

"ENDS" POLICY MONITORING REPORT

TO: WFS Cameron Board Of Directors
FROM: Francisco Castellanos, Executive Director
RE: INTERNAL MONITORING REPORT - ENDS
Ends Policy 1.2: Individuals Achieve their Employment Goals.

I hereby present my monitoring report on your Ends policies in accordance with the monitoring schedule set forth in board policy. I certify that the information contained in this report is true for the period of October 2007 through September 2008.

Signed  _____, Executive Director Date October 2008

BROADEST POLICY PROVISION – Individuals Achieve their Employment Goals.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S: I interpret achievement of this policy as follows: That the people of Cameron County have access to workforce development services that meet their needs to improve their skills to achieve their employment goals, or are provided with employment opportunities consistent with Industry Cluster opportunities. Services are to be provided by qualified staff.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT: Progress to Date -

The Roadmap phase of the Industry Cluster initiative was finalized and presented on August 2006 to the CWI Board of Directors, and is now being implemented through collaborations with USDA, EDA, Harlingen 100, and Imagine Brownsville.

SUBSEQUENT END 1.2 A. People have job skills:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S INTERPRETATION: I interpret “Individuals Achieve their Employment Goals - People have job skills” as, the utilization of proper skills assessment tools like “Work Keys” to measure “real world” skills that employer believe are critical to job success. Also, to promote and implement training opportunities targeted to employer needs.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT: Progress to Date -

Job skill enhancement programs are being targeted to those top ten industry clusters identified by the State of Texas and WFS Cameron Industry Cluster Analysis. The AMIST Project with the University of Illinois and TSTC, to upgrade the skills of incumbent workers in the latest industrial technologies. TSTC received about 1 million for equipment and Cameron Works is paying the training costs through a University of Illinois grant. The WIRED Project for Regional Collaboration that we are part of just received \$300,000 in Skills Development Funds for high-tech manufacturing jobs. UTB received \$733,000 from Texas Skills Development Fund for Training at Amfels.

SUBSEQUENT END 1.2 B. People are able to find and retain meaningful employment.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTERPRETATION: I interpret "People are able to find and retain meaningful employment" as, Cameron Works Workforce Centers will provide for the people of Cameron County sufficient quality and variety of choices, that the individual's job options are focused on those job opportunities with the most growth potential.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT: Progress to Date -

Integration of services and training, inclusive of job matching, is currently taking place and will continue throughout this program year. Evidence of progress is our unemployment rate, which has improved from over 9% in 03 to 5.6% in August. Another is the adoption and utilization of our Industry Cluster strategy by the Chamber and Economic Development corporations to create more than 3,000 new jobs during the last two years in Cameron County.

SUBSEQUENT END 1.2 C. People have resources available for successful employment.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTERPRETATION: I interpret as "people having resources available for successful employment" like training, counseling, transportation assistance, whether provided by WFS Cameron or other entities. Successful employment I define as the individual's ability to maintain employment that provides for a good standard of living, and the individual's ability to advance in employment position, and increase in wages, based on the individual's initiative. WFS Cameron helped the BEDC and the Greater Brownsville Incentives Corp. to develop new guidelines for funding new company incentives, targeted infrastructure projects, develop a reserve for large projects, and community based job creation.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT: Progress to Date -

Resources are being dramatically reduced. WFS Cameron is cultivating new partnerships with United Way of Texas, Gates Foundation, TEEM, USDA, EDA, as well as our various local EDCs. Our membership in BEDC has allowed us to work with T-Mobile to bring in over 200 jobs that will grow to over 700 over time. Other projects we are working on with EDC include the Fisher Project in Harlingen a major metal stamping operation investing more than \$50 million in Harlingen with jobs that will pay over \$20 per hour. Project Port in Brownsville will invest over \$100 million and create 200 jobs at \$24 per hour. Project Space will create over 100 jobs at \$15 per hour in food processing.

SUBSEQUENT END 1.2 D. Low Income youth have basic skills.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S INTERPRETATION: I interpret "Individuals achieve their Employment Goals - Low Income youth have basic skills" as youth who are considered low income are functioning at the skill level appropriate for their grade.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT: Progress to Date:

Last year the Board received a presentation of Tech-Prep's First Generation Project which has been very successful in promoting secondary to post secondary achievement. This program is up for renewal this year to continue with the in school population. The Community Advancement for Education Consortium is continuing the research and targeting the at risk older age youth who are still in school. The partnership is looking for funding within the school, community organizations to leverage with WFS funds.