



Tri-County Economic Development Coalition

Memorandum of Understanding

WHEREAS, **Jim Hogg County, Duval County, Webb County, the Laredo Community College Economic Development Center, the Texas A&M International University Small Business Development Center, the Laredo Development Foundation and Workforce Solutions for South Texas** agree to a collaboration of efforts and resources with the intention of improving the economic sector in the South Texas region through the creation of a Tri-County Economic Development Coalition;

WHEREAS, the partners listed below have agreed to enter into a collaborative agreement in which Jim Hogg County will be the lead agency and all other agencies will be partners and sponsors for the activities related to the Tri-County Economic Development Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the partners herein desire to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding setting forth the purpose and services to be provided by the Tri-County Economic Development Coalition; and

WHEREAS, the parties of this Memorandum of Understanding seek to promote economic development through forums, workshops and job fairs to be held within the designated service area of this agreement.

I) Description of Partner Agencies

The Tri-County area of Jim Hogg, Duval and Webb in the South Texas region have a long history of partnerships and collaborations that range from law enforcement activities to sustainable energy initiatives. Cumulatively, the Tri-County region has a combined population of about 333,000 residents. The three neighboring Counties are not only close in proximity, but also share a similar demographic base, with a majority Hispanic population and above-average poverty levels. Regional economic impacts, such as the turbulent oil & gas industry that continues to affect the local economies, have prompted the collaboration of the three Counties, and their partnerships with the Laredo Community College Economic Development Center, the Texas A&M International University Small Business Development Center, the Laredo Development Foundation and Workforce Solutions for South Texas.

The Laredo Community College Economic Development Center, the Texas A&M International University Small Business Development Center, the Laredo Development Foundation and Workforce Solutions for South Texas are agencies based out of Webb County's seat, the City of

Laredo, that are committed to job growth, business development and economic prosperity in the South Texas region. The organizations spearhead activities such as job training, job fairs, small business development, and industrial and commercial attraction that contribute to the economic sector of Webb and the surrounding areas.

II) Purpose and Commitment to Partnership

The purpose of the Tri-County Economic Development Coalition is to contribute to the economic sector by uniting key stakeholders that are invested in the development and prosperity of the South Texas area. The collaborative service area includes Jim Hogg County, Duval County and Webb County.

The partners agree to combine their resources in an effort to promote economic development through funding opportunities that become available to the Coalition. Economic development activities may include, but are not limited to: workshops, job fairs, and economic forums. There are no monetary commitments from any of the partners of this Memorandum of Understanding, and any contribution from an agency's own budget or personnel will be voluntary.

III) Roles and Responsibilities

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between the partners as follows:

The County of Jim Hogg commits to the purpose of the Coalition and will act as the lead agency for its efforts. Jim Hogg County will seek funding opportunities and will foster the development of funding applications and the activities set forth within, such as workshops, job fairs and economic forums. It further commits to host the activities within its jurisdiction.

The County of Duval commits to the purpose of the Coalition and will support the activities of funded programs, such as workshops, job fairs and economic forums.

The County of Webb commits to the purpose of the Coalition and will support the activities of funded programs, such as workshops, job fairs and economic forums. It further commits to assist in the development of funding applications and to the implementation of related activities.

The Laredo Community College Economic Development Center commits to the purpose of the Coalition and will support the activities of funded programs, such as workshops, job fairs and economic forums. It also commits its available resources and will actively participate in the events carried out by the Coalition.

The Texas A&M International University Small Business Development Center commits to the purpose of the Coalition and will support the activities of funded programs, such as workshops, job fairs and economic forums. It also commits its available resources and will actively participate in the events carried out by the Coalition.

The Laredo Development Foundation commits to the purpose of the Coalition and will support the activities of funded programs, such as workshops, job fairs and economic forums. It also commits its available resources and will actively participate in the events carried out by the Coalition.

Workforce Solutions for South Texas commits to the purpose of the Coalition and will support the activities of funded programs, such as workshops, job fairs and economic forums. It also commits its available resources and will actively participate in the events carried out by the Coalition.

IV) Timeline

The roles and responsibilities described above are contingent on the availability of resources for the funding of the Coalition's efforts. This may include funding from state or federal agencies, as well as private donations. Responsibilities under this Memorandum of Understanding will coincide with a one-year period, but may be extended at a later time. The collaboration will begin on 10/01/2016 and end on 09/30/2017.

We, the undersigned, have read and agree with this Memorandum of Understanding.

By: _____
Dr. Humberto Gonzalez, County Judge, Jim Hogg County

Date _____

By: _____
Judge Ricardo O. Carrillo, Duval County

Date _____

By: _____
Judge Tano E. Tijerina, Webb County

Date _____

By: _____
Dr. Ricardo Solis, President
Laredo Community College

Date _____

By: _____

Dr. Pablo Arenaz, Interim President
Texas A&M International University

Date _____

By: _____

Olivia Varela, Director, Laredo Development Foundation

By: _____

Rogelio Trevino, Executive Director, Workforce Solutions for South Texas

Date _____