



AGENDA ITEM COMMENTARY

MEETING NAME:	Economic Development Corporation
MEETING DATE:	September 1, 2026
ITEM TITLE:	Consider and take appropriate action on workforce grant for Lubbock School of Allied Health.
STAFF INITIATOR:	Danielle Sweat, EDC Director

BACKGROUND:

Approximately a year ago, Joana Brown approached the WEDC regarding her plans to establish the Lubbock School of Allied Health in Wolfforth. At that time, one of the primary challenges was the lack of an available facility that could accommodate the school. Joana has continued working on the project and has been working with Taylor through Leading EDG as she has developed the business plan and explored potential locations.

Joana has now identified a facility within the Wolfforth city limits that she plans to lease, allowing the project to move forward locally.

The Lubbock School of Allied Health is proposed as a for profit post-secondary career school focused on providing accelerated training for allied healthcare careers that are in demand throughout the South Plains. The school's mission is to provide affordable, high-quality healthcare education that prepares students to enter the workforce with the skills and certifications needed for employment.

The school plans to initially offer four programs:

- Certified Medical Assistant
- Medical Office Specialist
- Patient Care Technician
- Certified Nursing Assistant

The programs are designed to provide an accelerated pathway into the healthcare workforce. The proposal calls for small class sizes, with no more than 10 students per instructor, and an emphasis on hands-on, competency-based instruction. The school also plans to offer evening and weekend classes, which could provide additional flexibility for working adults and individuals looking to transition into a healthcare career.

The programs are intended to serve recent high school and GED graduates, individuals seeking a career change, veterans and military spouses, and underserved or underemployed adults looking for a faster pathway into the workforce. Joana's proposal also includes plans to register the school as a Texas Workforce Commission recognized career school and college, pursue placement of its programs on the Eligible Training Provider List, and work with Workforce Solutions and area healthcare employers.

An important component of the school will be hands on clinical and simulation training. The facility is expected to include classroom and simulation lab space with equipment such as hospital beds, phlebotomy chairs, EKG machines, CPR mannequins, wheelchairs, and other equipment students would encounter in a healthcare setting.

Joana has also indicated that there is already significant interest in the programs. She reports having a waiting list of prospective students and has been developing relationships with area healthcare providers. She has identified UMC Physicians as an externship partner and has also had discussions with Texas Tech Physicians and Covenant regarding potential opportunities for their existing employees to further their education. She has additionally discussed opportunities with Frenship High School related to students interested in beginning a pathway into the medical field.

From a workforce development standpoint, this project has the potential to serve both Wolfforth and the greater Lubbock area by creating an additional pipeline of trained healthcare workers. Joana's goal is to provide shorter, career focused training that allows students to obtain certifications, gain clinical experience, and enter the healthcare workforce more quickly.

Through Joana's work with Taylor and Leading EDG, they have identified a request for \$10,000 from the WEDC in the form of a workforce grant. The requested funds would be specifically used toward the purchase of hospital beds for the school's clinical training and simulation space. These beds would provide students with hands on training using equipment they will encounter when working in hospitals and other patient care environments.

The request before the Board is to consider providing \$10,000 in workforce development funding to assist with the purchase of hospital beds for the Lubbock School of Allied Health as it establishes its training facility within the Wolfforth city limits.

EXHIBITS:

COUNCIL ACTION/STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and consider approval of \$10,000 in workforce development funding for the Lubbock School of Allied Health for the purchase of hospital beds for its Wolfforth training facility.