

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **EchoStar Communications Corp. Partners with Alvin Community College for More Than \$1 Million in Job-Training Funds from TWC**

AUSTIN — The Gulf Coast-area workforce will benefit from a \$1,189,869 Self-Sufficiency Fund grant administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). EchoStar Communications Corp. partnered with Alvin Community College for the grant, which helps individuals transition from public assistance back into the workforce.

The grant will help train 400 new employees as customer service representatives. Upon completion of training, workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$9.

“This Self-Sufficiency Fund Grant of nearly \$1.2 million will help open doors for hundreds of people who will receive jobs,” said state Sen. Mike Jackson. “I commend Alvin Community College, EchoStar and TWC for addressing the needs of employers and job seekers.”

“I am pleased that EchoStar will bring hundreds of new jobs to Alvin and District 29,” said state Rep. Glenda Dawson. “I applaud the Texas Workforce Commission and Alvin Community College for their efforts to ensure that EchoStar has an abundant supply of trained workers in Brazoria County.”

“This Self-Sufficiency Fund grant provides a great opportunity for workers and gives employers a skilled labor force,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Thanks to the Governor and the Legislature, TWC makes these grants available each year, assisting thousands of Texans to improve their quality of life.”

In Fiscal Year 2005, 14 Self-Sufficiency Fund grants created or upgraded 4,322 jobs. The jobs paid an average hourly wage of \$10.52. The grants totaled \$8.7 million and assisted 86 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature has appropriated \$6 million to the Self-Sufficiency Fund for the 2006-07 biennium.

Employers seeking more information about the Self-Sufficiency Fund may visit the TWC Web site at [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).

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*The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*

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