

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: April 28, 2016

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\$10 Million Available to Support Career Training Through Jobs and Education for Texans Grant Program

AUSTIN - The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced today the availability of \$10 million in job-training funding from the Texas Legislature for the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) grant program during the 2016-17 biennium. This funding is for the purchase of equipment needed for use in career and technical programs that prepare students for high-demand jobs in Texas. Public community and technical colleges, and independent school districts are eligible to apply for the grants.

“As our students transition into the workforce, it is crucial that they have the appropriate education and skills they need for success in the workplace,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. “The JET program will give our students access to equipment that will better prepare them for high-demand careers.”

Qualifying educational institutions are awarded a grant for the development of programs or courses leading to a license, certificate or post-secondary degree. Priority is given to projects that target high-demand jobs in new or emerging industries.

“By providing JET funding to our schools, we are able to train our future workforce to meet employer demand for skilled labor,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. “These grants keep our Texas businesses competitive and our economy growing.”

The JET program provides funding for equipment through a competitive grant process to eligible educational institutions for the purpose of developing career and technical education courses, and may include courses offering dual-credit. The equipment must be used to train students for jobs in high-demand occupations.

“The JET grant program gives our educators the ability to expand or create pathways that support local in-demand jobs,” said Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. “These investments help meet existing and emerging needs in our communities, while creating opportunities for our students.”

Eligible educational institutions can apply for JET funding through a competitive grant process. TWC will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) solicitation that will provide information and instruction on how to submit a proposal packet. A link will be provided on the TWC [JET Grant Program webpage](#), which can be used to access the RFP Solicitation once it becomes available.

A [JET Advisory Board](#) has been established to assist TWC in administering these grants. The newly appointed Advisory Board held its first meeting on April 27 in Austin. The six-member board will meet at least once each quarter, or as needed, to review applications and make recommendations on grant awards.

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The Advisory Board consists of education and workforce stakeholders with one appointment from Texas offices of the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House of Representatives, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and TWC. Additionally, the Chair of TWC will hold a statutory appointment and serve as the presiding officer. Appointees to the Advisory Board are as follows:

Two-year terms expiring June 19, 2017

- Tony Fidelie, appointed by Governor Greg Abbott
- Mario Lozoya, appointed by Lt. Governor Dan Patrick
- Steve Lecholop, appointed by Speaker of the House Joe Straus
- Dr. David Gardner, appointed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
- John Fitzpatrick, appointed by TWC

Statutory appointment

- Andres Alcantar, TWC Chairman and Commissioner Representing the Public

Advisory board meeting notices will be listed with the Texas Register. For more information on the JET Program, visit texasworkforce.org/jet or email jetgrants@twc.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 services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org. To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our [email updates](#).