

MoveFWD Job Training Program

FAST FACTS

- 01. Within the first five months, 57 students graduated from the CDL course.
- 02. 25 students are registered for the next CDL course offering demonstrating its continued demand.
- O3. The program proactively recruits employers to attend classes and interview students for jobs while the students are in the process of being trained to ensure they have immediate job opportunities.
- O4. Each CDL course attracts several female students which has not been the norm for this industry.
- 05. There is tremendous demand for heavy equipment operators, and the construction industry is actively supporting efforts to implement new training programs such as those offered by the MoveFWD program and its partners.

The Innovation Team was created in Fall 2018 to support the Mobility Authority's focus on innovation from its strategic plan. These innovation briefs give high-level updates about what the Mobility Authority is up to.

Want to know more? Visit MobilityAuthority.com.

What Are We Doing?

With the ever-increasing influx of new residents to Central Texas, more consumer pressure is being placed on our existing and saturated transportation system and network. This is leading to greater demand for new and expanded roadways. However, skilled labor to work on roadway projects is not keeping up with demand. Recognizing this problem, the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority (Mobility Authority) stepped up and developed a job training program called MoveFWD to train potential job candidates for industry employment in transportation-related fields. The program's outreach targets the unemployed, underserved and economically challenged populations. Thus, the program offers comprehensive services provided by collaborating partners comprised of local social service agencies and educational institutions.



What is the goal of our efforts?

The Mobility Authority seeks to improve transportation-related skilled labor by increasing the qualified and trained job candidate pool for contractors constructing mobility projects and providing related services.



What Have We Done So Far?

The MoveFWD program, in partnership with Austin Community College (ACC), conducted successful training of customer service representatives for call centers. Several of the course graduates were offered positions in the Mobility Authority's third-party-operated call center while others were hired by other customer service employers. Currently, the program, in collaboration with ACC, offers commercial drivers license (CDL) truck driving training to help meet the demand for CDL drivers. The instruction includes classroom and on-the-road training during the five-week course. One of the initial challenges was locating a training site with enough space for truck maneuvering and overnight storage. Program staff were able to secure a location, and the program now offers training in two locations within the region. The course receives high marks from the students, and many of them have exceeded expectations by receiving multiple job offers upon course completion.

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Top, Upper Left: Scenes showing MoveFWD CDL trainees as they receive driving instruction behind the wheel. **Right:** A flyer for MoveFWD's Customer Service/Call Center Training.

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How Are We Moving Forward?

Student demand for the CDL course – along with employer and industry demand - remains very strong. A new heavy equipment operations training course is scheduled to begin summer 2020 and is already receiving attention from local industry. This course will first focus on classroom instruction of job site layout and development, plan reading and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 10 principles, followed by in-seat instruction on the operation of back hoes/front loaders and skid steers. More training on other equipment is planned to be added to meet the growing needs of industry contractors.