

Texas Workforce Press Release

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TWC Announces \$3 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 \$3 million grant opportunity for the Biotechnology and Life Science Cluster as part of the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* initiative. Workforce development is a key component of Gov. Rick Perry's economic development strategy for Texas.

Six industry cluster teams performed statewide assessments that yielded specific recommendations for business growth, including the development of a skilled workforce pipeline to meet technology-based industry demand. To answer this need, the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* grants seek to develop market-driven education and training opportunities that will provide a skilled workforce pipeline to meet the short or long term needs of the target industries. The grants also will promote the development of individuals at various skill levels by providing the training they need to upgrade their skills and pursue careers in the industry cluster occupations.

The six primary industry clusters 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

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.

TWC will seek proposals for projects over the next four years with the first industry cluster proposals being solicited for the Biotechnology and Life Science Cluster. Total funding available for this grant is approximately \$3 million dollars. TWC will fund as many high-quality proposals as possible with the funds available. The proposed contract period for the one-time grants awarded under this Request For Proposal (RFP) will be for a two-year period commencing on the contract start date. These grants are an example of Texas leveraging federal Workforce Investment Act funds to further develop a world-class workforce.

For more information on the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* RFP, please visit the Texas Building and Procurement Commission Electronic State Business Daily website at:
<http://www.tbpc.state.tx.us>.

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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.

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