



# Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

---

---

Texas Workforce Commission  
Nicole Verver  
Director, Workforce Policy and Program Assistance  
April 14, 2010



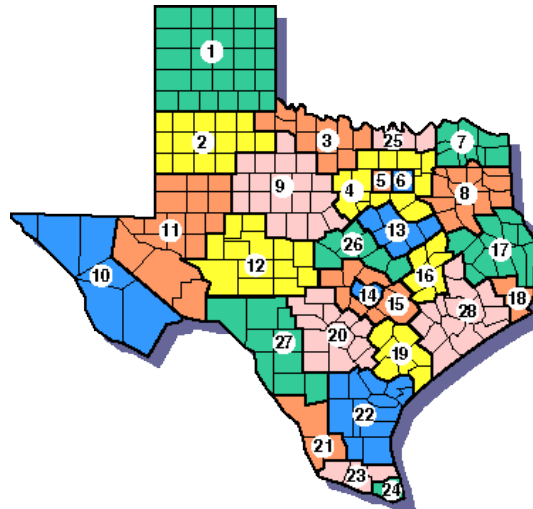
# Programs

- Workforce Investment Act (WIA) – Adult, Dislocated Worker, and Youth
- Employment Services (ES)
- Child Care
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Employment and Training (Choices)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)
- Project RIO (Re-Integration of Offenders)



# Texas Workforce Commission

- TWC strives to provide services to help individual Texans find employment opportunities. The range of services available to individual workers and families includes everything from job search assistance to access to training, transportation, child care, and unemployment benefits.
- The agency leads a network of 28 Local Workforce Development Boards (LWDB) that provide workforce services and statewide programs to employers and job seekers in communities throughout Texas.





# Texas Workforce Commission

- Program performance measures are set at the federal and state level.
- TWC establishes the LWDB's performance measures.
- TWC conducts program evaluations:
  - monthly reviews of performance data, expenditures, and contract deliverables;
  - annual on-site reviews of each board;
  - annual data validation review.



# Collaboration with State Agencies

- Workforce Investment Act (WIA)
  - Texas Office of the Governor
- Employment Services (ES)
  - Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
  - Texas Education Agency (TEA)
  - Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
  - Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officers Standards (TCLEOS)
  - Texas Veterans Commission (TVC)
- Child Care
  - Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS)
  - Texas Education Agency (TEA)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Choices
  - Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
  - Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T)
  - Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
- Project Rio
  - Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
  - Texas Youth Commission (TYC)



# Workforce Investment Act

- The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is designed to improve the quality of the adult workforce through training and education; promote self-sufficiency; reemploy dislocated workers; enhance skill sets; establish new skill sets; and enhance productivity and competitiveness.
- WIA Youth helps eligible low-income youth ages 14 to 21 acquire skills, training, and support to successfully transition to careers through mentoring, training, support services, and incentives.
- For FY 2010 the performance target set for WIA is 37,513 for adult and dislocated workers.
- WIA Youth does not have a performance target set by the LBB; however a 12 month actual number served is 12,604 youth.



# Employment Services

- Employment Services (ES) brings together individuals who are seeking employment and employers who are seeking workers. ES provides universal access to core services and an integrated array of labor exchange services delivered in Workforce Centers throughout the state.
- For FY 2010 the performance target set for ES customers served is 1.4 million customers.

## Employer Services (examples)

Job Postings

Recruitment Assistance

Job Fair Assistance

Employer Training Assistance

Interview Facilities

Rapid Response

## Job Seekers (examples)

Referral to Job Posting

Labor Market Information

Job Assessment

Work Registration

Support Services

Employment Counseling



# Child Care

- Child Care is a federal funded program that provides subsidized child care to parents who work, attend school, or participate in job training.
- The program is a critical support service as it helps eligible individuals overcome the barrier to employment by providing child care while unemployed; looking for employment; at-risk of being unemployed; and to low-income working families.
- The Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) dollars are made available to states through the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
  - CCDF funds consists of:
    - Discretionary Funds;
    - Mandatory Funds; and
    - Matching Funds.
- TWC is the lead agency of CCDF funds for the state of Texas.
- For FY 2010 the performance target set is to serve an average of 110,765 children per day.





# TANF Choices

- TWC administers the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Employment and Training (Choices). The program is a joint federal and state funded program that helps disadvantaged Texans transition from government assistance to self-sufficiency.
- The program requires active work participation or training in order to qualify for the temporary assistance.
- The Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) is Texas' lead agency for the TANF program. HHSC determines TANF eligibility and provides TWC with information on clients receiving TANF and eligible for Choices services.



# TANF Choices

- A strong “work first” message and the potential for a full-family sanction of all TANF cash benefits for noncompliance with work requirements have motivated many TANF applicants and recipients to seek employment.
  - More than 31,000 Choices participants entered employment in FY 2009.
- For FY 2010 the performance target set for TANF Choices customers served is 43,267.



# TANF Choices Initiatives

- TANF Subsidized Employment (TSE)
  - \$5.5M in TANF funds are targeted for subsidized employment opportunities.
  - Subsidized employment helps adult TANF recipients and other low-income parents participants gain valuable skills, and can significantly increase the likelihood of securing an unsubsidized job.
  - Subsidized employment activities for youth ages 14-24 are provided during nonschool hours. Worksites are developed specifically for youth to provide suitable training in a hands-on learning environment.
- TANF Choices Non-Custodial Parent Program (NCP)
  - In collaboration with the Texas Office of the Attorney General (OAG), the TANF Choices NCP Initiative helps noncustodial parents overcome employment barriers and career advancement while becoming economically self-sufficient and making consistent child support payments.
    - 66% of participating NCPs entered employment;
    - NCPs, on average, entered employment within 9 weeks;
    - 69% retained employment for at least six months; and
    - Custodial parents are 17% less likely to receive TANF benefits.



# SNAP E&T

- TWC administers the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment & Training (SNAP E&T) to assist eligible recipients in obtaining employment through participation in work programs and education and training activities.
- TWC receives a federal grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS).
  - An additional 100% SNAP grant from FNS is provided to qualifying states that commit to offering Able-Bodied Adults Without Dependents (ABAWDs) qualifying SNAP E&T activities—such as education, training, or workfare.
- HHSC is Texas' lead agency for the SNAP program. HHSC determines SNAP eligibility and provides TWC with information on clients receiving SNAP benefits and eligible for SNAP E&T services.
- For FY 2010, TWC's SNAP E&T performance target on the number of customers served is 30,894.



# Project RIO

- Project RIO (Reintegration of Offenders) is a state funded program designed to reduce recidivism through employment. The project offers education, training, and employment during incarceration and post release to offenders and adjudicated youth.
- The program is administered by TWC in collaboration with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and the Texas Youth Commission.
- Other services supporting the ex-offenders:
  - Work Opportunity Tax Credit
  - Fidelity Bond
- In FY 2009, of 72,218 offenders released from TDCJ facilities, 40% participated in Project RIO. Of which 74% secured employment.
- In FY 2009, TYC released 2,142 adjudicated youth, 38% participated in Project RIO. Of which, 71% secured employment.
- For FY 2010, the Project RIO performance target set is 48,000.