ISSUE 11 | November 2026

GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD NEWSLETTER



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Calendar

NOV 19

Workforce Readiness Workshop: Interview Etiquette & Mock Interviews

Join Northwest Assistance Ministries – The Harrell Family Opportunity Center and Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast to strengthen your interview skills, learn professional etiquette, and practice through mock interviews with real-time feedback.

Harrell Family Opportunity Center | 15702 Bammel Village Drive, Houston, TX 77014

Thursday, November 19, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Be prepared: Create your free WorkInTexas account and upload your I-9 documents before attending. Staff can help if needed.

REGISTER TODAY

NOV 24 – DEC 01

Free In-Person Seminar Series

From writing a stronger résumé to preparing for interviews, Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast offers free seminars on résumés and cover letters, networking, AI tools for job searching, online applications and applicant tracking systems, and interview prep, including the STAR method.

Workforce Solutions Sealy | 2346 Highway 36 South, Sealy, TX 77474

Tuesday, November 24 | 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Workforce Solutions Missouri City | 3823 Cartwright Rd., Missouri City, TX 77459

Tuesday, December 1 | 1:30–3 p.m.

Whether you're entering the workforce, returning to work, or changing careers, find a session that fits your job-search needs.

REGISTER FOR A SEMINAR

EVERY THU

Free Career Assistance at Barbara Bush Branch Library

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast is partnering with Barbara Bush Branch Library to offer free one-on-one help with résumé development, job searching, interview preparation, WorkInTexas registration, and other career readiness services.

Barbara Bush Branch Library | 6817 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, TX 77379

Every Thursday in November and December | 1:00 – 3:00 p.m

No registration required. Walk-ins welcome! Create a free account at WorkInTexas.com and bring a valid photo ID and any available I-9 documents.

LABOR MARKET REPORT

Houston's Labor Market Faces a September Slowdown

Houston-area employers cut 7,300 jobs in September, the second-largest decline for that month since 1990. Losses affected every major private-sector industry, despite September typically being a month of job growth for the region.

Private employers shed 19,400 jobs, with Leisure and Hospitality, which includes restaurants, hotels, and entertainment venues, experiencing the largest losses. Government employment increased by 12,100 jobs, primarily in education, but fell short of the 21,500 jobs typically added in September.

One factor behind the lower education numbers may be the shift in school start dates. More school districts now begin classes in August, moving much of the hiring that traditionally occurred in September to an earlier month.

Over the past 12 months, Houston added 33,600 jobs, and the unemployment rate fell from 5.0% in August to 4.6% in September.

Gulf Coast Workforce Board economist Mohammad Ahmadizadeh was asked during an ABC13 newscast about the September monthly jobs report. He noted that the widespread job losses are worth watching, but one month of data is not enough to establish a trend.

Keep up with Houston's job market through the Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast Regional Economic Data page

WATCH: MOHAMMAD AHMADIZADEH ON ABC13

Newsletter Survey:

Take a quick survey and share your feedback to help us make future newsletters even better.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Partnership With UTMB

UTMB Apprenticeships Build the Gulf Coast's Next Generation of Healthcare Workers



Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast visit to UTMB Galveston, where CNA and MRI apprentices are training for careers in healthcare.

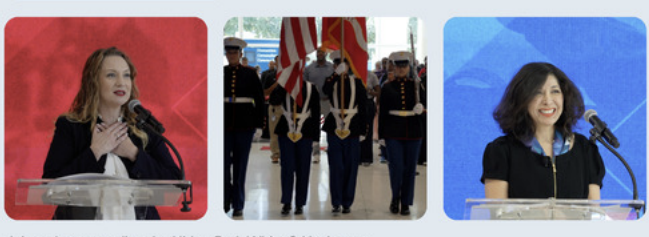
The University of Texas Medical Branch (UTMB) in Galveston is investing in its future healthcare workforce through Registered Apprenticeship Programs for Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) and MRI professionals. The programs let apprentices earn wages while gaining hands-on experience and training for healthcare careers.

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast recently visited UTMB to see apprentices in action and learn more about the programs. The visit offered a firsthand look at UTMB's approach to developing skilled healthcare professionals and the role apprenticeships can play in addressing the region's workforce needs.

With additional apprentice cohorts planned, UTMB and Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast are continuing their partnership to connect individuals with healthcare training and career opportunities.

LEARN ABOUT UTMB'S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

EVENT RECAPS



Job seekers attending the Hiring Red, White & You! event.

Hiring Red, White & You! Connects Job Seekers With 124 Employers

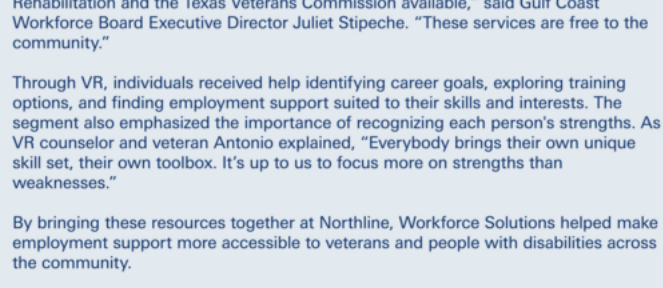
Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast hosted the 15th annual Hiring Red, White & You! on November 3 at Reliant Center, bringing together veterans, transitioning service members, military spouses and job seekers with employers offering career opportunities. The Houston event recorded 6,886 registrations and featured 124 employers ready to hire. More than 2,300 job seekers attended, including 581 veterans and 520 youth job seekers, with the final attendance count pending. Hosted in partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Veterans Commission and community organizations, the event highlighted employment opportunities and resources available to veterans transitioning into civilian careers. Attendees also learned about ongoing support available at Workforce Solutions offices, where veterans receive priority service and assistance with job searches, training and other employment needs.

Thank You to Our Hiring Red, White & You! Employers and Partners

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast extends its appreciation to the employers, sponsors and community partners who helped make this year's event possible. Your participation and continued support strengthen our regional workforce and help create meaningful opportunities for job seekers.

Hiring Red, White & You!

Helmets to Hardhats Tournament Delivers $350,000 for Veterans' Futures



Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council and Constellation leaders presented a $350,000 check to Helmets to Hardhats at Battleground Golf Course in Deer Park.

A $350,000 contribution to Helmets to Hardhats will help veterans and transitioning military service members pursue careers in the skilled construction trades. The funding was announced November 4 at Battleground Golf Course in Deer Park, following a tournament hosted by the Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council and Constellation, a major energy company.

Helmets to Hardhats connects former and transitioning service members with registered apprenticeship programs in the union construction trades. These programs offer paid, hands-on training and a pathway to careers in fields such as electrical work, plumbing, welding, and other skilled trades. Military experience can provide a strong foundation for these occupations, which value technical knowledge, discipline, and teamwork.

The investment comes as demand for construction workers remains significant across the Gulf Coast. As of August 2026, the region's construction industry had added 14,100 jobs over the previous year. Apprenticeships offer employers a way to develop skilled workers while giving veterans an opportunity to earn wages as they train for a new career.

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast joined industry and labor representatives at the November 4 presentation. Veterans seeking employment or training can also access priority services through Workforce Solutions, including career guidance, apprenticeship referrals, and connections to Texas Veterans Commission staff at select career offices.

Who's Hiring: Veterans Find Their Next Career Through Vocational Rehabilitation



Leaving the military can mean finding a new career, a new routine, and sometimes a new way of working after an injury or disability. At the Workforce Solutions Northline office in Houston, veterans making that transition can connect with someone who has made it too.

During National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October, Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast took ABC13's Who's Hiring inside the Northline office to highlight how Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) supports veterans and other Texans with disabilities in finding and keeping meaningful work.

"Right here in our Northline office, we're fortunate to have both Vocational Rehabilitation and the Texas Veterans Commission available," said Gulf Coast Workforce Board Executive Director Juliet Stipeche. "These services are free to the community."

Through VR, individuals received help identifying career goals, exploring training options, and finding employment support suited to their skills and interests. The segment also emphasized the importance of recognizing each person's strengths. As VR counselor and veteran Antonio explained, "Everybody brings their own unique skill set, their own toolbox. It's up to us to focus more on strengths than weaknesses."

By bringing these resources together at Northline, Workforce Solutions helped make employment support more accessible to veterans and people with disabilities across the community.

Build Freedom Summit Puts the Gulf Coast at the Center of America's Industrial Future

Gulf Coast Workforce Board Executive Director Juliet Stipeche, Traci Nolen, and Lacy Wolf presented at the Build Freedom Summit in Galveston, accompanied by Paul Puente, where national leaders examined who will build the future of American manufacturing and defense.

Workforce Solutions participated in the Build Freedom Summit and Career Expo, held October 20–22 in Galveston. The event brought together workforce leaders, employers, and industry partners to discuss the growing workforce needs of American manufacturing and defense.

During the Summit, Juliet Stipeche, Traci Nolen, and Lacy Wolf presented From Workforce Strategy to Industrial Readiness: How Workforce Boards Are Building the Talent Pipeline for America's Manufacturing and Defense Future. Their presentation focused on how workforce boards help employers find skilled workers and connect job seekers with education and training opportunities.

Workforce Solutions also hosted an exhibit where attendees could learn about workforce services available across the Gulf Coast region. The team supported the Build Freedom Career Expo, hosted by the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, which allowed job seekers to meet employers in advanced manufacturing, defense, and skilled trades.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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Visit Workforce Solutions News website for the latest stories, events, and regional updates.

Contact Information

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Childcare Support: 713-334-5980 / Text: 346-249-7700

Email: jobs@wrksolutions.com

WorkInTexas Job Matching: WorkInTexas.com