



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Cameron County Awarded Preliminary Designation and  
\$237,500 Grant for Workforce Development**  
*Tri-Agency Grant to Support Regional Pathways and  
Work-Based Learning Initiatives*

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS – Workforce Solutions Cameron (WfSC) has received the prestigious Preliminary Designation as a regional convener for workforce development. The designation, awarded by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), is a key milestone that recognizes the region's leadership in creating effective pathways for students and employers within Cameron County.

This designation reflects the dedication and progress made by WfSC, led by the Research and Development Department, in bringing together local stakeholders, including secondary and postsecondary institutions, elected officials, economic development and community organizations. Their efforts in regional alignment, the creation of work-based learning opportunities, and regional data utilization and communication have positioned the region as a trusted leader in workforce development.

To guide this initiative, WfSC has identified the following target industries: Construction, Healthcare, and Manufacturing. By focusing on these key sectors, the Cameron County Workforce Board aims to enhance and expand training programs across the region's K-12 public schools, as well as charter, private, and magnet schools. This initiative is designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in these critical sectors, thereby fostering economic growth and workforce readiness in Cameron County.

**Award of \$237,500 for 2025-2026 Tri-Agency Grant**

In addition to the preliminary designation, WfSC has been selected to receive \$237,500 in funding through the 2025-2026 Tri-Agency Grant for Regional Conveners. This grant will identify, invest in, and designate the entity who will serve as the WDA's Tri-Agency regional convener to oversee the development, implementation, and monitoring of the regional strategy for high-quality career and education pathways into targeted industries across our workforce development area.

"We are thrilled to receive this designation and the accompanying grant," said Rafael Vela, Chief Executive Officer at Workforce Solutions Cameron. "This funding will allow us to continue building on

our successes and addressing areas where we can improve. We are committed to providing more opportunities for our students, employers, and the entire Cameron County community."

### **Next Steps Toward Full Designation**

As Workforce Solutions Cameron works toward achieving full designation, the focus for the next two years will remain on strengthening partnerships, particularly with K-12 and post-secondary institutions, and enhancing internal communication to streamline efforts across the region. The progress made to date utilizing grant funding from the 2023-24 Tri-Agency Regional Convener Grant is promising, and continued collaboration will ensure that the region is well-prepared for the future workforce needs.

"As we advance to the implementation phase, we recognize the critical need to develop a skilled workforce to meet the evolving needs of local employers and industry sectors", said Sally Perez, Chief Operating Officer at Workforce Solutions Cameron. "Our continued work will focus on aligning education and training with the demands of employers, ensuring that our workforce is prepared for the jobs of tomorrow."

Workforce Solutions Cameron continues to collaborate with invested stakeholders and is confident that their strategic planning will lead to the successful implementation of this initiative. WfSC expects a favorable full convener designation once all grant deliverables are met.

For more information about Workforce Solutions Cameron, media inquiries, or to learn how you can get involved, please contact Workforce Solutions Cameron at (956) 548-6700 or visit [WfSCameron.org](http://WfSCameron.org).

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### **About Workforce Solutions Cameron**

Workforce Solutions Cameron (WfSC), under the direction of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), is one of 28 local workforce development boards located throughout the state. WfSC is devoted to promoting and supporting a workforce structure that provides employers and individuals of Cameron County the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity. All employers, workers and job seekers are eligible to take advantage of these services. For more information on WfSC and the services it offers, call (956) 548-6700, visit [WfSCameron.org](http://WfSCameron.org), or email [info@WfSCameron.org](mailto:info@WfSCameron.org)