conditions. The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor is responsible for the concepts, definitions, technical procedures, validation, and publication of estimates that the state workforce agencies prepare under agreement with BLS.

An unemployed person is defined as, "All persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment sometime during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed."

Sources: Texas Labor Market Information, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

STATISTICS

North Texas Civilian Labor Force 2021



According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) of the U.S. Department of Labor, the Civilian Labor Force (CLF) includes all people age 16 and older who are classified as either employed or unemployed. Conceptually, the labor force level is the number of people who are either working or actively looking for work.

“Employed” classification meets any of the following criteria:

1. Worked at least 1 hour as a paid employee or in their own business, profession, trade, or farm;
2. Were temporarily absent from their job, business or farm, whether or not they were paid for the time off; or
3. Worked without pay for a minimum of 15 hours in a business or farm owned by a member of their family.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

AWARDS

Workforce Solutions North Texas (WSNT) was honored to receive the **2021 Non-Profit Business of the Year Award** from the **Jacksboro Chamber of Commerce**. Representing WSNT (left to right) was Tracy Barrett, Workforce Development Specialist, Leslee Escobedo, Child Care Program Director, and Paige Bailey, Case Manager.



TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION INNOVATION GRANT AWARD

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) awarded five individual Workforce Development Boards (WDB) for “future excellence in innovation” during the 24th annual Texas Workforce Conference in Houston. Workforce Solutions North Texas (WSNT) won \$200,000 to support expanding innovative practices implemented during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Insufficient internet infrastructure in rural North Texas became an obvious barrier to employment for its residents during the pandemic. WSNT identified libraries as a resource available in most rural communities that also have established internet connections and are easily accessible by the public. The trouble was their computers were often outdated and under-maintained.

The Innovation Grant Award has enabled WSNT to offer a mutually beneficial partnership to all public libraries within its 11-county footprint. By providing the technology needed for career services in exchange for a physical location in which to install it, both libraries and WSNT benefit. In total, 17 libraries have welcomed this partnership. Installation of WSNT Career Stations will commence by June 2022.

Board Staff



Lisa McDaniel
Executive Director



Kendra Ball
Business and Outreach Manager



Ebonie Batts
*Administrative Specialist
& EO Officer*



Karen Fite
Technology Manager



Josie Gonzalez
Child Care Contract Manager



Sharon Hulcy
Contract Manager



Brenda Roland
Student HireAbility Navigator



Lyka Walton
Community Engagement Specialist

Workforce Center Leadership

Crystal Ojeda
Project Director

Scott Essary
Program Supervisor

Ginger Hannah
*Business and Employment
Services Manager*

Child Care Leadership

Leslee Escobedo
Child Care Director

Leneva Clark
Client Services Coordinator

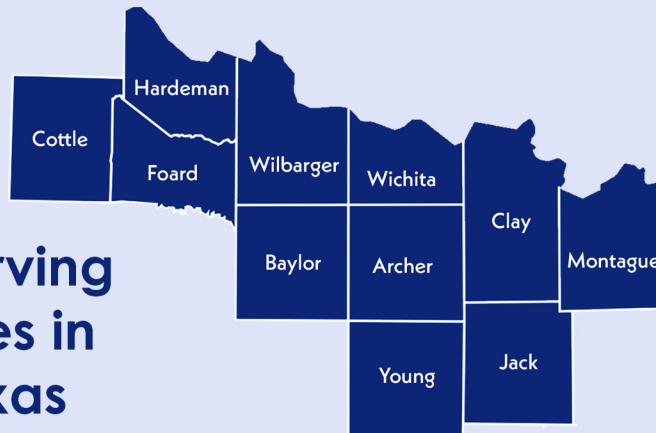
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WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

NORTH TEXAS

Services to link employers and job seekers

Proudly serving
11 counties in
North Texas



Wichita Falls Center

4309 Old Jacksboro Highway
Suite 300
Wichita Falls, TX 76302

Local: 940.322.1801
Toll free: 800.333.8209
Fax: 940.322.8411

Child Care Services

4309 Old Jacksboro Highway
Suite 230
Wichita Falls, TX 76302

Local: 940.723.8774
Toll free: 800.232.8359
Fax: 940.723.1818

Bowie Center

800 Highway 59 North
Suite A
Bowie, TX 76230

Local: 940.872.2424
Toll free: 800.972.2424
Fax: 940.872.2990

Vernon Center

Wilbarger County Courthouse
1700 Wilbarger Street, #B7
Vernon, TX 76385

Local: 940.552.5211
Toll free: 800.888.5079
Fax: 940.552.2997

Graham Center

924 Cherry Street
Graham, TX 76450

Local: 940.549.6363
Toll free: 866.549.6363
Fax: 940.549.9821

Workforce Solutions North Texas Board Office

1501 Midwestern Parkway
Suite 101
Wichita Falls, TX 76302

Local: 940.767.1432
Fax: 940.322.2683



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Workforce Solutions North Texas is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Relay Texas: (800)735-2989 (TDD) or (800)735-2988(Voice) or 711.