

# Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center



**Confidence**



**Independence**



**Competence**

**Texas Workforce Solutions -  
Vocational Rehabilitation Services**



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*Texas Workforce Solutions  
comprises the Texas Workforce  
Commission, 28 local workforce  
development boards and our  
service-providing partners.*

*Together we provide workforce  
education, training and support  
services, including vocational  
rehabilitation assistance for the  
people of Texas.*

The Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center (Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center) was named in honor of Judge Criss Cole, who lost his sight while serving as a Marine during World War II. As a member of the Texas House of Representatives from 1955 to 1962 and the Texas Senate from 1963 to 1970, he was instrumental in improving services for all people with disabilities.

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center is a state-of-the-art adult residential training facility located in the heart of Austin, the capital city of Texas. It is the largest vocational training facility in the United States.



## PHILOSOPHY

Persons who are blind/deafblind have the right to actively participate in employment, community, and society.

Staff at Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center are committed to providing services

in a manner that promotes integration of alternative skills into everyday life. We actively support and encourage customers as they strive to achieve competence and confidence in reaching their personal and vocational goals.

## **TRAINING**

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center provides training in skill areas including Orientation & Mobility, Daily Living Skills, Braille, Technology, Career Guidance, Industrial Arts, and Adjustment to Blindness.

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center offers three distinct training paths for the customer to choose from Proficiency Training, Career Focus Training, and the Deafblind Training Program.

## **Proficiency Training Program (PTP):**

- Offers individualized classes and seminars which develop skills and increase confidence
- Provides targeted customized training that supports student's employment goals



# Career Focus Training (CFT)

- Explore and refine career goals
- Develop employment lifestyle habits
- Practice employment skills, such as promoting oneself, filling out applications and interviewing

## Five Customizable Tracks in CFT:

1. Competitive employment
2. Self-employment



3. Supported employment
4. College preparation
5. Business Enterprises of Texas



## **Deafblind Training Department:**

- Offers individualized classes for customers who have both vision and hearing loss
- Provides customized support/training for the customer to

access communication both at Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center and in the community

- Conducts assessments to determine recommendations for training programs

## **Deafblind Department Objectives:**

The goal of the Deafblind Department is to provide individualized support, accommodations, and

Hard-of-Hearing Blind Criss Cole  
Rehabilitation Center students in  
classes and employment-readiness  
training. Students receive specifics  
on:

- Basic American Sign  
Language classes (ASL 1, 2)
- Communication strategies for  
hearing loss
- Hearing assistive technology
- Adjustment to deafblindness/  
hearing loss
- Deafblind resources

# OUTREACH:

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center also provides 3-5 day mini trainings to groups of customers in their local communities.

## Program Guidelines:

To participate in Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center programs and services, customers must:

- 1) be legally blind or meet the definition of deafblind,
- 2) be referred by a vocational rehabilitation counselor,
- 3) be

independent with administering medications and self-care and  
4) have a permanent residence in Texas. For more information about Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center call 512-377-0300 or email [ccrc.admissions@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:ccrc.admissions@twc.state.tx.us)

## Location:

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center is located at 4800 N. Lamar Blvd. Austin, TX 78756. To reach the center:

- By Bus:

Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center is served by several Capitol Metro bus routes that stop at or nearby the center.



You can view routes and schedules at: [www.capmetro.org](http://www.capmetro.org) or by calling the Go Line at 512-474-1200.

- By Car:

Going north on Lamar

Boulevard, pass 45th Street.

Turn left into the circular drive (marked 4800 North Lamar), and proceed to the parking

garage. You may park in any unreserved spot in the parking garage, or along Sunshine Drive (directly west of the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center building), or in the visitor spaces of the Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center parking lot.

# **Your Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services Office**

To locate your Texas  
Workforce Solutions-Vocational  
Rehabilitation Services office,  
visit: [www.twc.texas.gov/  
find-locations](http://www.twc.texas.gov/find-locations)



**TEXAS WORKFORCE  
SOLUTIONS-VOCATIONAL  
REHABILITATION SERVICES**

101 East 15th Street  
Austin, Texas 78778-0001  
800-628-5115

# **Equal Opportunity Employer/Program**

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Texas Workforce Commission accepts calls made through any relay service provider.

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For purposes of the Vocational Rehabilitation program, the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation grant pays 78.7 percent of the total costs of the program. In Federal fiscal year

2020, the Vocational Rehabilitation agency anticipates receiving \$287,666,847 in Federal Vocational Rehabilitation funds. Funds appropriated by the State pay 21.3 percent of the total costs (\$77,856,466) under the Vocational Rehabilitation program.

For purposes of the Supported Employment program, Federal funds paid 90 percent of the total costs. In Federal

fiscal year 2020, the Vocational Rehabilitation agency received \$1,446,266 in Federal Supported Employment funds. State appropriated funds paid 10 percent (\$80,348) of the total costs under the Supported Employment program.

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