



## Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

**Meeting Date:**

April 29, 2014

**Prepared By/Phone Number:**

Kimberly Pierce, (512) 854-4764

**Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head:**

Roger Jefferies, County Executive, Justice and Public Safety Division

**Commissioners Court Sponsor:**

Sam Biscoe, County Judge

**AGENDA LANGUAGE:**

Receive Annual Report and Presentation on Travis County's Workforce Development Program from the Criminal Justice Planning Department (CJP).

**BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:**

The CJP Workforce Development program will present an annual report on the program's efforts to: 1) recruit local employers to hire ex-offenders, and 2) review the number of ex-offenders placed into employment.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:**

N/A

**ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES:**

An opportunity to promote the benefits of hiring ex-offenders.

**FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:**

N/A

**REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:**

None

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to the County Judge's office, [agenda@co.travis.tx.us](mailto:agenda@co.travis.tx.us) by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.



## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING**

**Roger W. Jefferies, County Executive, Justice & Public Safety Division**

P.O. Box 1748 Austin, Texas 78767

Phone (512) 854-4415 Fax (512) 854-4417

April 22, 2014

Honorable Samuel T. Biscoe, County Judge  
Commissioner Ron Davis, Precinct 1  
Commissioner Bruce Todd, Precinct 2  
Commissioner Gerald Daugherty, Precinct 3  
Commissioner Margaret Gomez, Precinct 4

**Criminal Justice  
Planning**  
Roger W. Jefferies  
(512) 854-4415

**Counseling &  
Education Services**  
Caryl Colburn  
(512) 854-9540

**Juvenile Public  
Defender**  
Kameron D. Johnson  
(512) 854-4128

Dear Judge Biscoe and County Commissioners:

Criminal Justice Planning respectfully requests that the Commissioners Court receive a Workforce Development Annual report and presentation on April 29, 2014.

The presentation and accompanying power point will review the program's progression from February 1, 2013 to April 8, 2014. The presentation will highlight the program's efforts to recruit employers willing to hire ex-offenders and place ex-offenders into employment.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I can be reached at (512) 854-4759.

Sincerely,

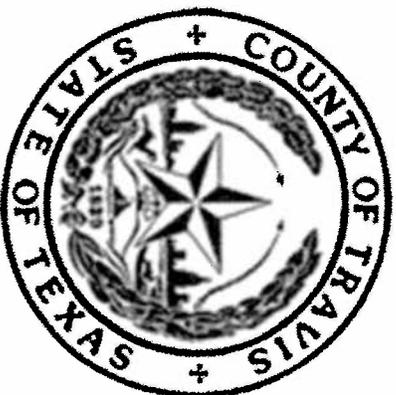
Roger Jefferies  
County Executive, Justice and Public Safety Division

Attachment: Power Point  
c: Kimberly Pierce, CJP Planning Manager

# Travis County

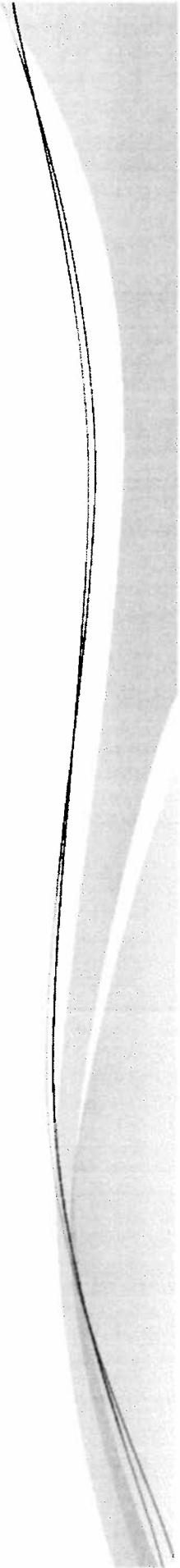
# Workforce Development Program

Criminal Justice Planning Division



Annual Report: April 2014

Report Covers: February 1, 2013, to April 8, 2014



## Workforce Development (WD) Program

A program designed to help individuals with a criminal history find employment based on their:

- Aptitude
- Education
- Skills



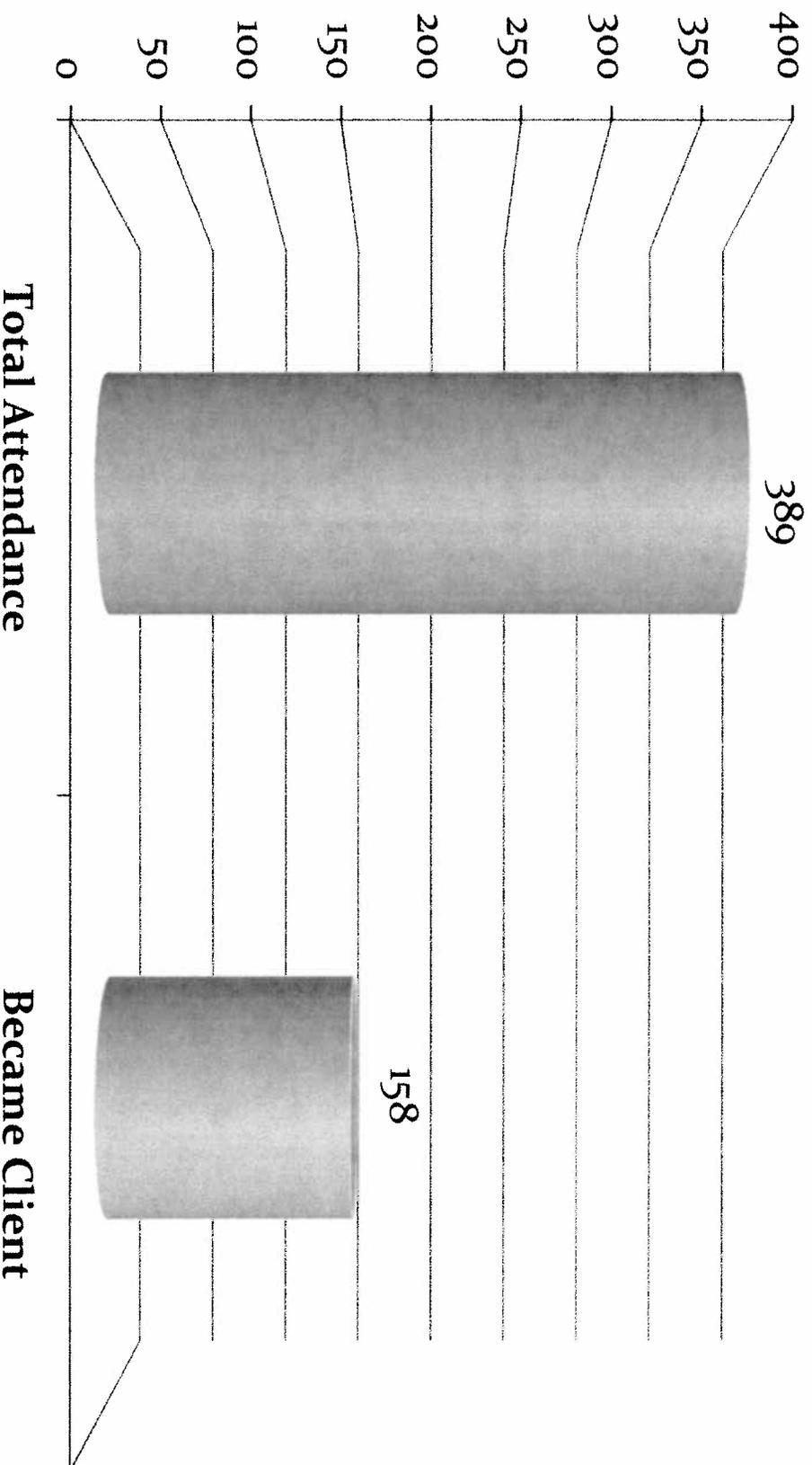
# February 2013

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- Developed a two-hour weekly employment orientation called the Road To Success (RTS) held at CES 5501 Airport Blvd. to inform potential clients of program opportunities, to understand the job market and expectations of the WD program
- Clients then schedule an individual appointment to be assessed for potential job opportunities

# Orientation Statistics

February 1, 2013, to April 8, 2014



# WD Program

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- WD is no different than any other program working with this population; many clients find themselves:
  - Addicted to alcohol and/or drugs
  - Homeless
  - Lacking identification
  - With low skills and/or education levels
- Often times, these issues must first be resolved before employment can occur



# WD Program

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## Job-Ready Clients

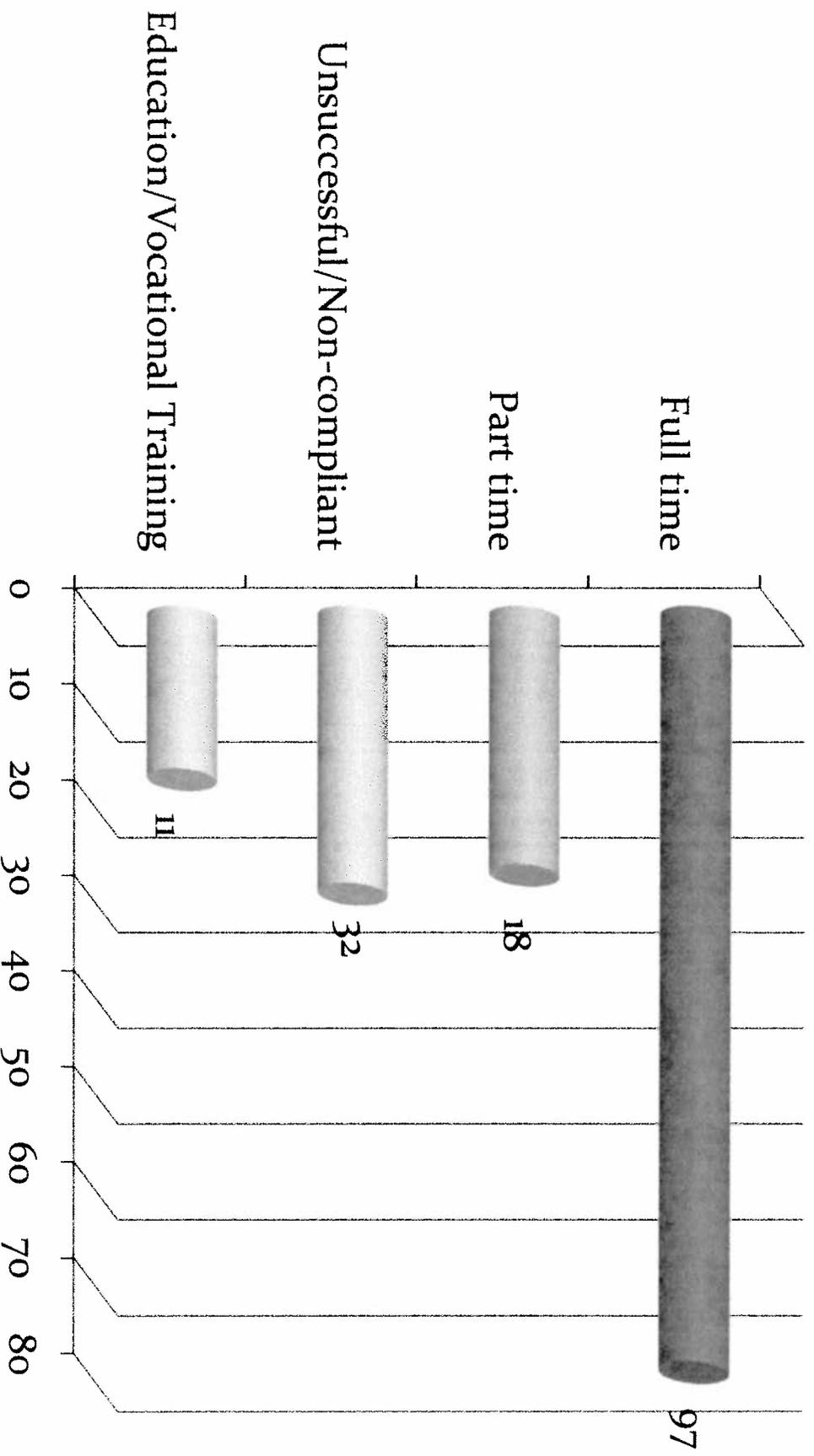
- Matched with jobs based on:
  - Needs of the employer
  - Skills of the client
  - Completion of Vocational Training
  - Compliance with Parole / Probation

## Not Job-Ready Clients

- Referred to Collaborative Partnerships:
  - Austin Community College
  - Goodwill Industries
  - Project Fresh Start
- Workforce Solutions

# WD Program Statistics

February 1, 2013, to April 8, 2014



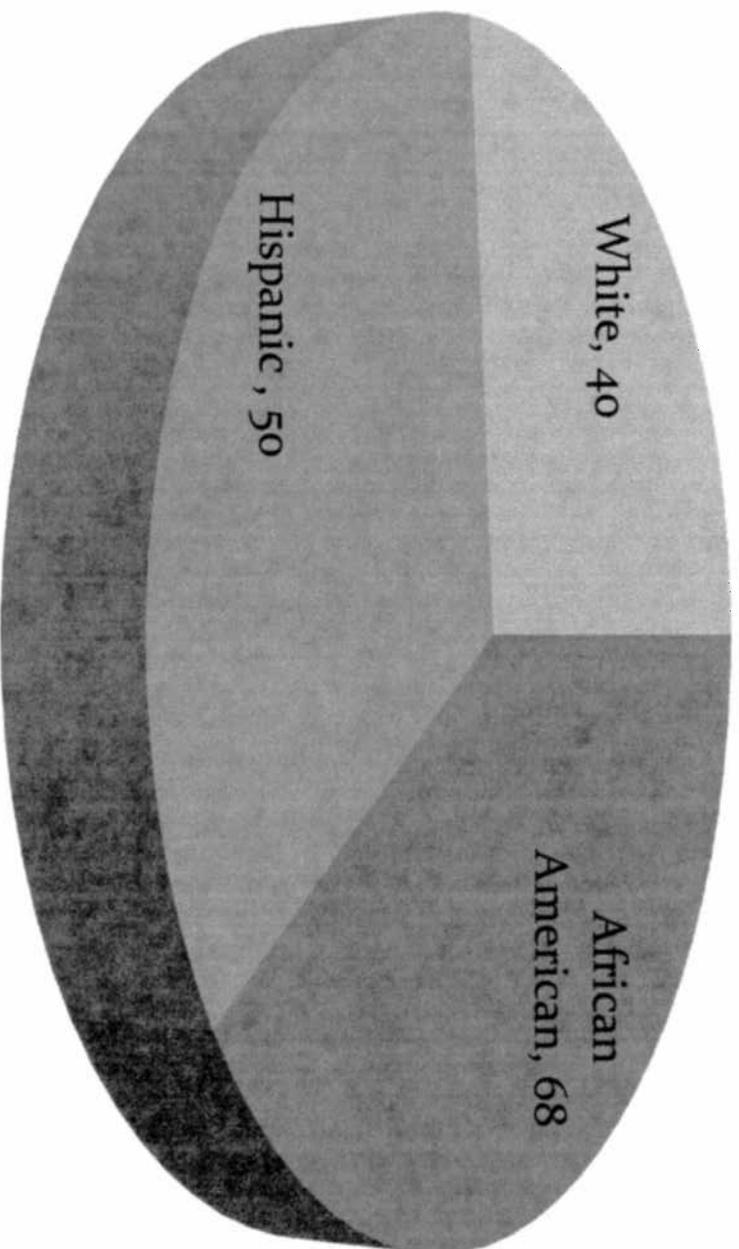


# Employers

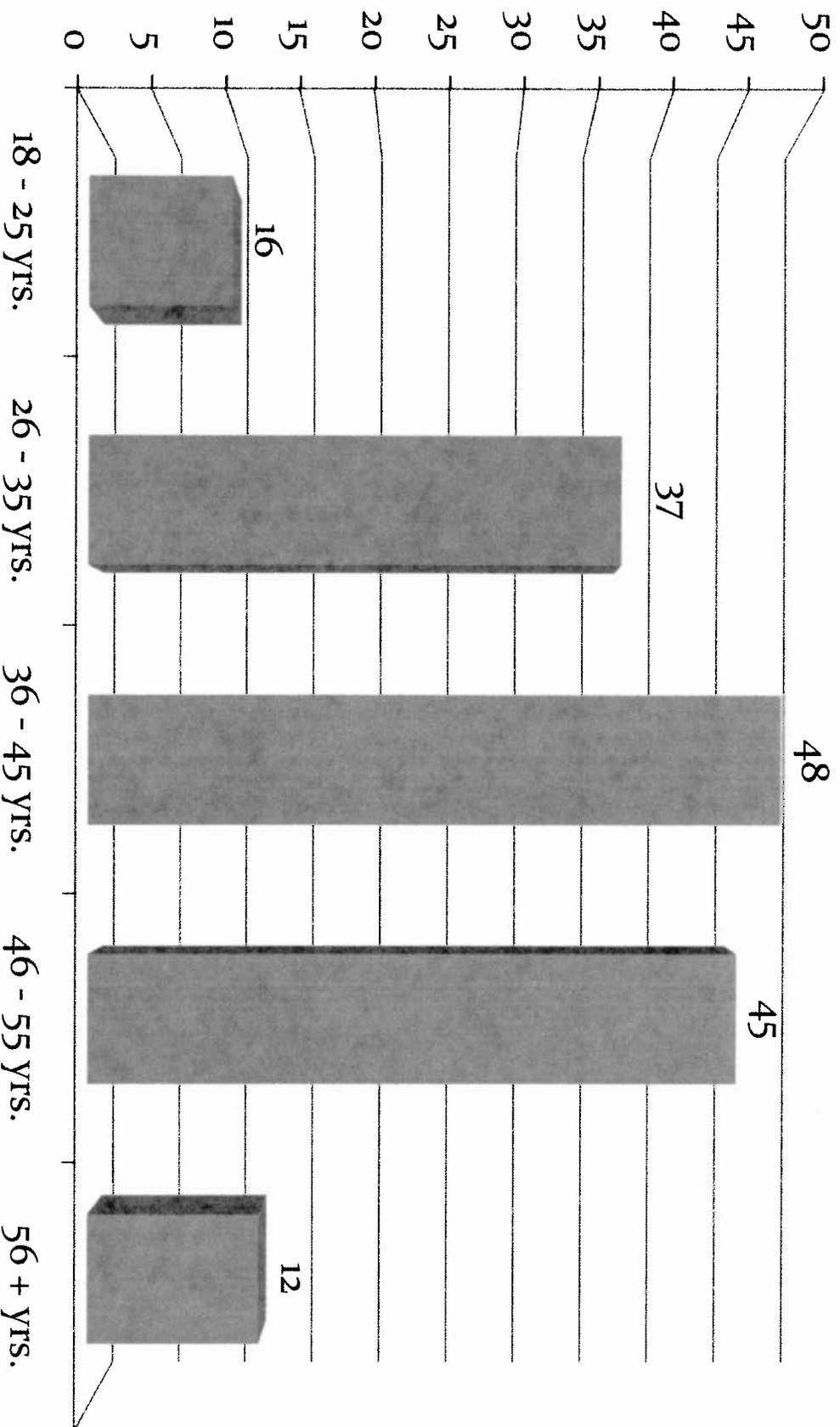
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- 52 employers, in these industries, have agreed to participate and hire ex-offenders:
  - Assembly Work
  - Construction
  - Landscaping
  - Food Service
  - Hospitality
  - Janitorial
  - Road and Bridge Maintenance
  - Warehouse
- 18 employers have hired more than one ex-offender

# Individual Ethnicity Demographics



# Individual Age Demographics





# WD Program Coordinator

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- Recruits employers by attending job fairs, seminars, and by networking
- Works closely with
  - Travis County Human Resources / Health and Human Services who have been an enormous help with the progression of the WD program
  - Travis County ITS Division for the development of the WD database
  - Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ)
  - Collaborative Partnerships



# WD Program Statistics Summary

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- Since February 1, 2013
  - 158 clients enrolled in the WD program
  - 118 male participants
  - 40 female participants
  - 126 participants became employed or are in job training
  - 32 participants non-compliant
- The average pay for clients in the WD program
  - \$12.50 per hour



# In Closing

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## The WD Program:

- Has a weekly two-hour employment orientation for individuals seeking employment
- Assesses and refers clients to employers based on skill sets and needs of the employer
- Recruits and maintains a positive relationship with local employers willing to hire ex-offenders
- Conducts outreach in the workforce community and develops awareness, and educates the benefits of hiring an ex-offender
- Has a primary goal to locate sustainable employment for ex-offenders