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June 1, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HIDALGO COUNTY AND WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS ANNOUNCING 2,000+ JOBS FOR YOUTH NEEDING PAID SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

Hidalgo County Judge J.D. Salinas III will join Workforce Solutions President/CEO Yvonne “Bonnie” Gonzalez tomorrow for a press conference to call on area youth, aged 16 to 24, to take advantage of nearly 2,000 temporary paid jobs.

Where: Workforce Solutions Corporate Office, 3101 W. Business 83, McAllen, TX

When: 10:00 a.m.

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) has provided millions in funding for workforce training centers across the country to assist in America's economic recovery. The workforce system plays a vital role in the recovery by assisting workers facing unprecedented challenges and hardship to retool their skills and re-establish themselves in viable career paths.

The U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration allocated monies to states, and the Texas Workforce Commission subsequently allocated, through the Workforce Investment Act, millions to Workforce Solutions for Hidalgo, Starr and Willacy counties — \$2,346,747 for adults, \$939,808 for dislocated workers and \$5,773,363 for youth. ([Click here](#) for more info.)

The youth program aims to place youth into temporary summer employment with public or private entities that match their skills, interest and abilities. Eligible youth are those who meet income requirements and have a barrier to employment, including but not limited to, being a high school dropout or a foster child, or who have been homeless, have had a brush with the criminal justice system, or who are a veteran or the first in their family to attend college.

"Workforce Solutions is all about the development and retention of a strong and vibrant workforce. The current economy is challenging. However, it is also providing opportunities to

place our youth in jobs and programs that will increase their employability skills making them more marketable while stimulating the economy," said Yvonne "Bonnie" Gonzalez.

Hidalgo County has provided support to Workforce Solutions by helping the agency find suitable employers. Various Hidalgo County departments and offices will also be taking on some of the young job seekers, adding to its workforce of more than 2,700 employees.

"We are pleased to be a host worksite and to help Workforce Solutions find other worksites for the youth of the Rio Grande Valley. In addition to calling on the youth to fill these jobs, we do need more employers to step up and agree to take these workers for up to 8-weeks of employment. It is all paid for through Workforce Solutions. Employers just have to provide the work, and I think in this economy, that's not too hard to do," said Hidalgo County Judge J.D. Salinas III.

"These jobs available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act are going to provide strong work experience and the opportunity for disadvantaged youth to get on a career path that interests them. The Hidalgo County Commissioners and I encourage our young people to take advantage of this opportunity to get a foot in the door of a Valley employer. Believe us, your whole family will thank you for it."

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****More information, including instructions on how youth can apply or how an employer can become a host worksite, will be available at the press conference.**

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