

Texas Workforce Press Release

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TWC Announces \$2 Million Grant Opportunity for Governor's Cluster Initiative

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in conjunction with the Office of the Governor, today announced a \$2 million grant opportunity for the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* grant initiative, supporting the Governor's Industry Clusters. The proposals should outline the development of effective, employer-driven education and training opportunities to meet the needs of a targeted industry cluster. The proposal deadline is May 10, 2007 at 4 p.m. CDT.

Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs grant proposals should develop career opportunities for individuals at various skill levels, including upgrading the skills of incumbent and dislocated workers, youth entering the workforce for the first time, and workers interested in pursuing careers in the industry cluster occupations.

The six primary industries that form the Cluster Initiative are:

- Advanced Technologies and Manufacturing
- Aerospace and Defense
- Biotechnology and Life Science
- Information and Computer Technology
- Petroleum Refining and Chemical Products
- Energy

These grants are an example of Texas leveraging federal Workforce Investment Act funds to further develop a world-class workforce. Workforce development is a key component of Gov. Rick Perry's economic development strategy for Texas. TWC supports aligning regional workforce with economic development and education to meet industry needs and create opportunities for Texans.

To further this goal, Gov. Perry, through TWC, invites interested parties across Texas to submit proposals for the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* grants. Responders to this Request for Proposal (RFP) may address any single cluster, or two or more clusters that address crosscutting issues such as education, workforce development, business climate, commercialization and collaboration.

For more information on the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* RFP or to view the proposal, visit the Texas Building and Procurement Commission Electronic State Business Daily Web site at http://esbd.tbpc.state.tx.us/bid_show.cfm?bidid=69982.

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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 programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.