



Building stronger communities...building a stronger YOU...through workforce education and training.

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: Immediate Release
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WORKFORCE TRAINING PROJECT TO ASSIST CITY OF LUBBOCK RESIDENTS, AREA EMPLOYERS

The City of Lubbock and the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs have partnered with Workforce Solutions South Plains and South Plains College to assist area residents with job skills training.

In addition to the annual funding received by the City of Lubbock through a state Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provided increased funding to States to create sustainable economic resources that support employment-related services and activities within communities. CSBG Recovery Act projects are designed to preserve and create jobs to promote economic recovery and provide assistance to those most impacted by the recession. The additional \$600,000 awarded to the City of Lubbock has assisted in developing this workforce partnership aimed at developing skills training through curriculum designed by South Plains College to support demand occupations within the South Plains region. Participants will receive occupational skills training and other assistive services, positioning them for well-paying jobs in the area. The project was designed to assist those who are currently unemployed or underemployed (employed in a low-paying job) by helping them gain valuable work skills and expanding their chances of self-sufficiency through increased career options. Moreover, the partnership supports area employers by boosting the number of qualified applicants in Lubbock.

The City contracted with Workforce Solutions to administer, implement and evaluate the project, screen all applications and link qualified applicants to training at South Plains College Byron Martin Advanced

Technology Center, Reese Technology Center and Levelland campuses. Occupational short-term training offered by this project will assist in producing a well skilled labor force. Courses offered will train participants in high-demand occupations, or occupations which are in high demand by area employers. Course topics available through this project provide training in Allied Health, Business Administration, Computer Systems, Construction Trades and Industrial Technology and Professional Driver Training. These short-term training courses range from two to eight weeks each.

The project is unique in that it is the only city-wide training and development project that offers training and other assistive services to residents who are currently unemployed or underemployed. Participants will obtain pre-employment skills and competencies required for increased employment opportunities. While in training, participants will receive assistance with books, tuition, supplies, child care and transportation. The program is in effect immediately and runs through September 30, 2010.

A broad base of eligibility requirements have been established, as follows:

- 1. Must be a resident of Lubbock County**
- 2. Must meet income eligibility thirty days prior to entry of the program**
- 3. Must meet income guidelines listed below**

INCOME GUIDELINES (A pregnant woman counts as two for the purpose this chart)

Size of Family Unit/No. in Household	Monthly Income No More Than	Annual Income No More Than
1	\$1,805.00	\$21,660.00
2	\$2,428.33	\$29,140.00
3	\$3,051.66	\$36,620.00
4	\$3,675.00	\$44,100.00
5	\$4,298.33	\$51,580.00
6	\$4,921.66	\$59,060.00
7	\$5,545.00	\$66,540.00

Those interested must apply in person at Workforce Solutions South Plains Career Center of Lubbock located at 1218 14th Street. For additional information, contact Becky Escobedo or Diane Ganze at (806) 771-3815 x-2167.

A news conference will be held on Tuesday, December 8th at 2:00 pm at the City of Lubbock Municipal building located at 1625 13th Street in room 103 (next door to the City Council Chambers). Public attendance is welcome and media representatives are invited to attend.

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