Mandate to the Texas Workforce Investment Council

The Texas Workforce Investment Council (Council) promotes the development of a well-educated, highly skilled workforce for Texas, and advocates for an integrated workforce system to provide quality, relevant services to address the needs of Texas business and workers.

Created under both state and federal law, the Council assists the Governor and the Legislature with strategic planning for and evaluation of the Texas workforce system. The Council also serves as the State Workforce Investment Board under the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Texas Government Code, Chapter 2308, requires the Council to monitor the operation of the state’s workforce system to assess the degree to which the system is effective in achieving state and local goals and objectives.

In addition, state statute requires the Council to provide annual reports to the Governor and the Legislature, including an annual report on programs that focus on welfare to work initiatives.

The state’s workforce system is comprised of a number of programs, services and initiatives administered by eight state agencies and local workforce development boards, as well as independent school districts, community and technical colleges and local adult education providers.

System partners are responsible for the delivery of over twenty workforce education and training programs and related services, as well as education programs that support career preparation and advancement.


The Texas Workforce Investment Council (Council) is pleased to present this tenth annual report, Welfare to Work Initiatives in Texas: Report 2009, as mandated by Texas Government Code 2308.101(14). This report was approved at the Council’s December 2, 2009 meeting.

This report provides an overview and update on the programs and initiatives that serve adult recipients of cash assistance, known as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Information on each program includes purpose, population served, types of services, and numbers served for programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Education Agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and Health and Human Services Commission. Performance trend data are shown, including data for the most recent available 12-month period.

Welfare to Work Initiatives in Texas: Report 2009 has two sections. The first, Programs that Directly Serve TANF and State Program Recipients, features programs specifically designed for recipients of TANF. The second, Other Programs Available to TANF and State Program Recipients, features programs that serve TANF and State Program (SP) recipients, but serve others as well. Programs featured in the report include:

• The Choices employment and training program provides work readiness, job search, training, and support services for adults receiving cash assistance.
• The Self-Sufficiency Fund provides customized training for adult recipients of TANF as well as other individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance.
• The Adult Basic Education Program provides basic education, GED preparation, and English as a second language instruction to adults with low levels of literacy.

Since the inception of welfare reform in the mid-1990s, partner agencies in the Texas workforce system have worked diligently to assist thousands of individuals to successfully transition from public assistance to employment. Texas has also integrated many aspects of its workforce system, positioning the State for continued success as system partners serve Texans who are adversely affected by the current economic conditions.
1. **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and the State Program**

   **Programs That Directly Serve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients**

   **Chooses, Texas** employment and training program for adults receiving cash assistance, has continued to successfully assist TANF and SP adults to enter employment. Through its “Play for Performance/Work First” model, the program serves adults by preparing, training, and placing them in work. The Chooses program is administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and by local workforce development boards through contractors that operate workforce centers across the state. As indicated below, in FY 2009, Chooses served 31,042 adults, resulting in an entered employment rate of 84.7%. The entered employment rate shows steady improvement from 72.9% in FY 2005 to 75.1% in FY 2009.

   - **Federal Administrative Agency:** Texas Workforce Commission
   - **Purpose of Program:** Provides customized training
   - **Target Population:** Adult TANF and SP recipients, and individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance
   - **Participant Eligibility:** Eligible for above named programs
   - **Types of Services:** Customized training with grants awarded to public community and technical colleges, TEEX, and community-based organizations

   **Self-Sufficiency Fund**

   - **Purpose:** Provides financial assistance to adult TANF and SP participants resulting in increased employment and earnings.
   - **Target Population:** Adult TANF and SP participants
   - **Participant Eligibility:** Adult TANF and SP participants
   - **Types of Services:** Cash allowances

   **Adult Education**

   - **Purpose:** To provide education and training to adults who are at-risk of becoming dependent on public assistance.
   - **Target Population:** Adult TANF recipients, and individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance.
   - **Participant Eligibility:** Adult TANF recipients, and individuals at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance
   - **Types of Services:** Adult education, English as a second language, GED preparation, workforce readiness, and similar services

   **Application Assistance Program**

   - **Purpose:** To assist TANF and SP individuals in the application process for SSI and RSDI
   - **Target Population:** Adult TANF and SP recipients
   - **Participant Eligibility:** Application assistance, assistance with paperwork and gathering documents to aid in the application process

2. **Other Programs Available to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients**

   **Programs That Directly Serve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients**

   **Other Programs Available to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients**

   - **Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Title I-B**
     - **Purpose:** Employment and training for adults
     - **Target Population:** Adults seeking employment, employment information, training, and related services
     - **Participant Eligibility:** None for core services
     - **Types of Services:** Core services include skill assessment, labor market information, reports on training programs, job search assistance, and training

   **Federal Administrative Agency:** Texas Workforce Commission
   **State Administrative Agency:** Texas Workforce Commission
   **Purpose:** Employment and training for adults
   **Target Population:** Adults seeking employment, employment information, training, and related services
   **Participant Eligibility:** None for core services
   **Types of Services:** Core services include skill assessment, labor market information, reports on training programs, job search assistance, and training

3. **Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Title I-C**

   - **Purpose:** Employment and training for adults
   - **Target Population:** Adults seeking employment, employment information, training, and related services
   - **Participant Eligibility:** None for core services
   - **Types of Services:** Core services include skill assessment, labor market information, reports on training programs, job search assistance, and training

   **Federal Administrative Agency:** Texas Workforce Commission
   **State Administrative Agency:** Texas Workforce Commission
   **Purpose:** Employment and training for adults
   **Target Population:** Adults seeking employment, employment information, training, and related services
   **Participant Eligibility:** None for core services
   **Types of Services:** Core services include skill assessment, labor market information, reports on training programs, job search assistance, and training

4. **Application Assistance Program**

   - **Purpose:** To assist TANF and SP individuals in the application process for SSI and RSDI
   - **Target Population:** Adult TANF and SP recipients
   - **Participant Eligibility:** Application assistance, assistance with paperwork and gathering documents to aid in the application process

   **Federal Administrative Agency:** None
   **State Administrative Agency:** Health and Human Services Commission
   **Purpose:** To assist TANF and SP individuals in the application process for SSI and RSDI
   **Target Population:** Adult TANF and SP recipients
   **Participant Eligibility:** Application assistance, assistance with paperwork and gathering documents to aid in the application process

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**FY 2009 Program Results:**
- Number of TANF and SP Adults Served: 31,042
- Employed Rate: 84.7%

**Other FY 2009 Program Results:**
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**Total TANF & SP Applications Processed & Approved:**
- FY 2004: 344,137
- FY 2005: 31,042
- FY 2006: 31,042
- FY 2007: 31,042
- FY 2008: 31,042
- FY 2009: 31,042

**Programs That Directly Serve Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients**

**Other Programs Available to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families and State Program Recipients**

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**Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Title I-B**

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**Application Assistance Program**

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