

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWC Launches Small Business Employee Training Program

\$2 million to support employers with fewer than 100 workers

AUSTIN – Small businesses in Texas with fewer than 100 employees may now benefit from the workforce training initiative funded through the state’s Skills Development Fund. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced today that \$2 million has been dedicated to the Skills for Small Business program. The launch of this program is in conjunction with the Governor’s Small Business Summit today in Corpus Christi.

“An investment in small businesses is an investment in the future of Texas,” said Gov. Rick Perry. “I applaud TWC for launching this program, which will sharpen employee skills and help more Texans realize their dream of growing their own successful businesses.”

Skills for Small Business will provide tuition and fees for employees who participate in an existing course offered by two-year public community or technical colleges, or the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX).

“More than 80 percent of the state’s businesses are small employers who need workers with the most current, in-demand industry skills,” said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. “We are pleased to offer a specific program that will meet the needs of these small businesses.”

Corpus Christi businessman Jerry Hunt of Dykema Architects Inc. recognizes the value of TWC’s Skills for Small Business program. “Small businesses know that skilled employees are our most valuable assets. By making these training dollars available to upgrade employee skills, Texas is showing its support for small business across the state,” said Hunt.

This new program provides up to \$1,450 for each newly hired full-time employee trained and up to \$725 for each incumbent employee. An employee can participate once during a 12-month period. Businesses apply directly to TWC for training at a local college. TWC will evaluate applications and, upon approval, fund the college for the requested training. For more information, visit the Skills for Small Business website at <http://ssb.texasworkforce.org/svcs/funds/ssb.html> or contact Workforce Business Services Project Development at (877) 463-1777.

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Skills for Small Business Launch

The Governor's Small Business Summits are designed to educate the Texas entrepreneur and small business community on workforce development, start-up essentials, marketing businesses, hiring and managing employees, and training and growth opportunities. TWC, local workforce board and college representatives will be available at the Small Business Summits to help businesses complete an application and answer questions.

For more information on the Governor's Small Business Summits, visit www.texaswideopenforbusiness.com. The Office of the Governor has partnered with TWC, local Chambers of Commerce, and business and economic development organizations across Texas to offer additional Governor's Small Business Summits in Midland, El Paso, McAllen, San Marcos and Bryan-College Station.

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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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.