

Recommendations: Sunset Review HHSC, TWC

Family Financial Security

Background: Family financial security is central to Texas' long-term economic strength. When families have stable employment, are able to grow earnings, and have access to essential supports, children thrive and communities prosper.

Thousands of Texans rely on a combination of workforce programs, including Adult Education & Literacy (AEL), SNAP Employment & Training (SNAP E&T), childcare assistance, and health services as they work toward economic mobility. While Texas has invested in workforce initiatives through TWC, the Tri-Agency initiative, and human services partnerships, families experience these programs as fragmented systems with differing rules, timelines, and requirements.

Strengthening cross-system coordination, accountability, and braided funding strategies – with clear goals focused on low-income and underserved Texans – will create more effective pathways to family financial stability.

Challenges & Barriers

- **Fragmented Systems Create Barriers for Families**

Workforce, education, and human services programs operate under different funding streams, eligibility rules, and performance measures. Misaligned requirements can create service gaps, duplicative paperwork, and instability for families pursuing education or training.

- **SNAP E&T Outcome Gaps**

Current SNAP rules – particularly for student learners enrolled in postsecondary education or credential-based training – can create barriers to accessing SNAP itself, limiting both nutrition support and workforce pathways. Additionally, limited coordination with community colleges, workforce boards, and community-based organizations contributes to low participation, high sanction rates, and missed opportunities to connect Texans to high-quality education and training that lead to self-sufficiency and meet the state's workforce needs.

- **Inconsistent Quality and Outcome Measurement**

Education and training providers overseen by TWC operate under varying accountability frameworks. Without standardized evaluation across provider types, it is difficult to measure effectiveness, ensure quality, and track progress toward family-sustaining wages.

- **Insufficient Two-Generational and Youth-Focused Coordination**

Parents pursuing training often need coordinated supports for both themselves and their children. At the same time, youth and young adults disconnected from school and work face long-term economic consequences. Texas lacks a clearly designated, cross-agency structure to align early childhood, education, workforce, and human services systems to keep families stable, support school and workforce attachment, and ensure accountability for family economic wellbeing.

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Adult Education/Workforce Development/Family Financial Stability

- Strengthen and standardize program and provider quality evaluation across all education and training providers overseen by TWC—including WIOA Eligible Training Providers, Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) providers, High School Equivalency (HSE) providers, apprenticeships, internships, and other workforce preparation programs.
- Ensure the state's workforce plan explicitly includes clear goals, strategies, and performance measures to improve access and outcomes for low-income and underserved Texans—including populations targeted under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

February 2026

- Direct agencies to identify and implement braided funding strategies that align workforce, education, and human services programs, allowing families to receive comprehensive support without gaps or conflicting requirements.
- Support two-generational approaches across the Tri-Agency and other state systems to increase efficiencies and improve outcomes for individuals and families.
- Create a subcommittee or advisory committee focused on supporting opportunity youth and young adults (OYYA) disconnection (ages 16–24 not in school, training, or employment) across agencies. Appointments from: the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Members include THECB, HHSC, DSHS, TJJD, and TWC Chair serves as Advisory Chair. Include 1-2 spots for Opportunity Youth and/or parents of OYYA.
- Create in statute a Youth Disconnection Prevention & Reengagement Ombudsman within TWC, appointed by the Governor, reporting to the TWC Executive Director, with a pre-determined term, authority to coordinate statewide strategy, and required annual public reporting to the Legislature. Ombudsman will collaborate formally with TEA, THECB, HHSC, DFPS, TJJD, local workforce boards, and CBO's.

SNAP E&T

- Direct HHSC (in collaboration with TWC and THECB) to define and identify postsecondary programs that are “equivalent to SNAP E&T” components to ensure students enrolled in “credentials of value” have their coursework recognized as satisfying SNAP’s work requirements. This will improve completion rates for students and lead to greater self-sufficiency post-credentialing.
- Direct TWC and HHSC to develop and implement standardized contracting and reimbursement models for third-party SNAP E&T providers to be applied across all local workforce development boards & set ambitious goals to scale the number of third-party partners contracted to provide SNAP E&T, with an emphasis on community colleges and other credential-based training providers.
- Require HHSC to align SNAP E&T program requirements with the federal baseline (20 hours per week/80 hours per month) to simplify compliance, reduce administrative complexity, and support more consistent program engagement.
- Develop a statewide SNAP E&T provider dashboard tracking key program metrics, including enrollment, completion, job placement, and job retention.

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