

A Snapshot of Regional Skills Development

Finding workers with the right mix of skills is a growing challenge for companies across industries. In Dallas-Fort Worth, the business community is meeting this challenge through avenues that include establishing apprenticeships and participating in specialized training programs through public-private partnerships. That means wherever a company locates in the region, they will have access to a steady stream of talent.

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.

See more at twc.texas.gov

Examples:

- In 2024, Collin College received a \$490,000 SDF grant to support skills training in the multifamily housing construction and banking industries. More than 300 new and current workers at Advanced Fixture Inc. and Credit Union of Texas will receive customized training based out of the Collin College Education Center in McKinney to increase the quality and quantity of skilled workers in North Texas.
- In 2024, Tarrant College received \$1.3 million in SDF funding to develop customized training for Cummings Electrical, one of the largest electrical contractors in DFW. TCC will tailor technical training courses for 639 employees at the Fort Worth-based company with a focus on foundational knowledge, basic skills and national electrical code guidance needed on a commercial construction site.
- In 2023, Dallas College and Gainwell Technologies received \$1 million in grants from the Texas Workforce Commission and the U.S. Department of Labor, including \$468,000 from the SDF. The Irving-based company will provide training and advancement opportunities for more than 500 employees. Gainwell develops and implements digital and cloud-enabled solutions that power state Medicaid agencies.

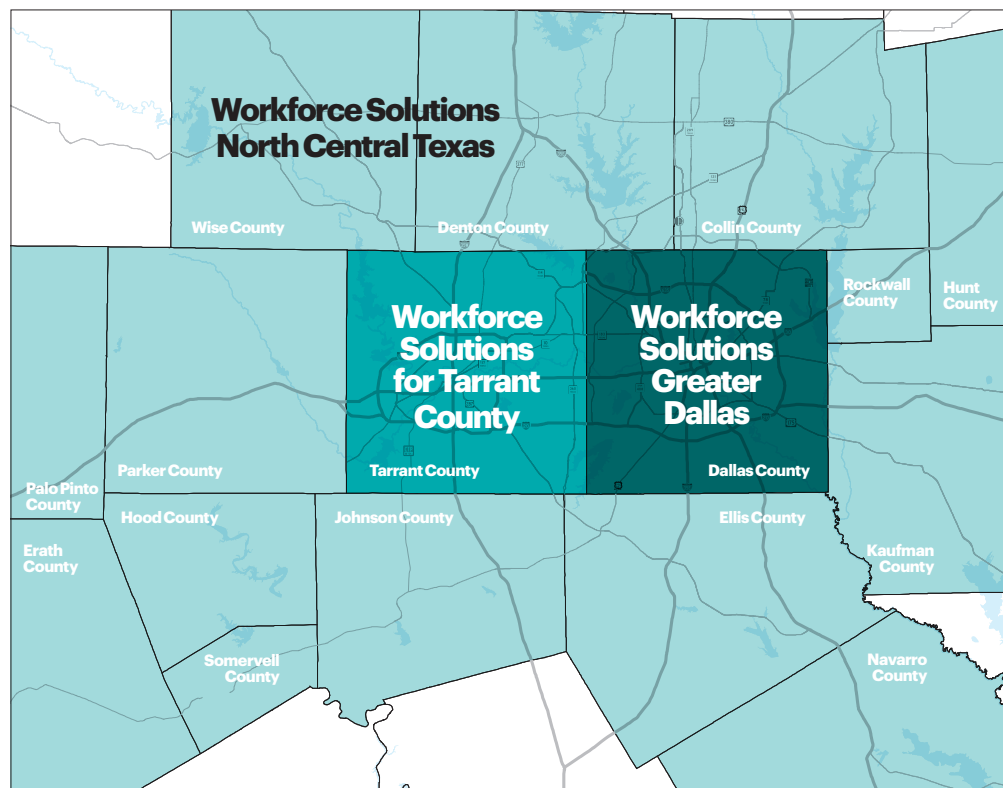
Workforce Development

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 and Technical 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) operates six campuses and two training centers. Approximately one in every 22 Tarrant County residents takes a TCC class each year. Collin College attracts 58,000 students annually to its 200-plus degree and certificate programs across 11 campuses. With six campuses, North Central Texas College (NCTC) is the state's oldest continuously operating two-year college.

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. Funding is being used to train the next generation of the region's bio and life science workforce in three areas: biotechnology, biomanufacturing, and bioinformatics.

Dallas College is also a founding partner in the Dallas County Promise, a program to increase postsecondary credential attainment for young adults in Dallas County. In late 2024, the O'Donnell Foundation made a \$60 million investment in Promise to substantially increase economic mobility across Dallas County. Half of the investment will be a direct gift to Dallas College Foundation, featuring a \$6.25 million challenge grant to expand the Promise scholarship program, offering last-dollar tuition-free scholarships to high-need students coming out of high school.



Collin College is pursuing partnerships with Texas universities. In 2024, the Texas A&M Engineering Academy at Collin College opened for students interested in pursuing an engineering degree as co-enrollees at both institutions.

Also in 2024, the Collin College Academic Alliance launched out of the Collin College Technical Campus in Allen. This partnership with the University of Texas at Dallas and Texas State University in San Marcos will allow associate's degree seekers a seamless opportunity to pursue a bachelor's degree while remaining in Collin County.

Tarrant County College (TCC) commissioned an independent study that estimates its value to the regional workforce includes \$2.1 billion in added income for Tarrant County. This impact can be attributed in part to innovative programs that meet the workforce where the jobs are; reach non-traditional populations; or provide holistic services that ensure student success.

In 2024, TCC received a \$280,000 Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) grant from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to support healthcare programs at TCC's Opportunity Center. Entry-level technician certifications will soon lead to a Medical Assistant program.



The **Texas State Technical College** is a statewide system operating 10 campuses. The North Texas location in Red Oak had record-breaking enrollment in 2024. The campus comprises 100,000 square feet of labs and classrooms where students can prepare for opportunities in:

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