

## NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL LABOR STUDY

The North Texas Regional Economic Development (RED) Steering committee is launching a regional labor study to begin early in 2015. This is in response to an overwhelming need from regional employers, economic development organizations, and education/training providers for better information on workforce supply and demand.

This study will provide valuable information to: 1) employers seeking access to a skilled workforce, 2) economic developers assisting with business retention, expansion, and recruitment, and 3) education and training providers seeking to align their curriculum and programs with worker and employer needs. In addition, the project will create a system for maintaining and validating workforce intelligence data. This study will be led by an experienced economic and workforce development consulting firm as selected by the Regional Economic Development (RED) steering committee and managed by a to-be-determined fiscal agent.

We are requesting partial funding for this study from regional economic development partners. Participating organizations will receive value through access to better regional data, as well as a customized labor profile for their area. Details of the specific regional and community elements are provided below.

### PROJECT ELEMENTS:

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#### *At the regional level:*

- labor market characteristics
- labor shed definition and commuting patterns
- workforce characteristics
- occupational structure and skills
- occupational profiles for regional clusters
- real-time data on high-demand/hard-to-fill occupations
- inventory of education and training programs

#### *At the community level (for partner organizations)*

- community labor market profile
- survey analysis based on participating employer responses
- workforce commuting pattern map of participating community employers
- industry scenario profiles for up to 3 sectors

#### *Methodology*

- analysis of existing labor market data
- primary data from employers on workforce demand
- sector focus group meetings to validate secondary and primary data findings (up to 5 sectors)
- analysis of real-time workforce analytics (based on job postings and applicant resumes)
- inventory of available credit and non-credit courses and certificates for high-demand occupations (based on IPEDS data and supplemented via a survey of providers) with enrollments and completions data