



2024-2025 BAC Annual Report

Devoyd Jennings
Business Assistance Center

James E. Guinn
Entrepreneurial Campus

A Message from the Director

It's been a busy year at the BAC, marked by numerous changes and new faces – including mine! My name is Jessica Rogers, and I'm the new economic development director for the City of Fort Worth.



I started this position in September 2025 and am spending my first few weeks getting to know the Fort Worth business community. I am especially looking forward to learning more about the city's thriving ecosystem of small businesses and startups.

We've also seen a few new faces on campus as the City's Office of Police Oversight Monitor (OPOM) department moved into the BAC. Caitlin McMinn also stepped into a new role this summer as the executive director of TechFW, and I'm excited to see where her leadership takes the longest-running startup incubator/accelerator in town.

On the programming side, FY25 saw the launch of several important initiatives. In September, the City announced the Small Business Development Program – in partnership with Fort Worth's three Chambers of Commerce – to help expand opportunities for local entrepreneurs when it comes to procurement, certification, and access to capital. Accelerate Fort Worth also expanded their successful 1 Million Cups program to include a version tailored to Spanish entrepreneurs – 1 millón de tazas en Español – which is the first Spanish-speaking IMC community in the U.S.

This year also saw a few familiar programs making a comeback. The Breakfast at the BAC series returned with much fanfare to sold-out audiences, with events featuring local Fort Worth entrepreneurs Doug Renfro and Red Sanders. The Regional Hispanic Contractors Association's annual Build FW event continues to grow, bringing in more than 1,100 attendees this year.

There was also a lot to celebrate this year, including the Fort Worth chapter of SCORE being awarded the organization's "2025 Chapter of the Year" for the southwestern U.S. SCORE Fort Worth also hosted the annual SBA Business Awards Luncheon, and featured campus resident Tamiko Bailey, president and CEO of Bailey's Premier Services, as Texas' 2024 Small Business Person of the Year.

Both our city leadership and our campus partners are more focused than ever on keeping pace with Fort Worth's growth and evolving alongside the needs of the community we serve. I hope you will join me in celebrating these wins, and I look forward to building upon this foundation as we move forward into FY26.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Rogers".

Jessica Rogers
Director, Economic Development
City of Fort Worth



Vision statement

To compete successfully on the national and international stage for creative, high-growth businesses and the talented individuals who fuel them.

Services available:

- **ACCESS:** Get access to valuable startup and business growth resources at the James E. Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus and the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center.
- **COUNSELING:** Get face time with a wide variety of business development counselors. Dig deep into your business plan and business operations.
- **EDUCATION:** The Guinn Campus is focused on your success. We have informative, topical events that give you what you need to help your business succeed.
- **NETWORKING:** The Guinn Campus attracts passionate, driven entrepreneurs. Create partnerships and relationships that will last a lifetime.
- **WORKSHOPS:** Go from idea, to startup, to success by attending workshops that cover business plans, finance, marketing and more.

James E. Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus Partners

The Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center (BAC) is located on the James E. Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus, which is a one-stop shop for entrepreneurs and small business owners. The small business support organizations located within the Guinn Campus include:



Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation

The Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation – formerly, the Business Assistance Center (BAC) Education Foundation – has served hundreds of entrepreneurs in a variety of capacities, providing coaching, mentoring, speaker series, incubator and accelerator curriculum, and advocacy.



Alliance Lending Corporation

A provider of long-term, fixed rate financing for growing businesses. As a non-profit, Certified Development Company (CDC) they are authorized by the U.S. Small Business Administration to partner with private lenders in a co-lending product.



Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce

The mission of the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce is to promote, assist and enhance economic and business development for its members and to create wealth in the communities it serves.



Regional Hispanic Contractors Association

The Regional Hispanic Contractors Association seeks to promote and support the advancement and economic growth of Hispanic contractors in Texas. They are committed to developing programs and facilitating the resources needed to help Hispanic contractors reach their potential.



SCORE Fort Worth Chapter

Provides free and confidential one-on-one business consulting for interested individuals. They have volunteer counselors with experience and expertise that can help you grow your current business or pursue your dreams of business ownership.



Southeast Fort Worth, Inc.

SEFWI's economic development mission has been refocused by clearly defining the organization's geographic interests and industry targets; influencing outcomes in public policy to keep sound business policies at the forefront; zeroing in on public education reform, and taking up the area's mantle to help resolve regional issues.

SEFW Inc. departed from the Guinn Campus earlier this year, and their data is not available for this report.



Tarrant Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

A professional management counseling service funded by Tarrant County College, the State of Texas, and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), with a mission to accelerate the North Texas economy by helping entrepreneurs grow sustainable businesses.



TECH Fort Worth

A technology business incubator that encourages the development of the technology business community in Fort Worth by helping entrepreneurs commercialize innovative technologies.



William Mann Jr. Community Development Corporation

William Mann Jr. furthers economic development by promoting and assisting in the growth of small businesses in the DFW Metroplex, providing technical assistance and loans to small businesses that might not otherwise be able to obtain funding from traditional lending institutions.

Performance Measures

The effectiveness of the City of Fort Worth's Economic Development Department, which oversees the activity of the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center, is measured by the reach of BAC education efforts and the ability of those efforts to help create businesses and jobs within the local economy.

Each organization may serve a slightly different function, so where applicable, this report focuses on the number of jobs created and retained by BAC partners, as well as businesses started with the help of BAC partners, workshops offered by BAC partners, and their amount of time spent counseling clients. Lastly, for those organizations at the BAC who assist with small business funding, this report notes the total amount of capital infusion they've provided to clients during the past fiscal year.

Total Clients Assisted and/or Counseled: 3,795

*Information reported quarterly. Data as of September 2025.

Programs & Workshops

Altogether, there were 181 workshops offered by organizations at the Devoyd Jennings BAC and the James Guinn Campus last year.

These workshops were a combination of virtual and in-person. Organizations who held workshops on the campus this year include the City of Fort Worth's Economic Development Department, Accelerate Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Hispanic Contractors Association, SCORE, Tarrant SBDC, and TechFW.

FORT WORTH BUSINESS ASSISTANCE CENTER ECONOMIC IMPACT: FY 2025

610 JOBS
CREATED

1,284 JOBS
RETAINED

57 BUSINESSES
STARTED

3,795 COUNSELING
HOURS

243 WORKSHOPS
OFFERED

Economic impact is calculated based on an aggregate of BAC partners looking at direct and indirect forms of impact.

This list includes data from:

- *Accelerate Fort Worth*
- *Alliance Lending*
- *Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce*
- *Regional Hispanic Contractors Association*
- *SCORE*
- *Tarrant SBDC*
- *TechFW*
- *William Mann Jr. Community Development*

\$39,269,042

CAPITAL INFUSION TO CLIENTS

City of Fort Worth Economic Development

The City of Fort Worth Economic Development Department maintains a presence at the Devoyd Jennings Business Assistance Center (BAC) to support small business owners and other campus partners, as well as facilitate the annual Fort Worth Business Plan Competition (FWBPC).



Several spotlights from this year include:

- The return of the beloved “Breakfast at the BAC” series on a quarterly basis, with the two most recent events featuring Doug Renfro of Renfro Foods, and Red Sanders of Red Productions.
- The “Boots to Business Reboot” workshop, an all-day entrepreneurship training program targeted for veterans, service members and military spouses.

The following classes, workshops and events were held by the City of Fort Worth during the past fiscal year:

- *Breakfast at the BAC featuring: Doug Renfro of Mrs. Renfro's Foods*
- *Breakfast at the BAC with Red Sanders of Red Productions*
- *FWBPC Mentoring Sessions*
- *FWBPC: Training Session #1*
- *FWBPC: Training Session #2*
- *FWBPC: Training Session #3*
- *FWBPC: Training Session #4*
- *FWBPC: Info Session @ the Center For Transforming Lives*
- *Fraud in the Digital Age Cybersecurity Workshop Frost Bank/Peoplefund/BAC*
- *FWHCCs Grounds for Connections Networking Event*
- *Impact Ventures Capital Readiness Cohort Program #1*
- *Impact Ventures Capital Readiness Cohort Program #2*
- *Impact Ventures Capital Readiness Cohort Program #3*
- *Impact Ventures Capital Readiness Cohort Program #4*
- *Impact Ventures Capital Readiness Cohort Program #5*
- *Impact Ventures Capital Readiness Cohort Program #6*
- *Impact Ventures Capital Readiness Cohort Program #7*
- *Info Session: Impact Ventures: Capital Readiness Fall Program*
- *Level Up Pitch Night Center for Transforming Lives*
- *LiftFund Seminar: Solving the Business Loan Puzzle*
- *SouthState Bank Small Business Executive Visit*
- *Texas Workforce Commission's Skills for Small Business Workshop*
- *Urban Land Institute - Urban Planning Workshop for Historic Southside*

In addition to the events listed above, the members of the City of Fort Worth's Economic Development team help coordinate the following reoccurring events on the campus :

- A weekly 1 Million Cups program where entrepreneurs present their startups and receive feedback from the community
- A weekly meeting of the Cowtown Leads Exchange, a Fort Worth Chamber professional development and leads referral group
- A monthly James Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus partners meeting
- A monthly "Crafting a Targeted Business Blueprint" workshop (Co-Presented with SCORE)

NUMBER OF COUNSELING HOURS: 72

NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS OFFERED: 23



Accelerate Fort Worth Foundation

Accelerate Fort Worth's purpose is to be the catalyst for the city's thriving start-up community by developing emerging leaders who build and scale businesses that drive lasting economic impact. They equip entrepreneurs with strategic tools and powerful networks that foster accountability, build confidence, and drive the growth of scalable businesses, accelerating them to \$500K and beyond.



ACCELERATE
— FORT WORTH —
FOUNDATION

Accelerate Fort Worth is an organization dedicated to helping local early-stage and growth stage entrepreneurs – primarily in their first five years – and is not industry specific. The organization assists entrepreneurs by helping them develop investable and scalable business models; and once the business is launched, by providing resources that help build capacity, gain access to capital, and connect them to networks of mentors, coaches, service providers and peers that will help them be successful. Accelerate Fort Worth's programs are designed to assist traditionally underserved and economically disadvantaged populations navigate the local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Accelerate Fort Worth is also the campus host of 1 Million Cups (IMC) – a free, weekly gathering that helps build startup communities on a grassroots level. Over the past year, they have hosted 29 IMC events with an average attendance of 30 people, an approximately 30% growth over the organization's previous host location. The events have been so successful that a *1 Million Cups en Español* companion series was launched in September – the first community of its kind in the U.S.

NUMBER OF COUNSELING HOURS: 33

NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS OFFERED: 47

CAPITAL INFUSION TO CLIENTS: \$5,125



Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber

The Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber (FWMBCC) was formed in 1979 with one goal in mind: To make Fort Worth a better place to work and raise a family. Our mission is to promote, assist and enhance economic and business development for our members and to create wealth in the communities we serve.



The Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber (FWMBCC) added more than 100 new small business members this fiscal year, many individual members, and eight corporate partners serving approximately **700 members** to-date, and approximately **204 counseling hours**. Membership represents various ethnicities throughout the DFW area and consists of individuals, small, medium and large businesses, nonprofit organizations, and numerous corporate partners. Outreach through the Chamber's newsletter reached over 3,000 recipients per month.

The Chamber's areas of focus are Financial Literacy & Access to Capital, Business Development & Expansion, Workforce Development & Sustainability, Intergenerational Connections, and Small Business Advocacy.

Major Accomplishments for the Year

- The FWMBCC formed a scholarship partnership with UTA Fort Worth for the Executive MBA program.
- Awarded one MBA scholarship with Texas Christian University (TCU), and an additional undergraduate recipient through an endowment with Texas Wesleyan University (TWU).
- Partnered with Prosperity Bank to conduct the Business Masterclass Series in the spring of 2025. Participants received in-depth business training from subject matter experts for eight training sessions over approximately three months. Each training session was three hours, plus a business pitch competition and awards dinner. Financial prizes were awarded and all participants received free banking benefits, including a \$2,500 business line-of-credit and a dollar-for-dollar savings account match up to \$500. Approximately 20 business owners participated.
- Partnered with Lockheed Martin Aeronautics for the 2025 Aerospace Industry Summit.
- Partnered with City of Fort Worth Economic Development and other campus partners to reinstitute the Breakfast at the BAC speaker series.
- Began the Small Business Development Program with the City of Fort Worth and other local Chambers of Commerce to serve the Fort Worth small business community in the areas of Access to Capital, Workforce Development, Bonding and Insurance, and Small Business Certifications.

- Partnered to bring the “Keeping It In the Family: Real Estate Conference” to Fort Worth.

Ribbon-cuttings held by the Fort Worth Metropolitan Black Chamber of Commerce included:

- FWMBCC Ribbon Cuttings Ceremonies
- Girls Inc.
- Carpenters Cafe and Catering
- Eastside YMCA
- 1 Million Cups
- Kidz r Luv
- Helping Haven Assistant Care
- TruCare Funeral Services LLC
- Sweet & Sassy Salon and Spa for Kids

NUMBER OF COUNSELING HOURS: 204

NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS OFFERED: 62

FWMBCC workshops, programs, and partner events included:

- FWMBCC Member Orientations (six sessions)
- James Guinn Entrepreneurial Campus Partner Collaboration Meetings (12)
- Doing Business with TxDot
- Frost Bank Small Business Summit
- TriChamber Annual Business After Hours event
- Quarterly Service Providers Meeting (4)
- NTACHC Committee and Board Meetings (12)
- Generations Connect Collaboration Meetings (6)
- PATHS Forward Leadership Program (2024 & 2025)
- FWMBCC Member Appreciation Christmas Celebration

The FWMBCC also hosted its annual Women’s Conference (New Year, New You); the Prosperity Bank Master Class (16 sessions this year); the organization’s annual SneakerBall Gala, and its 44th Annual Luncheon and Membership Meeting.



Regional Hispanic Contractors Association

The goal of the Regional Hispanic Contractors Association (RHCA) is to advance every member's and client's business potential and capacity within the Texas construction industry through advocacy, resources, and training programs – ultimately fostering economic growth.



The RHCA strives to be a trusted advocate for small business owners, promoting their value and multi-generational impact. As they continue to expand, with offices in Dallas, Fort Worth, and their newest location in Houston, the organization is committed to achieving more.

This year, RHCA completed **10 hours of counseling** with their members, as well as **21 workshops**.

The RHCA wrapped up its annual **Build FW Construction Expo** on August 20, 2025, at the Will Rogers Memorial Center. The event was a significant success, attracting 1,100 attendees. Several workshops were presented throughout the day, offering crucial information for business owners and representatives to capitalize on – from topics like AI on the jobsite, to immigration and visa options for the construction industry, to understanding the design-build method.

NUMBER OF COUNSELING HOURS: 10

NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS OFFERED: 21

A handful of local opportunities with major employers were also spotlighted, including DFW International Airport, the Evans & Rosedale urban village, local school districts, and even FIFA World Cup procurement.

Looking ahead, the RHCA anticipates offering even more services as it finalizes the completion of its headquarters remodel in Dallas. This new home base will set the foundation for a wider variety of services and resources for the DFW area.



SCORE Fort Worth



SCORE Fort Worth hosted **1,682 mentoring sessions** this fiscal year, with more than **1,687 hours spent on mentoring** local small business owners.

Additionally, they hosted **67 local workshops**. The in-person and online workshops accounted for **1,137 hours** spent supporting the area's small business owners.

The Fort Worth chapter of SCORE was also awarded SCORE's 2025 Chapter of the Year for the Southwest District of the United States.

Examples of workshops included:

NUMBER OF COUNSELING HOURS: **1,137**

NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS OFFERED: **67**

*A Seat at the Table, Empowering Entrepreneurs to Succeed
Access to Capital
Balancing Work Life and Mental Health
Buying and Selling a Business
Crafting a Targeted Business Blueprint. A Step-by-Step guide
Creating Graphics for Marketing Success
Demystifying Taxes: Essential Knowledge Every Entrepreneur Should Possess
Design Like A Pro with Canva
Effective Marketing Planning for Start-Ups and Small Businesses
Financial Management for Small Businesses
Financial Statement Analysis: A Banker's Perspective
Funding your future: Q&A with LiftFund
Get Noticed, Get Bids: Setup Your Business Codes for Contract Success
Government Contracting: Is it for me?
How Businesses Obtain Credit
How Small Businesses Can Succeed in the Import/Export Market
How To Get a Government Contract
How to get Funding for your Business
Legal Protection and Privacy for Business Owners
Power Statements. Leveraging Social Media for Business Growth
Power Statements. One liner to build your Social Media presence
Quickbooks Online
SBA Small Business Awards Luncheon
Sharpening Your Social Media Skills
Simple Step to a Well-Run Business
Simple Steps to Starting Your Business
Taking Control of Your Finances: Managing Job Loss, Income, and Credit
Tariffs & International Trade for Small Business
The Franchise Advantage
What's Your Type: Forming an LLC or Corporation*

William Mann Jr. Community Development

The William Mann Jr. Community Development Corporation (WMCDC) was created to serve the following purposes:

- Promote, develop and improve the economic conditions of individuals in low-to-moderate income areas of Fort Worth and surrounding areas,
- Encourage and assist small businesses through loans, investments, and other business transactions to increase the supply of jobs, including jobs for individuals with low-to-moderate incomes,
- Improve the economic conditions in low-to-moderate income areas of Tarrant and Dallas counties through the cooperative efforts of banking institutions.



Many small businesses face challenges gaining access to capital. As a result, many of these businesses are funded through the owner's personal resources, and these funds are quickly consumed by the growth of the company. However, these businesses usually have strong growth potential, capable of creating jobs and contributing to the broader economic base of the Fort Worth community.

WMCDC's mission is to assist local economic development initiatives by providing financing in conjunction with banks and/or other non-traditional lenders for small minority and women-owned businesses.

NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED: 24

NUMBER OF JOBS RETAINED: 124

NUMBER OF COUNSELING HOURS: 62

CAPITAL INFUSION TO CLIENTS (LOANS): \$255,000

TechFW

TechFW's mission is to empower entrepreneurs with the resources, support and community to transform innovative ideas into scalable businesses – which drives economic prosperity and lasting social change. Since its founding in 1998, TechFW has been one of the leading startup incubators and accelerators for innovators in North Texas.



TechFW programs are focused on coaching the inventors and founders of early-stage founders by providing them with the tools, guidance and mentorship needed to succeed. This year's programs for entrepreneurs included:

- **ThinkLab:** An eight-week accelerator that helps founders validate their ideas, develop market strategies, and build entrepreneurial skills.
- **SmartStart:** An incubator program that assists founders in launching their startups by formalizing their business framework and helping them develop an executable path-to-market strategy.
- **FastForward:** A program that helps high-growth companies scale-up.

Major events for this year are included below, some of which may have been offered more than once:

- *Tech Together Holiday Party*
- *Cowtown Angels SmartVest Events*
- *Monthly Founders Lunch Events*
- *Fort Worth Innovator's Forums*
- *Fall 2024 EpicMavs Entrepreneurial Series by TechFW at UTA*
- *State of Entrepreneurship in DFW Event*
- *Roundtable: Tax Prep Essentials with Calvetti Ferguson*
- *Tacos & Tech Talk: Intellectual Property Workshop (Part of DFW Startup Week)*

TechFW has also delivered significant value to Fort Worth's innovation economy over the past year. By nurturing technology-driven startups and empowering entrepreneurs, the organization has generated **more than \$5 million in total funding secured** while also advancing innovation, strengthening the local workforce, and expanding business growth opportunities across the region.

At TechFW, innovation drives the mission – which is why the organization helped its member companies build robust intellectual property portfolios that are vital assets needed to secure capital and fuel growth.

- Provisional patents filed: 94
- Patents awarded: 200
- Active patent filings: 591

NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED: 226

NUMBER OF JOBS RETAINED: 251

NUMBER OF COUNSELING HOURS: 956

TOTAL CAPITAL INFUSION TO CLIENTS: \$5,348,801

Tarrant Small Business Development Center

The Tarrant Small Business Development Center (SBDC) provides one-on-one advising, low-cost workshops, and technical assistance to entrepreneurs and small business owners in Tarrant County.



NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED: **342**

NUMBER OF JOBS RETAINED: **812**

BUSINESSES STARTED: **57**

NUMBER OF WORKSHOPS OFFERED: **24**

NUMBER OF COUNSELING HOURS: **771**

Alliance Lending Corporation

Since 2023, Alliance Lending Corporation has been authorized to offer SBA 504 loans anywhere in the state of Texas. The goal of the organization is to promote economic growth by helping business owners purchase long-term assets with fixed-rate financing.



NUMBER OF JOBS CREATED: **18**

NUMBER OF JOBS RETAINED: **97**

CAPITAL INFUSION TO CLIENTS (LOANS): **\$2,327,222**

DEVOYD JENNINGS



Business Assistance Center

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