

HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL 3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120 Houston, TX 77027 h-gac.com 1 @HouGalvAreaCog

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 9, 2023

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GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD, WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS SEEKING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AN UPDATED 2021-2024 LOCAL WORKFORCE PLAN Employers and Stakeholder Groups May Submit Public Comments through Tuesday, Jan. 31

HOUSTON, TX – The Gulf Coast Workforce Board and its operating affiliate, Workforce Solutions, are seeking public input on updates made to the board's 2021-2024 Local Workforce Plan.



The Local Workforce Plan, also known as the Local Plan, is the Gulf Coast Workforce Board's plan for implementing the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act in the Houston-Galveston region and fulfilling its commitment to the Texas Workforce Commission. Driven by regional economic and labor data, the plan identifies current and future workforce needs and outlines how the board and Workforce Solutions will direct investments in services, education, and training to meet those needs and strengthen the public workforce system.

"The Local Plan informs the Gulf Coast Workforce Board's investments in the public workforce system. It ensures the Houston-Galveston region attracts and retains the best employers, affords

Houston-Galveston Area Council

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit <u>www.h-gac.com</u>.



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everyone the dignity of a job, remains vitally important to the global economy, and exists as a place where everyone can thrive," said Juliet Stipeche, executive director of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board and Workforce Solutions.

Every two years into a four-year local plan, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board modifies the plan to reflect current labor market changes, economic conditions, and other factors affecting the plan's implementation. The updates made to the 2021-2024 Local Workforce Plan reflect the challenges faced during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the swift recovery experienced afterward, and updated projections for the local workforce needs of 2024.

Area employers, local leaders, businesses, economic development groups, community organizations, and other key stakeholders are invited to review the proposed updates to the 2021-2024 Local Workforce Plan online at <u>wrksolutions.com/LocalPlan</u> and share their feedback by submitting public comments.

The public comment period is currently open and will remain open through Tuesday, Jan. 31. Public comments may be submitted:

- Online at: <u>www.wrksolutions.com/LocalPlan</u>
- **By phone at**: 713-993-4579
- By email to: <u>comments@wrksolutions.com</u>
- **By mail to:** Houston-Galveston Area Council Attn: Thomas Brown P.O. Box 22777 Houston, TX 77227-2777
- Deliver written public comments to: Houston-Galveston Area Council 3555 Timmons Ln., Suite 100 Houston, TX 77027

Workforce Solutions will also host a public meeting at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 19 at Workforce Solutions-Northline located at 4424 North Freeway, Houston, Texas, 77022. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with members of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, the Houston-Galveston Area Council, and Workforce Solutions and discuss the proposed updates to the 2021-2024 Local Plan. Those interested in attending may RSVP at www.wrksolutions.com/LocalPlan.

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"Public input is essential to ensure the Local Plan remains in tune with the Texas Gulf Coast region's evolving workforce and economic needs," said Stipeche. "We invite employers, community partners, and stakeholders across the region to join us in this process and work with us to ensure that area businesses have the people with the skills necessary to propel our economy forward."

More information on the 2021-2024 Local Workforce Plan is available at: <u>wrksolutions.com/LocalPlan</u>.

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board and its operating affiliate, Workforce Solutions, together are the public workforce system for 13-county Houston-Galveston region and are dedicated to keeping the Texas Gulf Coast region a great place to do business, work and live. The Gulf Coast Workforce Board and Workforce Solutions work in tandem with the Texas Workforce Commission and the statewide Workforce Solutions network to maintain the state's largest job-match database – www.WorkInTexas.com. To learn more about Workforce Solutions' career and employer services, visit wrksolutions.com.

To learn more about the Houston-Galveston Area Council and its programs and events, visit <u>h-gac.com</u>.

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