



Texas Workforce Commission

Services for the Uvalde Community

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande are available to support the Uvalde community. Details regarding specific services are listed below. However, those who need more information may also contact TWC at (800) 628-5115 or the local Workforce Solutions office at (830) 591-0141.

Child Care

Finding and keeping quality child care can be difficult for many families. For families affected by the tragedy at Robb Elementary, TWC will:

- Extend child care financial assistance eligibility recertification periods for affected families
- Allow child care to continue for six months for parents who are not working or in education/training
- Allow for exceptions to attendance rules so families remain eligible
- Continue reimbursements to child care centers that may need to close temporarily

The agency created a new Uvalde Emergency Care program through Summer 2022. Under the program, TWC will provide child care regardless of income or employment status. Families will self-attest to their eligibility based on the following criteria:

- Families with children enrolled in Robb Elementary School
- Family members who worked at Robb Elementary School
- First responders to Robb Elementary School
- Other families impacted by the event, as determined by local Workforce Solutions staff

To seek child care assistance and learn more about these services, contact Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande at www.wfsmrg.org/ or call (830) 591-0141.

For more information on child care services and funding, visit the TWC Child Care website at <https://twc.texas.gov/programs/childcare>.

Workforce Benefits and Services

Residents of Uvalde County who are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients will not be required to meet certain mandatory requirements of the CHOICES and SNAP E&T programs to ensure the continuation of benefits. Families who receive a letter of engagement for one of the programs or are already enrolled in a program through Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande may contact the local office to discuss options for participation.

In addition to prioritizing services to military veterans and foster youth, TWC will prioritize the area residents who lost their jobs because of the tragedy. When seeking support from Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande, affected families will receive priority over other customers to ensure expedited assistance with job search and enrollment into applicable workforce programs.

In coordination with the Texas Education Agency and the community, Workforce Education Outreach Specialists can develop events for area youth this summer to bring them into the community. Activities will focus on career exploration, with interactive experiences to help students talk about future opportunities.

Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande can provide summer employment opportunities for eligible area youth, offering paid short-term, paid employment that helps youth gain work experience with local employers. Private employers interested in partnering with Workforce Solutions to hire area youth for summer positions should contact a local office for details.

Staff in local Workforce Solutions offices are available to answer questions about these and other services at:

Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande
216 W. Main Street
Uvalde, Texas 78801
(830) 278-4491



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Unemployment Insurance

Individuals who lost their job can apply for unemployment benefits online at TWC's Unemployment Benefits Services web page, 24 hours a day, or call (800) 939-6631 from 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM Central, Monday through Friday. TWC UI Tele-Centers prioritize calls from Uvalde, allowing prompt access to unemployment services.

For the families impacted by the events in Uvalde, TWC will also:

- Prioritize and expedite unemployment appeal hearings
- Prioritize and expedite unemployment claims processing
- Extend unemployment deadlines, if needed
- Reschedule unemployment appeal hearings, if needed
- Temporarily suspend work search requirements for individuals in the Middle Rio Grande Workforce Development Area receiving Unemployment Insurance benefits

For Uvalde employers, TWC will:

- Suspend UI tax audits
- Suspend tax collection efforts
- Extend deadlines regarding unemployment claims, if needed
- Prioritize and expedite unemployment appeal hearings
- Reschedule unemployment appeal hearings, if needed

Affected employers who need assistance with their tax account may contact the regional tax office at (210) 256-3000 or taxcentraltexas@twc.texas.gov.

Vocational Rehabilitation

Individuals who have a physical or mental condition or disability that affects their ability to get, keep, or advance in their job may be eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Services.

TWC provides the services locally by VR counselors knowledgeable about many different disabilities. The counselors can help address barriers to employment, including but not limited to mental and physical restoration services (including mental health services), job placement, and education and training.

VR Services are also available for students with disabilities, age 14 to 22, to assist them with obtaining pre-employment skills and preparing for a successful transition to life after high school. TWC encourages families with youth ages 14 to 22 to contact their local VR office if their student with a disability would benefit from an assessment of their disability, particularly as it may contribute to how the school's tragedy affects them.

TWC VR staff, in coordination with Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande in Uvalde, is developing positive and engaging group skills training programs. The programs will be available in the summer and early fall to assist students with disabilities in preparing for the upcoming school year. If your student would benefit from participating in confidence building, vocational exploration, and other services, please contact the Uvalde Workforce Solutions Office at (830) 591-2805 and ask for the VR representative.

Uvalde families, first responders, and school personnel may begin to experience depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, or other mental health challenges in the coming weeks and months. If an individual begins to experience one of these conditions and has difficulty obtaining or maintaining employment, they are encouraged to contact TWC VR to apply for services.

The local VR office in Uvalde is located in the Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande office at:
216 West Main Street
Uvalde, Texas 78801
(830) 591-2805

Get started by submitting an online referral in Start My VR, available on the TWC website at: www.twc.texas.gov.

Contact our statewide Rapid Engagement Team:
(512) 936-6400
vr.office.locator@twc.texas.gov

Find VR offices in communities around the state: www.twc.texas.gov/VRNearMe.