



## **2025 Workforce Forum Draft Agenda**

Welcome to the draft agenda for the upcoming Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) 2025 Workforce Forum, to be held on May 12 and 13, 2025, in Austin, Texas. This preliminary schedule offers a glimpse into the engaging and informative sessions we've planned, designed to foster collaboration and share best practices.

Please note that this is a working document and subject to change. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Monday May 12, 2025 – Welcome, Keynote Speaker, and Forum Super Session**

#### **Forum Super Session**

##### **Strengthening Workforce Integration Under Wagner-Peyser Final Rule: Strategies for Staffing, Service Delivery, and Partnerships**

The Wagner-Peyser Final Rule (WPFR) introduces significant shifts in Texas' workforce service delivery model, presenting both challenges and opportunities for TWC and its partners. This panel will examine the following strategic approaches to strengthening an integrated workforce system while ensuring compliance, operational efficiency, and stakeholder collaboration:

- **Aligning Staffing and Service Delivery:** Ensuring the state merit staffing model effectively integrates with workforce center operations to drive compliance and efficiency
- **Enhancing Migrant and Seasonal Farm Worker Services:** The State Monitor Advocate (SMA) will address outreach strategies, support services, and the complaint system to ensure equitable service delivery for Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers (MSFWs).
- **Policy and Compliance Strategy:** Workforce policy and Employment Service (ES) operation leaders will discuss maintaining program integrity and consistency while providing flexibility for regional implementation.
- **Strengthening Partnerships:** Insights from workforce boards, workforce offices, and key stakeholders on leveraging collaboration to enhance service alignment, business engagement, and economic development

This session will equip executive leaders with actionable strategies to navigate WPFR changes, optimize workforce operations, and reinforce Texas' commitment to an effective, integrated workforce system.

### **Tuesday May 13, 2025 - Breakout Sessions**

#### **Building a Model for Seamless Services Under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Adult Education and Literacy and Board Partnerships)**

Hear from Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) that manage Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) grants under Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and how co-location, co-enrollment, and leveraging case management and specialized grants converge to support performance metrics and enhance customer services. What does a "no wrong door" approach look like under WIOA for program partners? What services—testing, enrollment, and eligibility—need to be aligned to support a



seamless model for a customer-centric workforce system? Join AEL grantees and their Board partners to hear what models are developing across Texas.

### **Unlock the Power of Your Board Area with Strategies for Innovation**

This comprehensive strategy delves into the latest trends and best practices for optimizing Board services and driving transformative change within your organization. Elevate Board area engagement. Foster a culture of active participation and meaningful contributions from all staff. Cultivate a culture of innovation. Encourage bold thinking, strategic foresight, and agile decision-making to unlock new opportunities. Strengthen governance and oversight. Provide best practices that align with driving sustainable growth. Develop future-ready Board areas. Equip Boards with the skills and knowledge necessary to navigate complex challenges and capitalize on emerging trends.

### **Focus on Team Development and Performance**

#### **Building a High-Performing Team in Workforce Solutions: Collaboration, Communication, and Shared Goals**

This session focuses on developing the key elements of high-performing teams within Workforce Solutions offices and covers topics such as team building and communication.

### **Navigating Barriers to Employment**

This session addresses the various barriers to employment faced by participants, such as lack of transportation, childcare, or stable housing. Explore strategies for connecting participants with resources and support services to overcome these barriers.

### **Texas Cybersecurity Assessments**

This session will help attendees better understand what the Texas Cybersecurity Framework (TCF) is, what it is based on, why TWC has required the Boards to participate in the TCF every two years, and the expected benefits of the workforce system completing the TCF assessments. For additional context, we will provide historical TCF assessment results from the past as well as current, year-to-date results from TCF assessments completed this fiscal year.

### **Connect with Your Adult Education and Literacy Partner for Incumbent Worker Education and Training**

Hear how AEL services can bring value to your workplace. Employer engagement is a cornerstone service for AEL grantees and their partners. If you are part of a Board Business Services Unit (BSU) or an employer seeking to assist workers who would benefit from no-cost options for education or job training, AEL can offer a transformative opportunity. With services such as English as a Second Language (ESL), digital literacy, job training, and upskilling, AEL is dedicated to employer partnerships that foster incumbent worker promotions and career advancement. Be inspired by a recent project from the Harris County Department of Education, which culminated in a public “signing day” for AEL participants who completed the program and received job placements, promotions, and job upgrades.



## **The “I Do” Dilemma: Navigating the Marriage Between Education and Workforce**

This session will explore the vital connections between public education and workforce development through the lens of healthy marriage. Participants will gain insights into how mutual support, effective communication, shared goals, adaptability, and a commitment to growth can strengthen collaborations between educators and workforce development professionals.

## **Reemployment Services Similarities and Opportunities**

Over the last two years, the Texas A&M Public Policy Research Institute traveled to every workforce development area across the state (and virtually to three other states) to observe how mandatory reemployment services are delivered. Attend this session to learn why they did it, what they learned, and how TWC plans to use it.

## **Case Closed: Compliance Made Easy**

The event explores common findings in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training (SNAP E&T), Choices, and Noncustodial Parent (NCP) programs and provide strategic practices to help your local area with clarification.

## **From Paper to Pixels**

The transition from paper to digital is not just technological. It is a fundamental shift in how workforce development services are delivered. By embracing digital transformation, workforce development offices can significantly improve communication, reduce costs, and enhance service delivery. This workshop, presented by Grant Associates, will provide attendees with practical tips, real-world examples, and a roadmap for navigating this essential transition. Join us for an in-depth discussion on riding the wave of innovation to lead your office into a more efficient, effective future.

## **Expansion of Texas’ Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training Third-Party Partnership Program**

The session will provide an overview of the planned expansion of the SNAP E&T Third-Party Partnership (TPP) program that began in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025. Objectives include:

- understanding the basics of the TPP program;
- the impacts on Boards;
- hearing from the Boards that participated in FFY25; and
- learning the potential benefits of the TPP model.

## **Tri-Agency Update and Special Projects Report**

In 2016, Governor Greg Abbott established the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative. Through the initiative, the of the Texas Education Agency (TEA) commissioners, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and TWC work together to help increase economic prosperity in Texas. Join this session to learn about what the tri-agency partners have been working on since 2016 and the ongoing initiatives and projects.



## **Navigating Texas Workforce Commission Tableau Reporting**

Attendees will gain an understanding of how TWC Tableau reporting can enhance and improve data interpretation through easy-to-understand dashboards and charts. i3 has created a data visualization reporting system by leveraging application data that enables users to manage performance measurements and uncover hidden patterns, trends, and insights by simplifying complex data. Participants will gain an understanding of login procedures, navigating and filtering reports, and easy-to-use shortcuts.

## **Workforce Innovation Through Employer-Led Initiatives**

Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) serves as a network of service providers and contractors dedicated to connecting people with job opportunities. Representing taxpayers across the 13 counties, WSA plays a key role in workforce development. In 2024, WSA was selected as the hub organization for the Texas Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education (TX FAME), which is committed to advancing workforce development initiatives across Texas through employer-led efforts. Its primary mission is to cultivate a highly skilled workforce by engaging both current and future talent through strong partnerships with industry and the community. Learn about how this collaboration aims to strengthen the manufacturing talent pipeline by integrating WSA's resources and programs with TX FAME's Advanced Manufacturing Technician (AMT) program, ensuring optimal workforce outcomes and long-term industry success.

## **Screening for the Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program**

This breakout session provides participants with updated information on the new procedures for screening veterans to be referred to TWC's Jobs for Veterans State Grant Program. This session will also highlight changes in the roles and responsibilities of Disabled Veteran Outreach Program and Local Veterans' Employment Representatives (LVERs) at the Workforce Solutions Offices.

## **89<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Update**

Get an update on issues impacting the TWC and The Texas workforce system from the 89th Texas Legislature.

## **Unlocking Potential: Empowerment and Knowledge through Apprenticeships**

In this exciting session, learn about the power of apprenticeship, how DOL-Registered Apprenticeship Programs (DOL-RAP) and Texas Industry Recognized Apprenticeship Programs (TIRAs) work, and discover resources to fuel career growth. We'll explore the key differences between these programs and highlight funding opportunities to support your journey. Don't miss out; take your apprenticeship game to the next level.

## **How to Prepare for a Monitoring Review: A Cooperative Process Improvement Approach**

This training will provide the Boards and their subrecipients with an understanding of TWC's monitoring process. The Subrecipient Monitoring (SRM) Department will discuss all aspects of preparing for their review, expectations during the review process, and post-review responsibilities. We will discuss testing



tools; provide examples of how SRM tests for fiscal, program, and data validation; and share some common findings.

### **Discovering Upcoming and Supplemental Labor Market Information Tools**

Learn about TWC's new Tableau data analytics tools, designed to make it easier for local Boards to see what's going on with their regional economy and measure impact of our programs. This workshop will cover the new labor market information (LMI) dashboards along with Census demographic information and Lightcast's Help Wanted Online database, which helps workforce professionals understand employer needs and connect that with local job seekers.

### **Skills and Data: Building Blocks of Career Pathways**

This workshop explores the importance of marketable skills in today's labor market and effectively advising students on acquiring these skills for upward wage mobility and the importance of career and technical education in obtaining postsecondary credentials and high-wage, high-demand careers. Also learn how the Heart of Texas region leverages career progression lattices and data to create a seamless, supportive system that helps students transition from high school to postsecondary education and into rewarding careers in high-demand fields.