



The Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities

Accessibility and Disability Policy Webinar Series

October 17, 2024

Create Your Own Business as an Entrepreneur with a Disability

presented by

Texas Workforce Commission

Texas Economic Development & Tourism

Business Enterprises of Texas

For more information: www.gov.texas.gov/disabilities • gcpd@gov.texas.gov • 512-463-5749

About GCPD

The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities (GCPD) has a mission to further opportunities for persons with disabilities to enjoy full and equal access to lives of independence, productivity, and self-determination.

GCPD recommends changes in disability policies and programs in the areas of accessibility, communication, criminal justice, education, emergency preparedness, employment, health, housing, transportation, and veterans. The committee also supports a network of committees on people with disabilities, issues awards to promote greater awareness, and promotes compliance with disability related laws.

General Information

- Chat is disabled in Zoom Webinar Mode. Please use the Q&A tool if you have questions for our presenters. Most questions will be answered near the end of the webinar.
- After the webinar, you will get an automated email from Zoom with a link to our GCPD page to access the webinar recording and other materials. The email will also include a survey where you can give your feedback.



TEXAS
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS



VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

SELF-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



State Office Contacts



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What is Self-Employment?



- Self-employment:
 - means the customer solely owns, manages, and operates the business and is not considered an employee of another individual, business, or organization;
 - exists when the service or product is actively marketed to potential customers;
 - includes home-based businesses and telecommuting businesses; and
 - includes sole-proprietorships or limited liability companies (LLCs—which must be "single-member LLCs,").



WHY CHOOSE SELF-EMPLOYMENT?

- ▶ Self-employment allows for:
 - choice and control;
 - the use of natural skills and talents;
 - expanded work opportunities;
 - accumulation of wealth; and
 - independence and creative freedom.

Simple Self-Employment

- for an independent contractor or subcontractor.

Comprehensive Self-Employment

- any self-employment in which the customer is not an independent contractor or subcontractor and covers customers who would not meet the criteria for Supported Employment.

Types of self-employment available to TWC-VR customers

Supported Self-Employment

- for customers who meet the definition of Most Significant Disability and qualify for Supported Employment (wage) services.

WHAT CAN TWC- VR PURCHASE UNDER GOODS AND SERVICES?

- ▶ Advertising
- ▶ Business Plan Evaluation
- ▶ Business Planning Assistance
- ▶ Initial Inventory and Supplies
- ▶ Business specific Legal Fees
- ▶ Maintenance
- ▶ Rent or Lease Payments
- ▶ Tools and Equipment
- ▶ Utilities



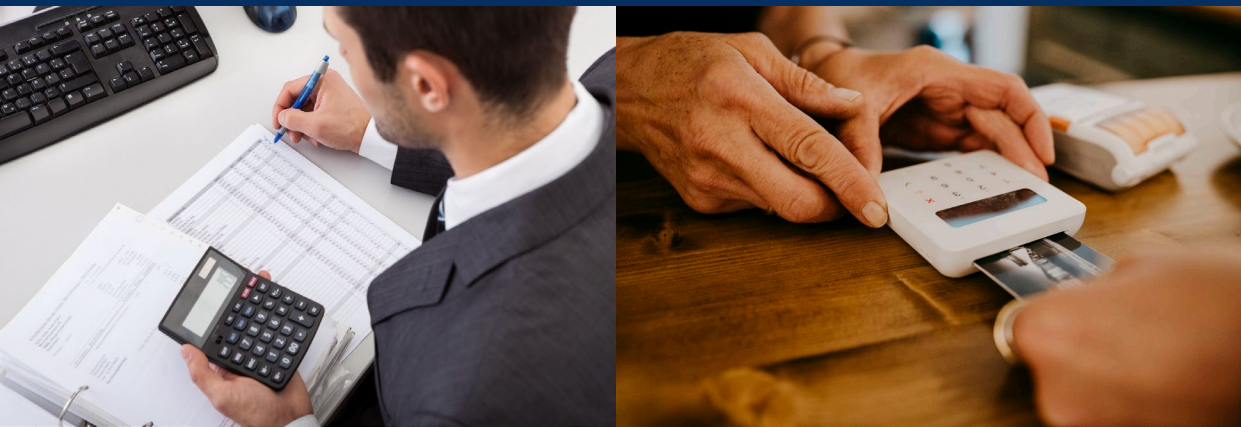
SELF-EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROVIDED

Certified Business Technical Assistance Consultants (CBTAC) are certified by Griffin Hammis to assist our TWC-VR customers with their self-employment cases.

- ▶ CBTACs undergo an intensive and comprehensive twelve-week online training course that covers all critical aspects of business research and design, including:
 - Business Concept Development & Market Research;
 - Marketing, Sales, & Operations;
 - Business Financials, Funding, & Financing;
 - Social Security Benefits Analysis;
 - Business Plan Development; and
 - Public Benefits Analysis

WHAT CANNOT BE PURCHASED BY TWC-VR?

- ▶ Buildings
- ▶ Bonding Fees
- ▶ Criminal or civil fines including traffic tickets
- ▶ Dues to professional associations
- ▶ Fees or rights for use of franchise names
- ▶ Firearms
- ▶ Insurance
- ▶ Real Estate
- ▶ Vehicles, boats, aircraft, or trailers



Important to note...

- Every TWC-VR case is individualized.
- No two disabilities are the same, so
No two cases are the same.
- Services are based on the customer's individual disability needs and support.



TWC-VR Supports

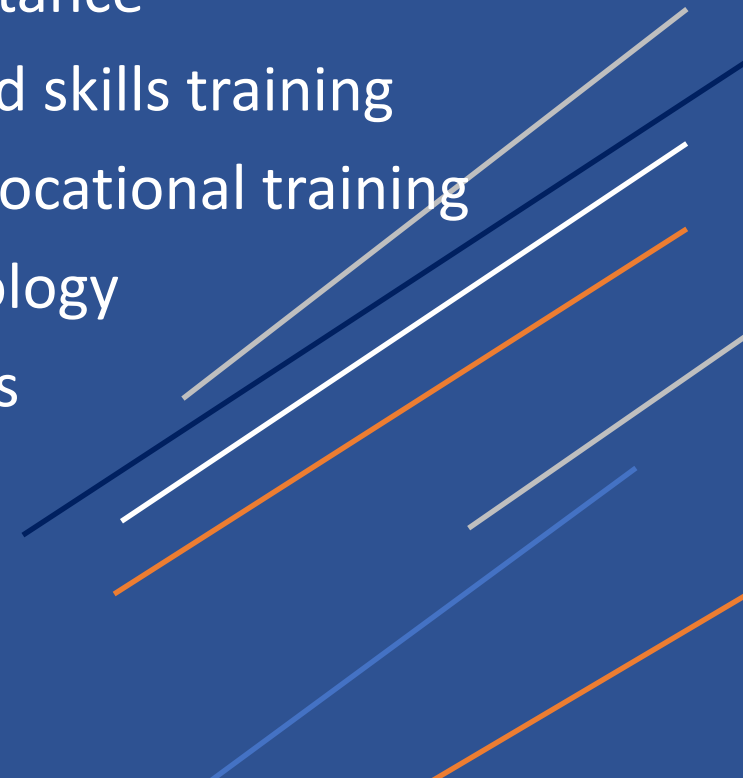


Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Employers

- Disability awareness education and training
- Worksite analysis
- Hiring and retention assistance
- Accommodation assessments
- Referral of qualified applicants

Job Seekers

- Career counseling and guidance
 - Job search assistance
 - Disability related skills training
 - Academic and vocational training
 - Assistive technology
 - Support services
- 



¿Habla español?
 Ver esta página en español.

VR Office Locator

Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWS-VRS) is a partner within the Texas Workforce System to support job seekers with disabilities as they prepare for, obtain, maintain, or advance in competitive integrated employment.

Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) services are available to eligible individuals with disabilities across Texas and VR staff are co-located within many Workforce Solutions Offices.

The Texas Workforce System is intended to support everyone who wants to work, with supports and services to help them get a job or keep a job or advance in a career. This includes identification and referral of workforce customers who may be eligible for VR Services.

To locate the Texas Workforce Solutions - Vocational Rehabilitation Services office nearest you that provides services for people with **Visual, Physical, or Auditory Disabilities** search by ZIP Code, County, Workforce Board Area, Program, and/or Specialized Service.

For **Unemployment Insurance (UI)** assistance, please call the tele-center at 1-800-939-6631. You can also request a UI contact through Larry the Virtual Assistant by clicking on the Chat with Us box at the bottom of the TWC home page. Type "contact me" in the question field and fill out the contact information. UI staff are researching those requests and performing outbound contacts.

For assistance in locating a VR office for vocational rehabilitation services, please email vr.office.locator@twc.texas.gov or call (512) 936-6400 to be connected to VR staff.

For best results, please enter only the zip code or a county or the Workforce Board Area.

To help find the most appropriate office for the services you need, as the program, please select:

- **VR** if you have a physical, or mental impairment, or if you have blindness or a visual impairment, deafness, or a hearing impairment, or a brain injury that affects your ability to find, keep, or advance in meaningful employment.
- **OIB** if you are 55 or older and have a significant visual impairment that substantially limits your ability to function independently in the home, family, and/or community and you are not interested in employment.

Program	<input type="text" value="Select From List"/>
Zip Code	<input type="text"/>
County	<input type="text" value="Select From List"/>
Workforce Board Area	<input type="text" value="Select From List"/>
Specialized Service	<input type="text" value="Select From List"/>
	<input type="button" value="Search"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/>

Contact Us Today



(512) 936-6400

vr.office.locator@twc.texas.gov

<https://webp.twc.state.tx.us/services/VRLookup/> -
<https://www.twc.texas.gov/programs/vocational-rehabilitation> -



Serving Up Success: The Tommy Crawford Story

Business Enterprises of Texas Program

TEXAS
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

A proud partner of the **AmericanJobCenter** network

Business Enterprises of Texas Program

Tommy Crawford



Serving up Success: The Tommy Crawford Story

For over 35 years, Tommy Crawford has defied limitations and proven that opportunity arises from determination, not sight. Blinded as a young man, Tommy refused to let this challenge define his future. He joined the Business Enterprises of Texas (BET) program in 1987, a program established by the Randolph-Sheppard Act to empower blind individuals through entrepreneurship.

Tommy started his career at BET with humble beginnings, overseeing cafeterias and vending routes. However, his ambition and dedication were evident from the start. He rapidly climbed the ranks, taking on greater responsibilities and eventually managing six food service facilities with proficiency.

This relentless pursuit of excellence culminated in a remarkable achievement: securing a million-dollar military dining contract at Fort Bliss Army Base. Tommy now proudly serves thousands of military personnel daily across six challenging cafeterias. His dedication to providing nutritious and delicious meals in a welcoming environment resonates with the soldiers he serves.

"The BET program gave me the chance to build a future I could be proud of," says Tommy. "It wasn't always easy, but the satisfaction of providing quality service and creating jobs for others makes it all worthwhile. I am honored to serve the troops especially since I was unable to serve due to my disability."

Tommy Crawford's story is an inspiration, not just for the blind community, but for anyone who has ever dared to dream big. Through the Business Enterprises of Texas program, he transformed his aspirations into reality, demonstrating the power of opportunity and boundless potential that resides within us all.



Fort Bliss Military Base Dining

Conclusion

Tommy's story serves as an inspiration, it reminds us that with hard work, dedication, and the right support, great challenges can become steppingstones to extraordinary accomplishments. He embodies the spirit of the Business Enterprises of Texas Program, demonstrating the boundless potential that resides within us all when given the opportunity to thrive. Let's continue to champion initiatives that empower individuals to overcome obstacles and achieve their dreams.



Thank you



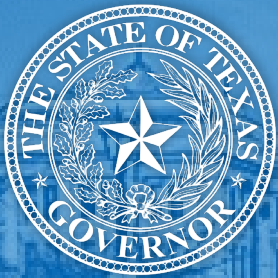


OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

TEXAS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

Entrepreneurs with Disabilities

October 17, 2024



ABOUT US: EDT

EDT: Our Mission

"To positively impact the economic prosperity of Texas"



- Market and promote Texas as a premier business location & tourist destination
- Facilitate new jobs and investment through the location, expansion and retention of national & international investment
- Administer state incentive programs for business and community development
- Provide businesses assistance exporting products & services to international markets
- Serve as a central source of economic research
- Establish strategies to address economic growth in targeted industries





EDT DIVISIONS

Office of the Governor

Texas Economic Development & Tourism

The Texas Economic Development & Tourism Office (EDT) promotes the state of Texas as a leading global business location and premier travel destination.



**Business &
Community
Development**

**Economic
Development
Finance**

**Texas
CHIPS
Office**

**Texas
Workforce
Investment
Council**

**Texas
Music
Office**

**Travel
Texas**

**Texas Film
Commission**



Business & Community Development (BCD)

BCD focuses on the creation of new jobs and investment through domestic and international business recruitment, expansion and retention; increasing Texas exports; and small business development and entrepreneurship.

- Small Business & Permit Assistance
- Business Recruitment
- Business Retention & Expansion
- Regional Offices
- Economic Research
- International Trade
- Marketing & Promotion

Office Of Small Business Assistance

The Office of Small Business Assistance serves as the principal resource for small businesses and entrepreneurs in Texas. The team provides opportunities for effective education, training, management and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and small businesses in the state. The office is a comprehensive clearinghouse of resources to help entrepreneurs and small business owners start, grow and sustain their businesses.

- Licensing & Permitting assistance
- Small Business Handbook & Videos
- Small Business Resource Portal
- General business assistance
- Governor's Small Business Summit



gov.texas.gov/business

512.936.0100

     @TexasEconDev

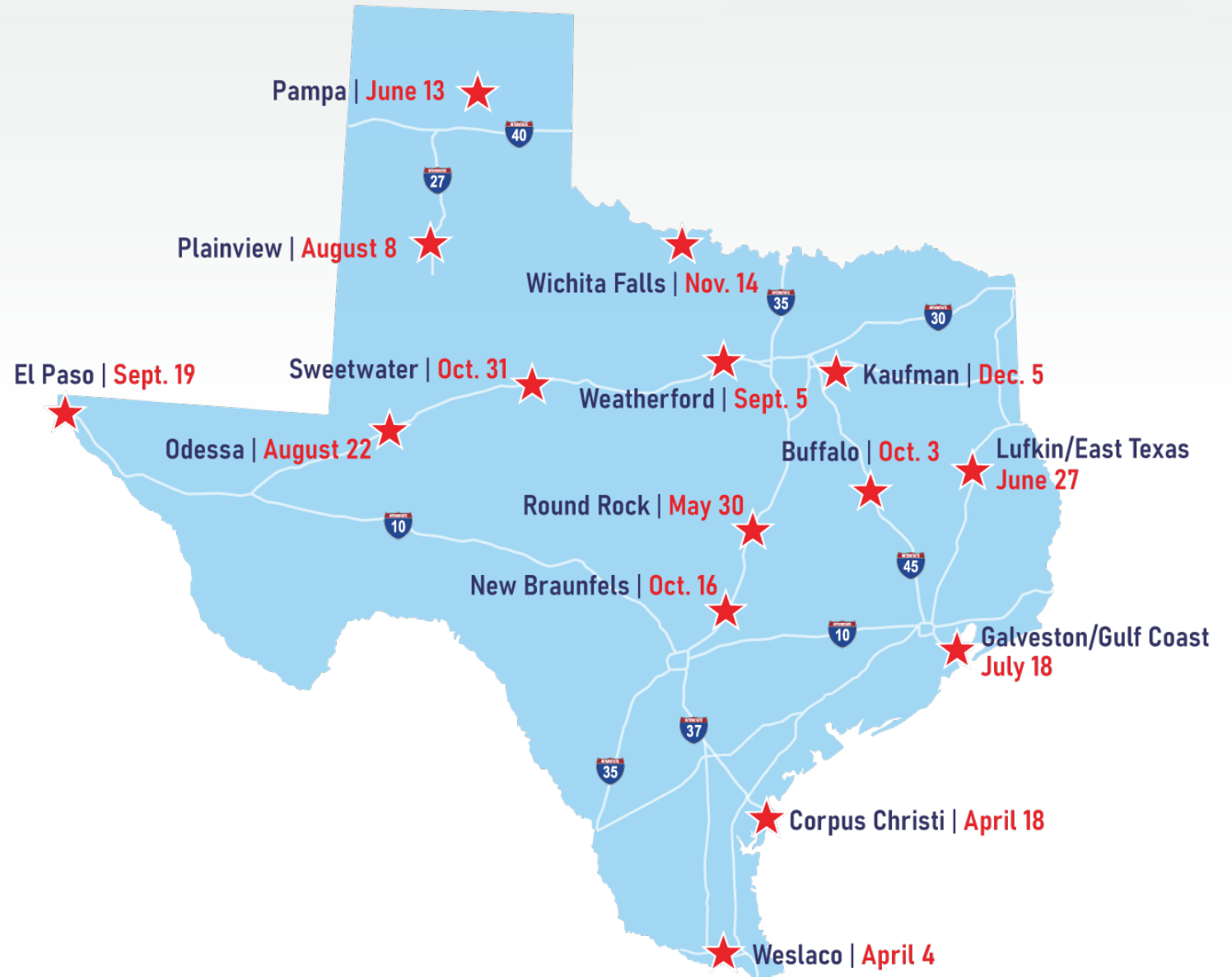


NEW BRAUNFELS | 2024 GOVERNOR'S

SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT



2024 GOVERNOR'S SMALL BUSINESS SUMMIT DATES & LOCATIONS



gov.texas.gov/smallbusiness

[f](#) [@](#) [v](#) [t](#) [@](#) TexasEconDev



THE GOVERNOR'S
Small Business
RESOURCE PORTAL



This important tool offers a customized list of useful business resources to assist you in starting or growing your business in Texas.

Launched **March 17, 2021**

Types of information included in the portal:

- Federal, State and Local Resources
- Business Advice and Growth Assistance
- Funding Sources
- Additional Specific Resources
- Contact information for the Small Business Assistance Team
- Licensing and Permitting (Added April 26, 2022)

***40,174 users as of October 16, 2024**



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Advisory Task Force

The **Small Business Assistance Advisory Task Force** was created by the 78th Legislature in 2003 to advise and assist the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Speaker of the House on issues relating to small business; as well as to assist and advise the Office of Small Business Assistance in their duties including serving as the principal focal point in the state for small and historically underutilized businesses.

[Sec. 481.00681 of the Texas Government Code](#)

Not later than January 1 of each odd-numbered year, the task force shall submit to the legislature a report that:

- (1) describes issues related to small businesses; and
- (2) proposes legislation to assist small businesses.



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Texas Small Business Credit Initiative (TSBCI)

TSBCI is administered through financial institutions with a...

Capital Access Program (CAP) Allocated \$118 million; CAP will provide portfolio insurance for business loans.

Loan Guarantee Program (LGP) Allocated 354.1 million; LGP will provide loan guarantees.

Together, the CAP and LGP will constitute the TSBCI program. In addition to creating new jobs through increased access to small business funding, TSBCI is designed to assist small businesses that are traditionally marginalized and those that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

TSBCI is administered by Economic Development Finance division on behalf of the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Dan Poane, Program Manager

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tsbci@gov.texas.gov





SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE TEAM



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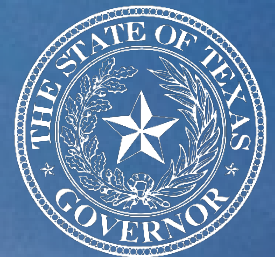
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Thank you!

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Texas Economic Development & Tourism
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Q&A

