



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 20, 2004

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## **The WorkSource Receives \$75,000 Grant As One of Seven National Incubator Sites**

HOUSTON — The WorkSource and its Gulf Coast Workforce Board have been recognized by the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) as one of the nation's seven local Demand-Driven Incubator Sites.

This recognition is part of NAWB's Business Services and Outreach Project and includes a \$75,000 grant to enhance The WorkSource's growing partnership with high-growth, high-demand industries.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the Demand-Driven Incubator Site Project aims at increasing peer-to-peer learning and information sharing based on demand-driven principles. Goals of the Incubator Sites include highlighting state and local areas which target high-growth, high-demand industries; providing a model to address the needs of industries with the greatest demand for workers; and documenting and sharing strategies on serving high-growth industries.

Of the seven Incubator Sites selected nationwide, The WorkSource is the only workforce board located in the Southwest. The other sites are in the states of Maine, Florida, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington.

One of The WorkSource's major accomplishments is a product of its collaborative relationship with the Greater Houston Partnership — the creation of the Gulf Coast Health Services Steering Committee. This initiative has increased the availability of training, funding and qualified workers for the region's health care institutions. In addition, The WorkSource has a suite of business services generating training funds to other targeted industries offering high wages and benefits.

The WorkSource expects to use some of the \$75,000 to host a greater number of visiting workforce boards from around the nation. It also is considering the establishment of another industry steering committee with private firms, education institutions and economic development partners in the Gulf Coast region.