Gulf Coast Workforce Board Newsletter – June 2026

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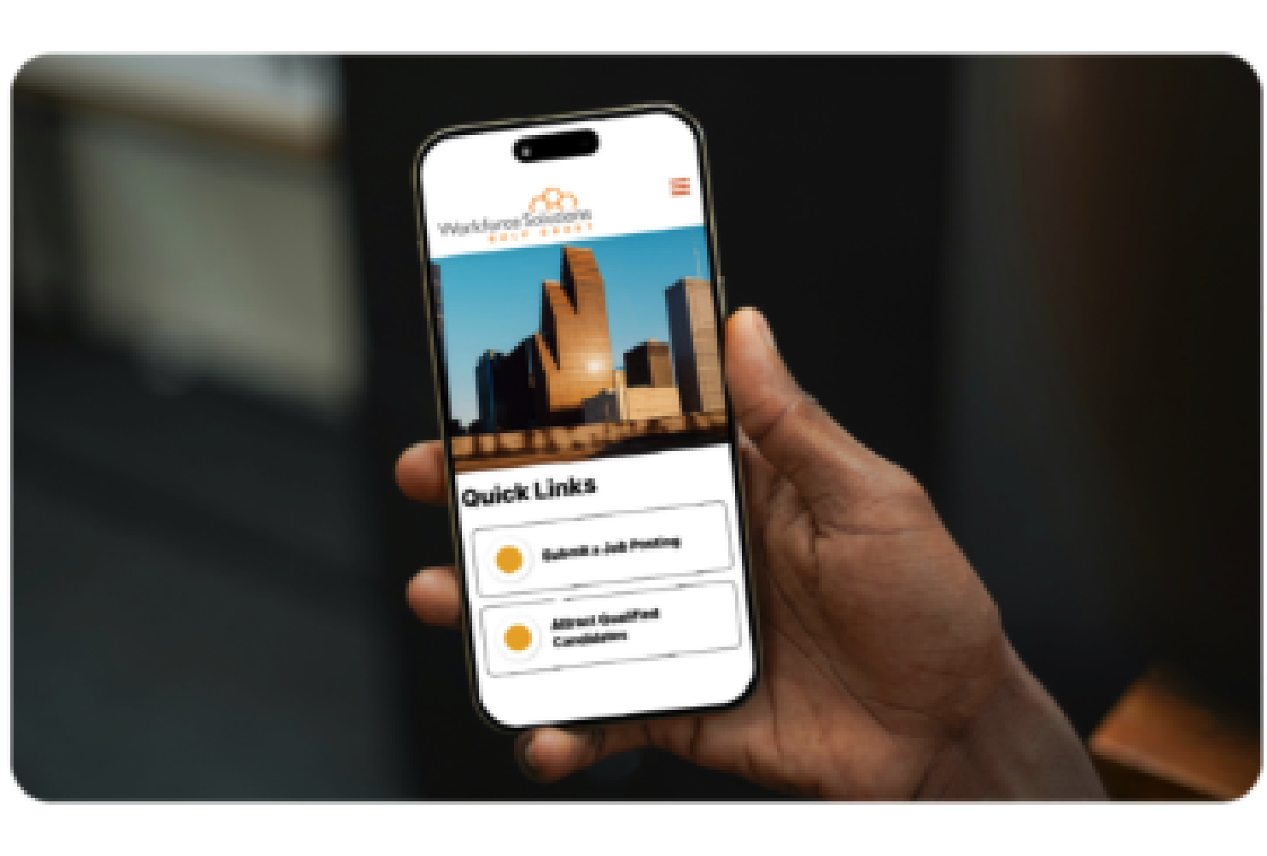
GULF COAST WORKFORCE BOARD NEWSLETTER



Hiring Talent Just Got Easier

Finding qualified talent remains one of the top challenges facing employers across the Gulf Coast region. While WorkInTexas.com continues to serve as Texas' official labor exchange system, Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast is introducing a **new tool** designed to make the hiring process faster and more accessible for employers.

The new Job Posting Request Form allows businesses to submit hiring information directly through the Workforce Solutions website. Once a request is received, a Workforce Solutions business consultant works with the employer to gather any additional details and help facilitate the posting process through WorkInTexas.

The new feature was developed in response to feedback from employers who may not have the time to create accounts, navigate a new system, or enter job postings while managing day-to-day business operations. By streamlining the process, Workforce Solutions can help employers connect their opportunities to one of the largest talent networks in Texas while reducing the administrative burden of posting jobs.

Whether an employer is hiring for a single position or recruiting for multiple openings, the Job Posting Request Form provides another way to access workforce services and recruitment support available through Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast.

Employers interested in learning more or submitting a job posting request can visit the Workforce Solutions website to get started.

Submit a Job Posting Form

Inside Daikin: Career Opportunities in Advanced Manufacturing

What does the future of manufacturing look like in the Gulf Coast region?

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast recently partnered with ABC13 Houston for a special "Who's Hiring" segment at Daikin Comfort Technologies' North American headquarters in Waller, giving viewers an inside look at one of the largest manufacturing facilities in North America and the workforce that helps keep it running.
Known to many Houstonians through Daikin Park, home of the Houston Astros, Daikin's campus spans approximately 500 acres and more than 4 million square feet under one roof. Behind that operation are thousands of employees working across manufacturing, engineering, logistics, maintenance, technical training, and skilled trades.

The segment highlighted an important workforce challenge facing many manufacturers: meeting growing demand for skilled workers as operations expand and experienced employees retire.

During the visit, Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast Executive Director Juliet Stipeche discussed career opportunities available at Daikin and emphasized that positions exist for individuals with different backgrounds, experience levels, and career goals.

"Whether it's production, maintenance, skilled trades, engineering, logistics, or technical training, there are opportunities here for people with different backgrounds, experience levels, and career goals," Stipeche said.

One of the key themes of the segment was the importance of workforce development and employer-led training. Daikin representatives shared how the company has invested in in-house learning programs designed to help employees build skills, advance their careers, and move into leadership and technical positions. For many workers, those opportunities have created pathways from entry-level roles into careers they never expected to pursue.

Advanced manufacturing continues to play an important role in the Gulf Coast economy. Partnerships between employers, Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast, and community partners help connect job seekers to career opportunities while supporting the workforce needs of growing companies.

Read more:

Workforce Solutions News **ABC13 Houston**

Success Story: Melanie Reyes

TRADESFUTURES
Melanie Reyes

When Melanie Reyes visited Workforce Solutions looking for employment opportunities, she wasn't expecting to discover a new career path. Melanie was exploring her options when Workforce Solutions staff introduced her to the North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) Apprenticeship Readiness Program. Intrigued by the opportunity to learn a skilled trade and prepare for a new career, she decided to apply.

The multi-week training program helps participants build foundational skills needed for careers in the construction and building trades while introducing them to a variety of apprenticeship opportunities available throughout the region. For Melanie, one of the biggest surprises was how much she learned during the program. "I learned a lot about math," Melanie said. "I've been out of school for a little bit, so it actually taught me a lot of math. It also taught me about different trades that I didn't even know were available."Beyond technical skills, the program provided Melanie with a clearer vision for her future. "What excites me most is having a better life and a better opportunity," she said. "Getting to learn a different trade and become more knowledgeable and more skilled in that trade."

Melanie says she is especially interested in working with heavy machinery and looks forward to continuing her training following her graduation from the Apprenticeship Readiness Program on June 19. She also values the sense of community she found throughout the experience. "We're all like a big family and a group," Reyes said. "If I ever need help, I can call on them and they can guide me if I don't understand something or don't have the knowledge."

Interested in a career in the skilled trades? Explore apprenticeship opportunities, training resources, and career pathways through Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast and Houston Construction Careers.Interested in a career in the skilled trades? Explore apprenticeship opportunities and training resources through the Houston Gulf Coast Building & Construction Trades Council Apprenticeship Readiness Program at https://www.arpmc3.com/ or through the Houston Construction Careers website at houstonconstructioncareers.com.

Galveston College Shipfitting Program Creates New Career Pathways Along the Gulf Coast

Shipbuilding is returning to the Gulf Coast for the first time in more than 80 years, creating new opportunities for workers and increasing demand for skilled trades across the region.

To help meet that demand, Galveston College has launched a Shipfitting Apprenticeship Program in partnership with Gulf Copper Davie. The 22-month program combines classroom instruction with paid, hands-on training, providing students with a direct pathway into careers in shipbuilding and maritime manufacturing.

Students in the program work approximately 36 hours per week while also completing classroom instruction. Apprentices earn between $15- $19 per hour and gain industry-recognized training while building skills needed for long-term careers in the maritime industry. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will be offered full-time employment opportunities with Gulf Copper as shipfitters.

"The workforce demand is there, and the opportunities are there," Galveston College representatives said during the program's launch. State leaders estimate the initiative could help support nearly 2,500 jobs in the region as shipbuilding activity continues to expand along the Gulf Coast.

Individuals interested in learning more about the Shipfitting Apprenticeship Program can contact Galveston College's Continuing Education Department at **409-944-1344** or visit https://gc.edu/academic-career-programs/ce/career-training/craft-trades.php. Additional training and career resources are available through Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast at http://wrksolutions.com/.

To read more about the Galveston College Shipfitting Apprenticeship Program and career opportunities in the maritime industry, visit the Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast News article at https://www.wrksolutions.com/news/galveston-college-shipfitting-program-creates-new-career-pathways-along-the-gulf-coast **and the ABC13 Houston article at** https://abc13.com/post/new-galveston-college-shipfitting-program-allows-students-learn-free-get-paid/19139381/

New Graduates Prepare for Careers in the Skilled Trades

Graduates of the North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) Apprenticeship Readiness Program celebrated the completion of their training on June 19, marking the beginning of careers in the skilled trades.

The three-week program introduces participants to careers across the construction industry while providing training in workplace safety, construction math, financial literacy, CPR certification, and OSHA 10 certification. Participants also meet directly with representatives from multiple trades and learn about apprenticeship opportunities available throughout the region.

"This is a way to change their livelihood," said Paul Puente, Executive Secretary of the Houston Gulf Coast Building and Construction Trades Council. "We're talking about generational wealth. We're talking about an opportunity to join an apprenticeship program and start a career path."

For graduate Brandon Binder, the program opened doors he didn't know existed. "We got to talk to 13 different trades, their pay scale, their retirements, and what their benefits are," Binder said. "There were trades I didn't even know about."

Several graduates secured employment opportunities before completing the program, including Binder and fellow graduate Tyler, who both began work on June 22. The program continues to connect job seekers with training and career pathways in high-demand skilled trades.Interested in a career in the skilled trades? Explore apprenticeship opportunities and training resources through the Houston Gulf Coast Building & Construction Trades Council Apprenticeship Readiness Program at https://www.arpmc3.com/ or through the Houston Construction Careers website at houstonconstructioncareers.com.

WFS News **YouTube**

Hire Gulf Coast Youth Highlights the Power of One Opportunity

THE POWER OF ONE
JOIN THE CIRCLE
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS PODCAST
Connecting Young People to Work

In episode 4 of the Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast Podcast, LaToya Casimere, Manager of Youth Services, explains how internships, summer jobs, and other work-based learning opportunities give young people more than a paycheck.

These experiences put young people inside professional environments, build their confidence, and connect them to supervisors, mentors, and industry contacts who can shape what comes next. They introduce career paths a young person might never have pictured, and they help young people build the references and relationships that open doors to future education, training, and jobs. For many participants, one opportunity becomes the starting point for everything that follows.

Casimere also discusses the **Power of One** campaign, which encourages employers to hire, mentor, or host one young person. The goal is straightforward: create more opportunities for young people to gain experience, build professional networks, and explore potential career paths. Employers interested in participating in the **Power of One** campaign or learning more about Hire Gulf Coast Youth can visit wrksolutions.com/hgcy or follow Hire Gulf Coast Youth on Instagram.

Watch the full episode

Labor Market Information: April 2026 Snapshot

Houston-area employers added 5,000 jobs in April, a figure that falls below the region's long-term average for the month. Excluding seasonal hiring, employment declined by 3,500 jobs, marking the first April decrease since 2020.

While Professional and Business Services led monthly gains with 5,800 new jobs, followed by Construction and Leisure and Hospitality, those increases were offset by losses in several other sectors, including Financial Activities and Government.

The more significant trend is occurring over the year. Houston added just 7,700 jobs between April 2025 and April 2026, compared to 52,000 jobs during the previous twelve-month period. According to Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast economists, that slowdown reflects job growth narrowing to a shrinking set of industries.

Currently, seven of the region's eleven major industry sectors are experiencing year-over-year employment declines, led by Mining and Logging, Financial Activities, and Manufacturing. The data suggests a labor market that remains active but increasingly dependent on a small number of industries to sustain growth.

View the full labor market report

Celebrating Our Gulf Coast Graduates

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board proudly celebrates the achievements of graduates across our region. Your dedication, resilience, and commitment to your future have led you to this important milestone, and we are honored to recognize all that you have accomplished.

We are especially proud to recognize the graduates of:

- San Jacinto College Opportunity High School Program
- Lone Star College Adult Education and Literacy GED Program
- Houston City College TXCHSE Program

Each of you has demonstrated that perseverance, hard work, and a commitment to learning can open doors to new opportunities. Your success reminds us that education transforms lives and that it is never too early or too late to pursue your goals.

As you begin this next chapter, we remain committed to supporting your continued success. Through our Workforce Education and Literacy Program, we offer scholarships, training opportunities, and resources designed to help you further your education, strengthen your skills, and prepare for high-skill, high-growth careers.

Today we celebrate your accomplishments and the bright future ahead. We look forward to supporting you as you continue building your career, reaching new milestones, and making a lasting impact in your communities.

Best wishes to each of our graduates as you embark on the exciting journey ahead. Your future is full of promise, and this achievement is only the beginning.

Calendar: Upcoming Events

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BeSuccessful Job Fair

Take the next step toward your future at the Workforce Solutions BeSuccessful Job Fair, hosted in partnership with Houston City Council Member Tarsha Jackson.

Whether you're looking for a new career opportunity, exploring your options, or seeking support on your employment journey, this event is designed to connect you with employers and resources that can help you succeed.

📅 Thursday, July 9, 2026

📍 Houston Community College North Forest Campus, 6010 Little York Road, Houston, Texas 77016

🕒 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Register and learn more

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16

Regional Workforce Summit: Education Futures

Join education, workforce, and training leaders from across the Gulf Coast region for a day of collaboration focused on strengthening career pathways and student success. Attendees will hear from K-12, postsecondary, and workforce leaders, explore regional labor market trends, and learn about programs and services that support education and workforce development across the region.

📅 July 16, 2026

📍 3200 College Park Dr, Conroe, TX 77384

🕒 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Learn more

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Cypress Assistance Ministries Workforce Support Sessions

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast will host a workforce support session at Cypress Assistance Ministries focused on helping job seekers strengthen their job readiness skills and connect with employment opportunities.

Participants will receive guidance on resumes, job search strategies, career planning, and workforce resources available throughout the region.

📅 July 21, 2026

📍 Cypress Assistance Ministries I 12930 Cypress North Houston Rd., Cypress, TX 77429

🕒 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Register to attend

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Power of One Youth Employment and Work-Based Learning Summit

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast and Hire Gulf Coast Youth will host a youth-focused employment and work-based learning summit connecting young adults with employers, internship opportunities, training providers, and career pathways. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore employment opportunities, learn about paid work-based learning programs, and connect with training resources designed to support long-term career success. Explore youth employment, internships, and work-based learning opportunities at wrksolutions.com/hgcy .

📅 August 20, 2026

📍 BakerRipley Community Center I Pasadena, TX 720 Fairmont Pkwy, Pasadena, TX 77504

🕒 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Stay Connected to Jobs and Career Resources

Stay connected with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board (GCWFB) for job opportunities, career resources, and workforce updates across 13 counties in the Texas Gulf Coast region.

Whether you're a job seeker or employer, the app provides the tools and updates you need.

With the app, you can:

- Find local jobs
- Access training programs
- Get career resources
- Stay connected on the go

Download the Gulf Coast Workforce Solutions App

App Store

Google Play

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

Contact Information

Main Career Office Line: 713-627-3200

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

Email: jobs@wrksolutions.com

WorkInTexas Job Matching: WorkInTexas.com