

**"ENDS" POLICY MONITORING REPORT**

TO: WFS Cameron Board of Directors  
FROM: Francisco Castellanos, Executive Director  
RE: INTERNAL MONITORING REPORT - ENDS  
Ends Policy 1.4: Inter-Agency Partnerships and Collaborations Contribute to Workforce Development.

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 – “Inter-Agency Partnerships and Collaborations Contribute to Workforce Development.”**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S INTERPRETATION:** I interpret this policy to mean that Workforce Solutions Cameron (WFSC) and other agencies make the necessary connections, and produce appropriate collaborations to avoid duplication of effort, and build economies of scale, in regional and county-wide economic development/workforce strategies.

**ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT: Progress to Date -**

Workforce Solutions Cameron has successfully engaged a variety of entities, and/or served as lead entity in both county wide and regional efforts.

- Workforce Solutions Cameron has taken the lead in creating a coalition of small cities in Cameron County to address economic and workforce development issues. Funding from USDA and EDA has been awarded.
- Workforce Solutions Cameron has collaborated with the Imagine Brownsville, Harlingen 100, the Regional Center for Integration and Commercialization of Technology (RCICT) and UT Brownsville to host a county-wide conference on Asset Mapping Strategies.
- Workforce Solutions Cameron is a key collaborator with South Texas College, UT Pan American, UT Brownsville, Texas A&M, TSTC, South Texas Manufacturing Association and 15 other public and private partners to implement the seven million dollar WIRED project for advanced manufacturing in eight south Texas counties , including Cameron.
- Workforce Solutions Cameron, through its executive director is represented on the Texas United Way Board of Directors and on the Texas Department of Transportation’s Public Transportation Advisory Committee.
- Workforce Solutions Cameron is now the lead agency for the TEEM (Texas Early Education Model) for pre K education efforts in both Cameron and Willacy Counties.

- Sponsored and helped promote the South Texas Energy Conference, with funding from various for profit entities like Wal-Mart, the Meadows Foundation, TXU Energy, American Electric Power, Texas Gas Service, City of Brownsville, Brownsville Public Utilities Board, and Magic Valley Electric Cooperative. We are planning our 3rd Annual Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Conference on December 5, 2008. We are also involved in planning a region-wide Sustainability Conference to be held on April 29, 2009.

In addition, based on the implementation plans of the Industry Cluster and Community Audit Roadmaps, WFS Cameron will during this program year:

- Continue the work of the Steering Committee created during the research phase of the studies; and
- Collaborate with “industry councils” for each of the five (5) targeted industries in our clusters.

The consultant hired to conduct the update to the Industry Cluster Roadmap has also been involved with the Imagine Brownsville, our Small Cities Coalition and the WIRED study. The Roadmap Update will be posted on our website: [www.wfscameron.org](http://www.wfscameron.org)

The Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce has requested that we assist the County of Cameron and the city of Santa Rosa in the acquisition of funding for the development of a Technology Center for rural Cameron County. This would be an adjunct to our Small Cities Coalition initiative. The County would be the lead applicant, with Workforce Solutions Cameron acting in a partnership role. Planning and economic development technical assistance is being provided to create a rural economic development strategy in Cameron County through the cities (Los Fresnos, Los Indios, La Feria, Rio Hondo, Port Isabel, Santa Maria, Bayview, Santa Rosa, as well as San Benito acting as mentor).