

Press Release

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Workforce Solutions Awarded \$300,000 Grant to Support Regional Healthcare Pathways

Abilene, Texas — Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the Trellis Foundation and UpSkill America at the Aspen Institute to strengthen healthcare workforce pathways across the region. The funding will support efforts to refine and develop a replicable framework for paid clinical experiences, expanding the model to rural partner hospitals to benefit students from multiple regional institutions.

“Trellis Foundation understands the importance of investing in the meaningful work nursing programs are doing across Texas,” Jenny Achilles, Senior Program Officer at Trellis Foundation, said. “Supporting nursing students so they can get their degree without facing extra hurdles is vital to our healthcare workforce.”

By increasing access to paid clinical experiences, the initiative aims to reduce barriers for aspiring healthcare professionals, address regional workforce shortages, and ensure hospitals in West Central Texas have access to a steady pipeline of skilled and prepared workers.

“This investment allows us to continue building meaningful bridges between education and employment,” Amelia Reeves, Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas, said. “By expanding paid clinical opportunities into rural communities, we’re not only supporting students but also strengthening the healthcare systems that sustain our region.”

The project builds on Workforce Solutions’ ongoing efforts to align workforce development with the needs of local employers and educational institutions. The organization will collaborate with regional partners to implement, evaluate, and share the framework with other communities across Texas as part of the inaugural implementation cohort for the Streamlining Success in Nursing Programs in Texas.

“Creating an intentional community where academic institutions, community organizations, and hospital partners can come together and learn from one another is essential to success for each participant,” Haley Glover, Senior Director of UpSkill America, said. “These implementation

partners are leaders in their community whose innovative solutions will help other communities understand what is feasible for their hospital partners.”

For more information about Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas and its career pathway development initiatives, visit www.wfswct.org or email pathways@wfswct.org.

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas

The mission of [Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas](http://www.wfswct.org) is to provide resources for good jobs, strong employers, and a healthy regional economy. The Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board is one of 28 regional workforce boards in Texas charged with oversight and policy-making responsibility for local workforce and training programs.

UpSkill America

[UpSkill America](http://www.upskillamerica.org) supports employers and workforce organizations to expand and improve high-quality educational and career advancement opportunities for America’s front-line workers. We advance collaborative solutions that work for employers, employees, and communities, recognizing that shared value for workers, communities, and business bottom-line is the best strategy for long-term success — we believe in “doing well by doing good.”

We seek to create a movement of employers, civic organizations, workforce intermediaries, and policymakers working collaboratively to implement education, training, and development strategies that result in better jobs and opportunities for workers, more competitive businesses, and stronger communities. UpSkill America is an initiative of the [Economic Opportunities Program](http://www.aspeninstitute.org/economic-opportunities-program) at The Aspen Institute.

Trellis Foundation

[Trellis Foundation](http://www.trellisfoundation.org) is a grant-making public charitable organization focused on improving postsecondary attainment for low-income students and students of color in Texas. Our approach is highly collaborative and prioritizes catalytic investments, focused on changing or informing change to policy, practice, and systems.

Workforce Solutions is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay: 1-800-735-2989 (TTY) / 711 (voice). Programs/services are funded in whole or in part with federal funds. More detailed information is located on the Board’s website at www.wfswct.org/publicinfo.

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