

A Snapshot of Regional Skills Development

Finding workers who possess the right mix of skills is a growing challenge for companies across industries. In Dallas-Fort Worth, the business community is tackling this problem by establishing apprenticeships and accessing specialized training programs provided through partnerships among private sector interests, federal agencies, community and technical colleges, workforce boards, and local non-profits. Wherever a company locates within the region, they will find many resources to help them fulfill their talent needs.

Skills Development Fund (SDF)

This successful state grant program offers businesses, consortia of businesses, or trade unions an opportunity to identify a training need and then partner with a public community or technical college to create solutions. Businesses work with college partners to develop curricula and conduct training. The local workforce board authorizes the proposal; SDF pays for the training; the college administers the grant; and businesses create new jobs and improve the skills of their current workforce.

skills.texasworkforce.org

Examples:

- In 2022, Dallas College was awarded a \$3.5 million SDF grant to train more than 1,500 construction employees. Training focuses on skills necessary to keep pace with an evolving industry. In partnership with 18 construction businesses located in eight local workforce board areas across the state, the grant covers training in areas ranging from pipe layers to construction managers to welders to mapping technicians.
- In 2022, Collin College received a \$928,000 SDF grant to train 580 workers in high-demand occupations supporting the food manufacturing industry. Six companies will receive customized training in the areas of machine operations, material handling, business software, and quality control, among others.
- In 2019, Children’s Health Care System of Texas, Medical City, Methodist Hospitals of Dallas, and Texas Scottish Rite Hospital partnered with Dallas College to provide health care job training to 1,284 workers with a \$927,000 SDF grant. The consortium is working to ensure the region has enough health professionals to meet Dallas-Fort Worth’s growing population.

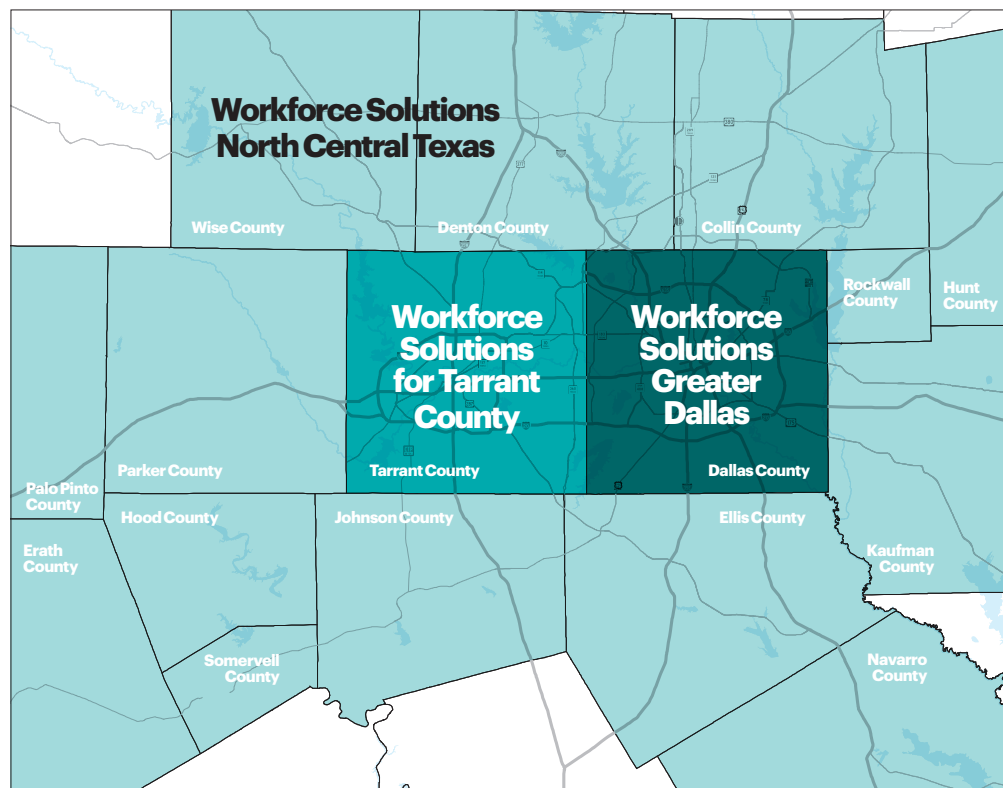
Workforce Development

Three workforce development boards serve residents and companies across the Dallas-Fort Worth region. Companies can use board services to find, hire, train, and retain skilled workers. Workforce offices work with employers to create customized hiring events, build skills training programs, and provide labor market data. Job seekers can access WorkInTexas.com, the state’s free job board service, as well as apply for child care and transportation services.

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas
wfsdallas.com

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County
workforcesolutions.net

Workforce Solutions North Central Texas
dfwjobs.com



Community Colleges

Community colleges in the Dallas-Fort Worth region work with companies of all sizes to customize training programs and curriculum to meet local workforce needs. Dallas College includes seven campuses and a dozen centers throughout Dallas County. Since 1965, Dallas College has served over three million people, and is one of the largest community college systems in the U.S. Tarrant County College (TCC) has six campuses and two training centers. Approximately one in every 23 Tarrant County residents takes a TCC class each year. Collin College attracts 56,000 students annually to its 100-plus degree programs and certificates across 11 campuses. North Central Texas College (NCTC) is the state’s oldest continuously operating two-year college and operates six campuses.

Dallas College led a consortium of educational institutions to secure what school officials call a groundbreaking \$8.8 million grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration in 2022. Funding will be used to train the next generation of the region’s bio and life sciences workforce in three areas: biotechnology, biomanufacturing, and bioinformatics.

In 2021, Google expanded its online career certificate program across the state of Texas. The expansion built on the successful IT support professional certificate program pioneered by Dallas College in 2018. The goal of the program is to prepare students and workers for entry-level roles in information technology support in six months without prior training in areas that include technology support and computer networking.



Collin College graduated the first cohort from its new Technical Campus in 2022. Designed with workforce education as its core function, the campus provides classroom and lab space dedicated to training craftspeople on the latest techniques with the newest industry-standard technology.

Also in 2022, Raytheon Intelligence & Space launched a new Registered Apprenticeship program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor and Collin College to allow enrolled students to earn industry credentials, on-the-job work experience, and mentorship.

Tarrant County College (TCC) Corporate Solutions & Economic Development, a division of TCC that provides customized training to businesses across the region, opened a new location at Hillwood’s AllianceTexas in Fort Worth in 2021. The 35,000-square-foot center provides companies, such as Hillwood clients, with training and skills development programs tailored to their employment base.

“TCC works with our customers to support their business initiatives through leadership training, upskilling, and development, but also provides solutions to customers looking to make the move to North Texas,” said Mercedes Bolen, vice president of external affairs at Hillwood.

In 2023, the U.S. Department of Education awarded \$4.6 million over five years to TCC to help low income, first-generation college students access higher education.

The **Texas State Technical College** is a statewide system operating 10 campuses. The North Texas location comprises 100,000 square feet of labs and classrooms where students can prepare for opportunities in:

- Computer Aided Drafting & Design Technology
- Diesel Equipment Technology
- Precision Machining Technology
- Computer Networking & Systems Administration
- Electrical Power & Controls
- Welding
- Cybersecurity
- HVAC Technology
- Industrial Systems-Electrical Specialization