



workforce
SOLUTIONS

A proud partner of the AmericanJobCenter® network

Annual Report

2023 Annual Report



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



Dear Friends and Colleagues,
I'm excited about our journey in workforce development. We're in a constantly changing world, so it's extremely important to continue striving for excellence and seeking innovative solutions. Our mission to provide job seekers with resources and essential skills they need and businesses with the exceptional talent necessary for their success has been our driving force that empowers individuals and strengthens our community.

At Workforce Solutions, we understand the transformative power of investing in people. Each day, we witness the resilience, determination, and potential within our workforce. At the heart of our mission lies the belief that investing in people is the most powerful tool we have to combat poverty and create lasting change. By providing individuals with the resources, support, and opportunities they need to develop their skills and realize their full potential, we can break the cycle of poverty and build a more equitable society. Together, let us work tirelessly to empower individuals, families, and communities to overcome adversity and thrive.

As we look to the future, I am filled with a sense of optimism and possibility. Together, we can shape a brighter, more inclusive future for all as we work towards building a more resilient workforce for generations to come.
Respectfully,

Francisco Almaraz

Workforce Solutions
Chief Executive Officer



Board of Directors- Strategic Planning Workshop

OUR MISSION, VISION, AND CORE VALUES



Vision: To pioneer workforce solutions that drive prosperity and growth for all in the Rio Grande Valley.



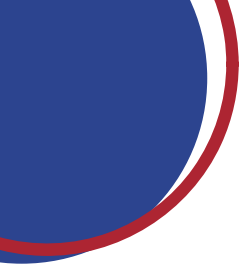
Mission: To provide the job seekers with resources and essential skills they need and businesses with the exceptional talent necessary for their success.



Purpose: Leading Change, Connecting People, Improving Potential.



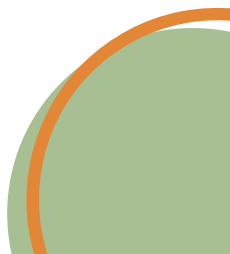
Core Values: Integrity, Ingenuity, Inclusion, and Inspirational.



FUNDING

Grant / Contract	Funds Expended
Child Care Services	\$ 75,593,526
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act	\$12,026,386
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families / Choices	\$ 3,242,960
Supplemental Assistance Nutrition Program Employment & Training	\$ 768,551
Non-Custodial Parent Choices Program	\$ 484,180
Employment Services	\$ 445,641
Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment	\$ 634,141
TWC Vocational Rehabilitation Services	\$1,500,598
Workforce Commission Initiatives	\$ 38,474
Veterans	\$13,001
Competitive Grant Awards	\$ 318,155
Other Grants/Contracts/Activity	\$ 51,036
Total	\$ 95,116,649

Source: Fiscal Year 2023 Expenditures (Unaudited); HB1 Budget FY2024



HOW WE HELP EMPLOYERS

Workforce Solutions staff work with employers to offer customized business consulting services, such as addressing human resource challenges and identifying the skills sets needed by industry to better recruit talent.

- Coordination of hiring events at employer site(s) or any of our offices
- Availability of facilities for recruiters to meet and interview job seekers
- Exploration of funding opportunities for the education & training of new and existing employees
- Referral of qualified candidates to job openings
- Research Labor Market Information
- Development of staff and recruitment plans

HOW WE HELP JOB SEEKERS

An essential role WFS plays in the community is assisting job seekers in their search for employment by utilizing a variety of resources and services available at no cost to the customer.

- Job Search Assistance
- Career Exploration
- Labor Market Information
- Work Experience*
- Occupational Skills
- Career Counseling
- Child Care Services
- Soft Skills Workshops
- On the Job Training*

* Education, training opportunities and support services are available to customers who meet program eligibility guidelines.



7,680

Job Seekers
Secured
Employment



CHILD CARE SERVICES

The Child Care Services (CCS) helps low-income families pay for the cost of child care to enable parents to work, attend a training program, or further their education with the confidence of having access to quality child care services.



Avg. Monthly
Parent Share of Cost
\$113 Hidalgo
\$96 Willacy
\$113 Starr

Avg. Monthly Subsidy
WFS Pays
\$791 Hidalgo
\$829 Willacy
\$682 Starr



Total Children in care
throughout the fiscal
year: **14,060**

13,276 Hidalgo
216 Willacy
568 Starr



Workforce Solutions spent a total of **\$63,483,768** to cover childcare costs allowing low-income working parents to earn a monthly average total of **\$13,000,000** in wages.



That's an Average Yearly Total of **\$156,000,000** which creates **246%** return of investment.

* Average of All Customers Income & Average Monthly Assessed Parent Share of Cost; timeframe 10/01/2022- 09/30/2023

Source: TWIST Web Report 245- Child Care Paid Claim (02.23.24)

HIRING EVENTS AND JOB FAIRS

WFS coordinated hiring events to meet the hiring needs of individual employers as well as job fairs to assist multiple employers in their search for potential candidates. **Approximately 29% of attending job seekers were reported to have landed new employment opportunities.**



208

Hiring events and job fairs



1,039

Employers seeking to recruit top talent



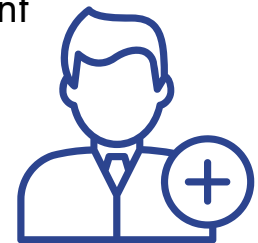
8,982

Job Seekers looking for opportunities



34,795

Job openings



***2,577**

New hires after attending hiring and job fair events

*Employer reported hires



RGV HIRES Job Fair

HELPING VETERANS REACH THEIR GOALS

WFS partnered with American Veterans (AMVETS), Texas Veterans Commission, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance Health, and Main Event to host a Veteran Resource Expo. Veterans were encouraged to learn about the many resources available and connected with employers to find new job opportunities.



ALL JOB SEEKERS INVITED!

Hiring Red, White & You! Job Fair is a statewide in-person and virtual hiring event that connects veterans, transitioning military members, and military spouses to employers across Texas.



92
Veterans
Attended



355
Job Seekers
In Attendance



94
Employers
Participated



PRESENTS
VETERAN RESOURCE EXPO

Thursday, September 7
10:00 am - 4:30 pm

Main Event Center
500 N. Jackson Rd. Ste. C
Pharr, Tx 78577

Itinerary includes:

- **Speakers**
 - Veteran Issues Panel
 - Hidalgo County Veterans Services
 - Veteran Business Outreach Center
 - Veterans Affairs
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars
 - American Legion
 - Texas Workforce Solutions
 - Texas Veterans Commission
- **Job Fair**
- **And more!**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS THE LAW
Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Development DBA Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. TTY/TDD via RELAY Texas service 1-711 or (TDD) 1-800-735-2989 / 1-800-735-2988 (voice).
Este documento contiene información importante sobre los requisitos, los derechos, las determinaciones y las responsabilidades del acceso a los servicios del sistema de la fuerza laboral. Hay disponibles servicios de idioma, interpretación y la traducción de documentos, sin ningún costo y a solicitud.



SUMMER EARN AND LEARN (SEAL)

The SEAL program is a statewide initiative in partnership with Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational Rehabilitation Services that provides employability skills training and paid work experience for students with disabilities. With an investment of \$480,000, WFS placed 152 students with 72 local employers who provided a five-week paid work experience.



About SEAL participant

Nathan Mann

Nathan Mann has been a SEAL participant for three years despite struggling with ADHD, OCD, anxiety and being legally blind. In 2019, he was assigned to Walgreens, in 2022 he was placed at Kids Heart Clinic and most recently in 2023 he was placed at Milestones Therapeutic Associates in McAllen. Mr. Mann is currently 22 years old and attending South Texas College pursuing a degree in Computer Science.



*SEAL Employer Representatives

PROJECT BOOST

Project BOOST (Building Opportunities by Offering Supplies & Tools) supported Texans entering employment (middle skill occupations) by purchasing specific items required by an employer and/or providing support services needed as a condition of employment. The program served 172 customers that were provided a total of 534 support services including transportation, housing, training, and work related expenses for a total of \$110,069.



EXTERNSHIP FOR TEACHERS

RGV Externship for Teachers program offered 20 educators from La Villa ISD, Roma ISD, Vanguard Academy, Mercedes ISD, McAllen ISD, Point Isabel ISD, and Los Fresnos CISD an opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the real world of work. A total of \$20,000 in stipends were issued to the participants.



Teacher Externship Participants Recognition Event

PROMOTING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES TO YOUTH

M.O.V.E YOUTH CONFERENCE

The Mission and Obstacles Vary in Everyone (M.O.V.E) Youth Conference was an inspiring and motivational event made possible by our strong partnership with BCFS Health and Human Services, Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, and Workforce Solutions Cameron. **24 foster youth, ages 16-24**, learned about the skills employers are looking for and the resources available to continue their education as they transition into the workforce.



JOBS Y'ALL YOUTH CAREER CONFERENCE

The conference had employers and partners host booths where students, grades 6th-12th, could obtain information on careers and educational pathways. Simultaneously, 15 breakout sessions were held where topics such as financial aid, resume writing, interview skills, and internship opportunities were covered. Approximately 600 students representing 9 districts attended the first part of the conference.



Workforce Outreach Specialist (WOS) are tasked with providing students, grades 6th –12th, with opportunities for career exploration, investigation, navigation, and empowering them with the essential career readiness skills recognized by local employers.

Provided services to **26,199** students and **5,007** adults across **23** independent school districts (ISDs).

CUSTOMERS SHARE SUCCESSES



ADDISON & BECCA BORTNICK

DELIGHTFUL SPACES ORGANIZING & DESIGN, LLC

"Addison and I are so excited about our new business and are looking forward to spreading the word. We appreciate your help so much! It was wonderful meeting the team and learning from you at the Workforce Solutions Entrepreneurship Boot Camp!"

-Becca Bortnick

When asked why they wanted to start their own business to support self-independence Addison responded: "Because we want to help others!"

DANIEL ROSALES

U.S. MARINE CORPS VETERAN

"I recently sought assistance with my job search at Workforce Solutions in Edinburg and was fortunate enough to receive aid from Gerardo "Jerry" Garza, Rural Veterans Career Advisor - Texas Veteran Commission. Jerry was relentless in providing me with job leads, reviewing my resume, and running mock interview strategies to ensure I found gainful employment. Workforce Solutions Edinburg also impressed me with their clean facility, helpful staff, and their past 'Hiring Red, White, and You' job fair that highlighted many job openings with ample positions at different levels."



RUBEN LOZANO

WIOA YOUTH PROGRAM

"The Workforce Career Counselors encouraged me to apply to the Welding program at the Southern Industrial Careers Center. They assisted with gas cards that helped me get to class every day. Thanks to their help, I graduated with distinguished achievements in the welding program, and I am now able to provide a better life for my family."



LEADERSHIP

Chief Elected Officials



Willacy County
Judge Aurelio Guerra
(Lead CEO)



Starr County
Judge Eloy Vera



Hidalgo County
Judge Richard Cortez



City of McAllen
Mayor Javier Villalobos

Board Executive



Dr. Ricardo R. Gonzalez
Board Chair



Araceli De La Garza
Vice Chair



Lorissa K. Luna
Treasurer



Dalinda L. Guillen
Secretary

Board of Directors

Hidalgo County

Dr. Ida H. Acuña-Garza
Marissa Y. Cano
Kane Dawson
Araceli De La Garza
Dr. Ricardo R. Gonzalez
Marsha Gonzalez
Katherine Karshis
Jaime Longoria
Francisco Lugo, Jr.
Lorissa K. Luna
Jose A. Ortiz
Leo D. Saenz
Dr. Judith M. Solis

Starr County

Rose Benavidez
Rosa E. Gonzalez
Dalinda L. Guillen

Willacy County

Ricardo Salinas
Patrick J. McDonnell
Criselda M. Santana

City of McAllen

E. Rubi Cantu
Lorena Castillo
Sonia A. Falcon
Maurice Welton

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Edinburg Office

2719 W. University Dr.
Edinburg, TX 78539
Tel: (956) 380-0008
Fax: (956) 316-2626

McAllen Office

2101 S. 2nd St.
McAllen, TX 78503
Tel: (956) 302-0800
Fax: (956) 627-5239

Weslaco Office

2290 W. Pike Blvd, Ste. 100
Weslaco, TX 78596
Tel: (956) 969-6100
Fax: (956) 969-6190

Starr County Office

5408 Brand St., Ste. 1
Rio Grande City, TX 78582
Tel: (956) 487-9100
Fax: (956) 487-9190

Mission Office

901 Travis St., Ste. 7
Mission, TX 78572
Tel: (956) 519-4300
Fax: (956) 519-4388

Willacy County Office

700 FM 3168, Ste. 3
Raymondville, TX 78580
Tel: (956) 689-3412
Fax: (956) 690-0285

Corporate Office

3101 W. Business 83
McAllen, TX 78501
Tel: (956) 928-5000
Fax: (956) 664-8987



WFS Website



Available Jobs



WFS Intel

 www.wfsolutions.org    [@wfsolutions](https://www.instagram.com/wfsolutions)

#WFS #WFSLRGV



@WFSolutionsRGV

Equal Opportunity Is The Law

Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Development Board DbA Workforce Solutions Is An Equal Opportunity Employer/Program And Auxiliary Aids And Services Are Available Upon Request To Individuals With Disabilities. Tty/Tdd Via Relay Texas Service At 711 Or (Tdd) 1-800-735-2989/1-800-735-2988 (Voice).

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