

The WorkSource–Northside at 1906 Cochran, Houston used to be a youth center, but became a full-service career office for all community residents last fall. At its grand opening, a special mosaic mural on the outside of the building was unveiled. The 21-foot by 64-foot mural was created by 26 youth, ranging in age from 14 to 22, who were part of a job training initiatives funded by The WorkSource. The project was guided by the Museum of Cultural Arts Houston (MOCAH) and is the largest mosaic mural in Houston.



GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD

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The WorkSource Web Site Just Got Better



The WorkSource Web site has just undergone a major renovation in an effort to better serve online customers and provide important, easy-to-access employment information for employers and job-seeking residents. Visitors can learn about the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, access the latest labor market information and explore the high skill, high growth occupations in the region. They can research the latest Gulf Coast "hot jobs," register in the WorkInTexas.com employment database and search for jobs. The site also links to 100+ additional online job banks, educational institutions and other business and community resources in the region.

theworksource.org

work source

The WorkSource Continues to Provide Job Assistance for Hurricane Evacuees and Employers in Region

A multitude of workforce services are still available in the Gulf Coast region for victims of last year's Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, as evacuees and employers continue to recover from the two storms. The WorkSource, in partnership with federal and state governments as well as area education and community organizations, has been providing evacuees with training and employment opportunities, both locally and in Louisiana. Its coordinated efforts have been focused on helping people rebuild their lives and in helping employers rebuild and expand their businesses.

By the end of 2005, The WorkSource had registered 22,000 evacuees in the statewide WorkInTexas.com job database and assisted many more through its 36 community-based career offices and two temporary offices set-up immediately at Reliant Park and the George R. Brown Convention Center after the storms.

In addition to providing evacuees with all of its regular employment services on a continuing basis, The WorkSource recently contracted with 19 community-based organizations, schools and government entities to provide additional assistance with public service employment, outreach services and short-term skills training.

Public Service Employment

Seven community organizations are providing employment opportunities in public purpose, temporary jobs.

- **Communities in Schools** has placed evacuee tutors in 36 schools in eight school districts with concentrations of evacuee students. The initiative provides both meaningful, temporary employment for displaced hurricane evacuees as well as academic support, advocacy and remediation to youth who relocated to the area due to Hurricane Katrina. CIS partners with Houston A+ Challenge in supervising the tutors.

- **The City of Houston – Health and Human Services Department** is employing qualified evacuees as outreach mental health counselors.

These counselors help screen evacuees for mental health needs and refer workers for counseling support, health-related services and employment opportunities.



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- As a part of a network of agencies organized through the United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, the **Harris County Social Services Department** is employing evacuees to provide case management and related services for those evacuees who remain in Houston long-term.
- Four other agencies, also affiliated with the United Way, are working to ensure that evacuees who remain in the area long-term will get the employment, housing and social services they need.
 - **Career and Recovery Resources** is placing evacuees in a number of different organizations, including Big Brothers and Sisters, the Boy Scouts and the Girl Scouts.
 - **The Houston Area Urban League** is employing evacuees for case management.
 - **Neighborhood Centers, Inc.** is employing evacuees for case management and to help deliver regular services at NCI's Harbach-Ripley House and other centers, as well as in NCI's Charter School and Head Start classrooms.
 - **Family Services of Greater Houston** is employing evacuees to provide case management for evacuees who remain in Houston long-term.

Outreach Services

Four community agencies are using their service networks to help identify evacuees who are in the Gulf Coast area and have not yet received assistance in finding employment or financial aid. Once identified, the agencies are connecting the evacuees to The WorkSource career offices, where they can receive the help they need.

- **The Alliance of Multicultural Community Services** is outreaching to Katrina and Rita evacuees in Fort Bend and Harris counties and hopes to connect with 1,500 individuals in those areas.
- **Interfaith of The Woodlands** is outreaching to 350 evacuees who reside in hard-to-reach areas in Montgomery County.
- **Families Under Urban and Social Attack (FUUSA)** hopes to reach 1,425 evacuees in Fort Bend, Harris, Montgomery and Walker counties.
- **The Chinese Community Center** is looking for 1,000 evacuees in the Asian community and is working with Boat People SOS to reach the significant number of Katrina evacuees who are Vietnamese.

Short-Term Skills Training

To help prepare Katrina and Rita evacuees for employment in the clean-up and rebuilding activities taking place in the storm-damaged areas of east and southeast Texas, western Louisiana, and the New Orleans metropolitan area, The WorkSource has contracted with a number of Gulf Coast area schools and colleges to provide short-term skills training.

- **ACE Vocational Schools** – Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) training for 150 evacuees
- **Latino Learning Center, Inc.** – residential electricity training for 60 evacuees
- **Houston Community College** – plumber helpers, electrician helpers, HVAC techs, sheet metal helpers, welder helpers, material handlers, cement mason helpers, dry wall helpers, and carpenter helpers training for 104 evacuees
- **Houston Area Urban League** – entry level construction training for 48 evacuees
- **North Harris Montgomery Community College District** – machinist, welding, computer numeric control operator, and computer-aided drafting training for 48 evacuees
- **Pinnacle Career Center** – dental assistant training for 40 evacuees
- **San Jacinto College District** – commercial truck driver, electrical apprentice, and structural welder training for 139 evacuees
- **University of Texas at Arlington, Division of Continuing Education** – forklift operator, crane and forklift operator, and earthmoving equipment operator training for 92 evacuees

