



Building the Gulf Coast Workforce

OUR CORE VALUES

INNOVATION

We Drive Creative Solutions.

INCLUSIVITY

We Value Every Voice.

EXCELLENCE

We Aim for Exceptional Results.

ACCOUNTABILITY

We Honor Our Commitments.

CONNECTION

We are Committed to the Community We Serve.

COLLABORATION

We Achieve More Together.



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Across our region, employers, educators, and community partners are finding new ways to grow talent and expand opportunity. As we look ahead, our focus remains clear: align training with real jobs, remove barriers to work, and deliver results for businesses and residents alike.

In this issue, we celebrate excellence with the Pinnacle Award and highlight HRVY’s momentum in connecting young adults to meaningful, work-ready experiences. You’ll also find a quick snapshot of our Complete Guide to Services and new Board Member Spotlights that showcase the leaders shaping our strategy.

Your insight drives our investments. I invite you to engage with us—join an event, host a youth placement or apprenticeship, and share your hiring needs. Together, we can build a resilient talent pipeline and a stronger Gulf Coast economy.

Juliet Stipeche

MISSION

We help employers meet their workforce needs and individuals build careers so both can compete in the global economy.

VISION

To strengthen business and industry, drive the economic growth of our region, and create thriving, inclusive communities where everyone has opportunities to earn, learn, and prosper.



Hiring & You!

Red, White & You!



Workforce Solutions is proud to host Hiring Red, White & You! in partnership with the Texas Veterans Network, Combined Arms, Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Veterans Commission, and the Texas Medical Center. This annual statewide event celebrates the contributions of veterans, service members, and their families while connecting them to civilian careers.

Join us on **Monday, November 10, 2025** at **NRG Arena Hall C - 1 NRG Park, Houston, TX 77054**, where more than 100 local employers and Veterans Service Organizations will be on hand with opportunities across industries. This year, we are honored to welcome active duty service members in Houston for Fleet Week, creating a unique chance to showcase Houston as both a world-class city and a hub for career growth.

For more details visit:
www.wrksolutions.com/hrwy.



Diamond Pinnacle Technology Award

Workforce Solutions — Gulf Coast has earned the Diamond Pinnacle Technology Award, one of the highest national honors for awards in innovation. This cross-industry award recognizes organizations whose work demonstrates creativity, originality, and lasting impact.



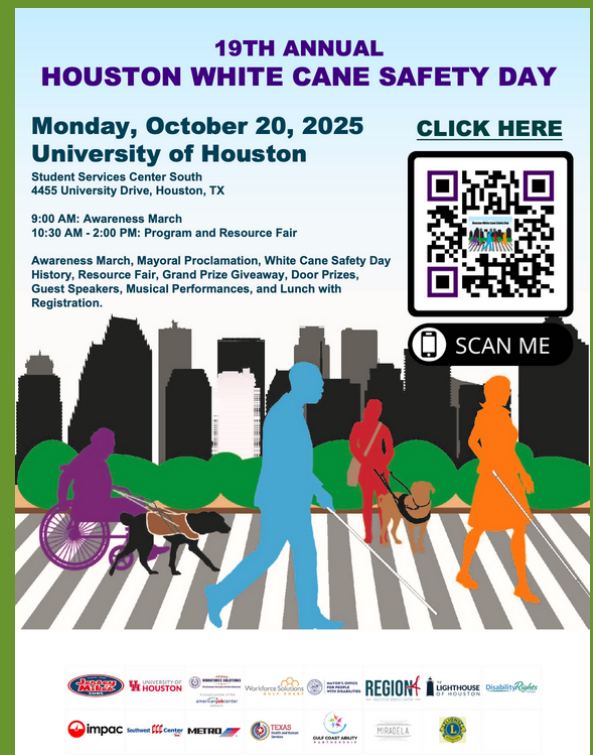
The achievement celebrates the launch of Workforce Solutions' new mobile-first app and the Workforce Solutions News site. Together, these tools transform how one of Texas' largest public workforce boards connects with the community.

19th Annual Houston White Cane Safety Day

Join us for the 19th Annual Houston White Cane Safety Day, which celebrates independent travel and accomplishments of blind/visually impaired.

The event takes place on **Monday, October 20, 2025** at the **University of Houston, Student Services Center South (4455 University Drive)**.

Register and learn more at:
<https://linktr.ee/HoustonWCSD>



Complete Guide to Services

Workforce Solutions — Gulf Coast is releasing a comprehensive handbook in October outlining all available services for job seekers, employers, and community partners across the 13-county region.

The guide includes services, such as:

- Services for Job Seekers
- Services for Employers, including Training and Recruitment
- Youth and Young Adult Services
- Adult, Education and Literacy (AEL)
- Childcare Services
- Labor Market Information
- Information about Apprenticeships and Work-based Learning
- Disaster Resources



Board Member Spotlight

Mark Guthrie, Chair - Mark Guthrie has been a dedicated member of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board since its inception in 1997 and has served as Board Chair since 2013.

With a passion for continuous improvement, Mark is driven by the board's commitment to enhancing services and ensuring that resources are used effectively to best serve the region.

Looking ahead, he believes the board's strength lies in maintaining a strong local connection and keeping decisions rooted in the needs of the community.

Outside of his leadership role, Mark enjoys traveling, cooking, hunting, and fishing. He's also the proud owner of a 90-pound black lab named Billy.

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/7aOPgYmiEMA>





Matagorda County's economy continues to balance its coastal industries with opportunities for long-term career growth. Agriculture, petrochemicals, and tourism remain vital drivers, supported by new energy projects along the Gulf Coast. Workforce Solutions partners with local employers to expand training and hiring pipelines, ensuring residents can build rewarding careers in both traditional and emerging fields. By aligning education and industry, Matagorda is strengthening its talent base while preserving its role as a key economic hub in Southeast Texas.



One of the fastest-growing areas in Texas, **Fort Bend County** offers a diverse and highly skilled workforce. Healthcare, professional services, and advanced manufacturing anchor the county's economy, with expanding opportunities in education and technology. Workforce Solutions collaborates with employers and educators to keep pace with this growth, providing residents with access to career services, training programs, and youth employment initiatives. This work ensures that rapid population and business expansion translates into sustainable career pathways for local families.



Home to a strong base of public service, higher education, and natural resource industries, **Walker County** plays a unique role in the regional economy. Sam Houston State University fuels a pipeline of educated workers, while agriculture and forestry continue to provide stable employment. Workforce Solutions supports the community through targeted programs that connect job seekers with training, apprenticeships, and employer networks. These efforts help ensure that residents have the tools to thrive in both traditional sectors and new opportunities tied to the county's growth.



Monthly Jobs Report

Houston's labor market followed its usual seasonal pattern in July, as education layoffs drove a net loss of 30,500 jobs (NSA) or 7,100 jobs (SA). The underlying trends were uneven: professional services and trade showed weakness, while leisure, hospitality, and health care remained sources of job growth.



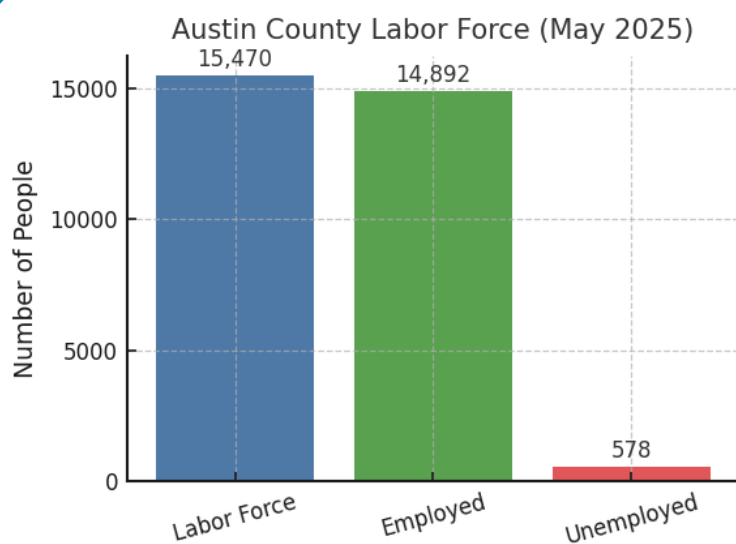
Rising Wages

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's July 2024 population estimates, the Houston metro area added 198,171 residents between July 2023 and July 2024, a 2.6% increase that brought the region's population to 7.8 million, ranking it the 5th most populous metro area in the U.S. Harris County grew by 105,852 residents (+2.2%), while the City of Houston added 43,217 residents (+1.8%), maintaining its status as the 4th largest U.S. city.



Spotlight: Austin County

Austin County's unemployment rate rose slightly to 3.7% in May 2025, still among the lowest in the Gulf Coast region. Over the past year, the county added more than 550 jobs, led by strong gains in Professional and Business Services, Manufacturing, and Education and Health Services. Overall, annual job growth reached 4.3%.



Economic Insights Video

Workforce Solutions Executive Director Juliet Stipeche and Economist Parker Harvey discuss how real-time data is shaping smarter investments in talent across the Gulf Coast. From healthcare to clean tech, the conversation explores how labor market insights help align training with economic goals—and why employer input is critical. It's a must-watch for businesses navigating today's workforce challenges.

[Click Here to watch the video](#)

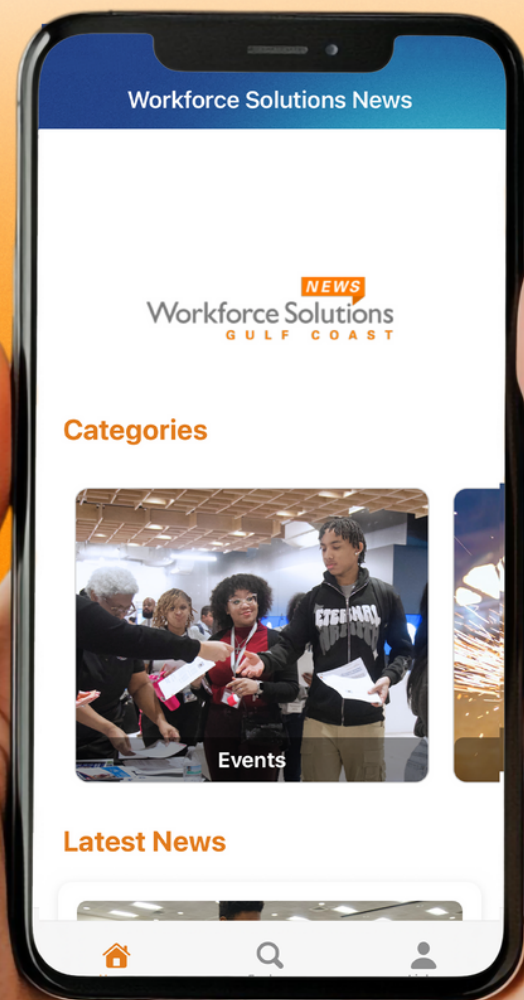




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