



Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

POSITION STATEMENT

Support For Austin Regional Workforce Plan

Adopted by the Board of Directors

2/22/2018

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The Austin Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors applauds the Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board of Directors for adopting its first Master Workforce Plan for 2017-2021. The plan's top-line target is to ensure an additional 1,800 Austin residents currently in poverty receive training/credentialing and are placed in jobs paying at least \$40,000 in technology, healthcare and skilled trades. The plan identifies high-level strategies to raise awareness of workforce training opportunities, increase training program success rates and to improve job placement rates in fields of training.

To accomplish the 2017-2021 plan, the City of Austin, Workforce Solutions and Travis County must improve the completion and job placement rates each year, using currently available resources. Austin Community College, who is responsible for 75% of the net increase in 5-year goal, must execute on its existing Master Plan and increase its student success and placement rates.

Through funding and execution of Opportunity Austin 4.0, the Chamber projects that Austin-area employers will create 188,000 net new jobs and that the poverty rate will continue to decline to 9.5%. Hence, the Austin Chamber Board stands as partners and supports the Workforce Solutions Capital Area in determining additional strategies and metrics for workforce education by June 2018 which will allow them to set success goals which will more quickly reduce poverty.

BACKGROUND

- Workforce Solutions Capital Area Workforce Board is the leadership and governing body for the regional workforce system. The Board is responsible for the planning, oversight, and evaluation of workforce development activities in the Austin/Travis County area. They are a private, publicly-funded non-profit organization.
- The Austin Chamber has been represented on the Workforce Solutions Capital Area board of directors since 2014.
- The Chamber provided significant feedback and support for the creation of Workforce Solutions' first Community Master Workforce Plan, rolled out June 2017