



MEDIA RELEASE
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Health Care Training Grant Targets Registered Nurse Crisis

The Texas Workforce Commission has awarded the Gulf Coast Workforce Board a grant to expand the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston model program for enabling existing hospital staff to pursue careers in the nursing field. Six area hospitals have chosen to participate, and the grant will provide \$900,000 over the next 18 months to help meet the crisis for more registered nurses.

Participating hospitals, in addition to UTMB, are Belleville General Hospital, Brazosport Memorial Hospital, Memorial Hermann Healthcare System, Methodist Health Care System, and St. Luke's Episcopal Health System.

The Workforce Board, which oversees the operations of the Gulf Coast Workforce System and 30 Gulf Coast Careers employment resource centers, is currently competing for additional federal funds to further expand this initiative in more hospitals in its 13-county Houston-Galveston Gulf Coast service region.

The Gulf Coast Workforce System is a regional partnership of business, education, labor, and community organizations committed to providing the education, training, and labor market services that will make employers and residents more competitive in the global economy.

Counties served by the system are Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Galveston, Fort Bend, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller and Wharton.