

Building Workforce Solutions: Economic Development in Travis County

Presentation to the Austin City Council

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Presented by:

Bill Imhoff, Executive Committee Member, Intertech Flooring

Shirley Knox, WorkSource Executive Director

Annette Gula, WorkSource Deputy Director, Programs

WorkSource

**WorkSource – Greater Austin Area
Workforce Board is one of 28
workforce boards administering
employment and training
services for Texas**

Funding for workforce development:



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The mission of the *WorkSource* Austin is to provide a quality workforce that meets the changing needs of employers and job seekers enhancing the economic viability and quality of life in our community.

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***WorkSource* Board Oversees the Following Programs in Travis County:**

***WorkSource* has 28 board members, majority being business representatives**

- **Career Centers**
 - Dislocated workers
 - Income-eligible populations
 - Employer services such as job posting & applicant screening
- **Child Care**
 - Subsidized child care for an average of 2,700 children each day
 - Quality initiatives such as training for child care providers

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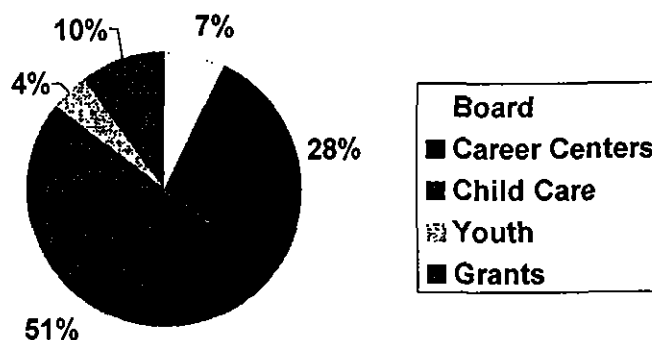
WorkSource Oversees the Following Programs in Travis County:

- **Youth**
 - At-risk youth services such as mentoring, continuing education, employment and support services
- **Workforce Board**
 - Economic Development
 - Employer initiatives
 - Contract management
 - Conference Center
 - Grants for incumbent worker training, child care quality projects, literacy, etc.

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2004 Budget Breakdown



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Employers select a business location based on several factors:

- Cost (ex. taxes)
- Availability of a skilled workforce
- Ease of doing business (ex. obtaining permits)
- Quality of life for employees

**Workforce Development and
Economic Development
Must Work Together!**

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Steps to Achieve Our Mission and Enhance Economic Development:

- Developed an economic development policy to guide workforce funding
 - *WorkSource* budgets approximately \$2 Million each year for training/support of eligible populations
 - In 2004, approximately \$400,000 has been designated for economic development projects

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Steps to Achieve Our Mission and Enhance Economic Development:

- **Economic Development Policy Continued:**
 - In exchange, employers:
 - Post all jobs with the *WorkSource* – Career Centers
 - Utilize Career Centers to screen and refer applicants
 - Retain trainees for at least one year upon completion of training

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Steps to Achieve Our Mission and Enhance Economic Development:

- Work closely with Economic Development Staff at the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce and Governor's Office
 - Have collaborated on 8 projects over the past three months

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Steps to Achieve Our Mission and Enhance Economic Development:

Industry	Prospects' Capital	# of Jobs Estimated
Call Center	\$35M	125
Call Center	\$35M	200 - 350
Healthcare Tech	\$38 - \$50M	550 - 600
BioMed Tech	\$415,000	30
Transportation	Unknown	3,000
Call Center	\$4.5M	100 - 150
Semiconductor	\$30M	500
Transportation	\$12.2M	375
TOTAL:	More than \$155M	4,880 - 5130

WorkSource's Potential Contribution to Economic Development Projects

(to date 2004)

- Total In-Kind Services
\$61,801,458*
- Total Training Dollars
\$3,067,500*

* Over the next 5 years

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Steps to Achieve Our Mission and Enhance Economic Development:

- Utilization of a Site Selection Tool
 - Provided by the Texas Workforce Commission to *WorkSource*
 - Will provide workforce and economic data on the area
 - Will allow the Board to compare the Greater Austin area to other prospective areas

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Steps to Achieve Our Mission and Enhance Economic Development:

- Established a new *WorkSource* Facility
 - 38,000 square foot building offers:
 - Conference space and training lab for entrepreneurial and other business classes
 - Economic Development Services such as interview rooms and customized assessment tools for new and expanding employers who post their jobs and hire through *WorkSource*

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Steps to Achieve Our Mission and Enhance Economic Development:

- Other new initiatives:
 - Hosted economic development staff from throughout the region at *WorkSource* Conference Center
 - *Community Technology Training Center (CTTC)* will offer night classes in basic computer skills at the new facility
 - Partner with the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce to conduct an intensive retention survey of top area employers to correspond with the Opportunity Austin initiative

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Steps to Achieve Our Mission and Enhance Economic Development:

- Other new initiatives:
 - Harris Publishing will utilize the Career Centers to hire an additional 100+ employees
 - Partner with major employers to co-locate at new Career Center to post jobs and hire exclusively from *WorkSource*
 - Beginning third quarter 2004, offer a series of small business development classes at new *WorkSource* conference center

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Steps to Achieve Our Mission and Enhance Economic Development:

- Other new initiatives:
 - Enhance awareness of tools available to business through *WorkSource*
 - Promote the usage of Work in Texas, the new state job posting system available to the business community and job seekers
 - Promoting *WorkSource*'s services to employers
 - Job Posting
 - Applicant screening & matching
 - Basic testing
 - On-the-Job training opportunities
 - Customized training opportunities

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Your Handouts:

- Organizational highlights and accomplishments
- Strategic Objectives
- Summary of Grants Received
 - (\$6.7 million since 2001)
- Summary of Child Care Match
 - (\$9.6 million since 2002)
- Financials
- Summary of Site Selection Tool for Economic Development
- Much More

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For more information:

Shirley Knox
Executive Director
WorkSource – Greater Austin Area Workforce Board
(512) 597-7100
shirley.knox@twc.state.tx.us

www.worksourceaustin.com

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