

# **Rural Student Success Initiative:**

Addressing Rural Education Challenges for  
Improved Postsecondary Outcomes

**Jacob Fraire**

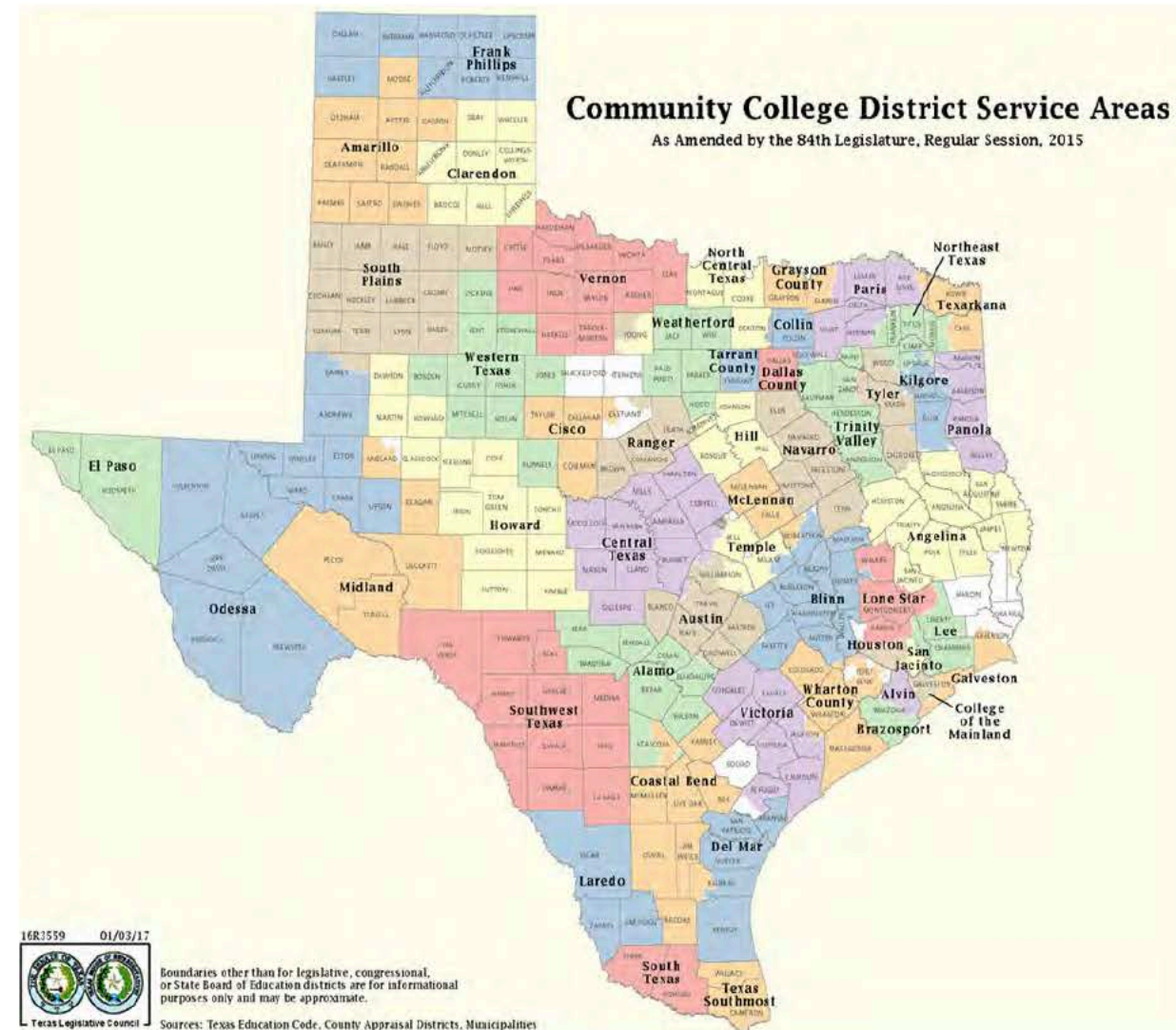
President & CEO, Texas Association of Community Colleges

December 1, 2020

# South Texas Service Area


## South Texas Region

- Serves 28 counties
- 6 community colleges
  - Coastal Bend College
  - Del Mar College
  - Laredo Community College
  - South Texas College
  - Southwest Texas Junior College
  - Texas Southmost College



# Serving the Needs of Rural Texas

Community Colleges Serve Rural Texas  
from TACC



95+%  
IS  
RURAL  
OVER  
4.5m

01:37

vimeo



# TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

## SOUTH TEXAS REGION

REGIONAL IMPACT OF  
COMMUNITY COLLEGES'  
SPENDING, 2019



Created to expand Texans' access to higher education, the state's 50 community college districts serve a vital role in our economy by developing our workforce, preparing students for further academic study and meeting the specific educational and vocational needs of the areas they serve.

The 28 counties in the South Texas region — one of 12 economic regions defined by the Comptroller's office — include six community college districts.

EMPLOYMENT

8,353

OUTPUT

\$820.7 MILLION

COMPENSATION

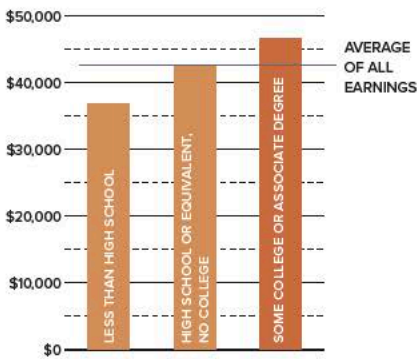
\$401.5 MILLION

NOTE:  
THESE ANALYSES  
PREDATED THE  
COVID-19 CRISIS AND  
THE ECONOMIC  
IMPACTS THAT  
FOLLOWED.

Note: Figures include direct, indirect and induced economic impacts.  
Sources: JobsEQ, Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and Texas community colleges.

### WAGES BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, SOUTH TEXAS REGION, 2018



Source: JobsEQ

Community colleges provide their students with a good return on investment.

In 2018, workers in the South Texas region with some college or associate degrees and stable jobs earned an average of \$4,082 more annually than high school graduates.

AVERAGE WAGE INCREASE OVER HIGH SCHOOL OR EQUIVALENT

\$4,082

NUMBER OF WORKERS, SOME COLLEGE OR ASSOCIATE DEGREE

200,785

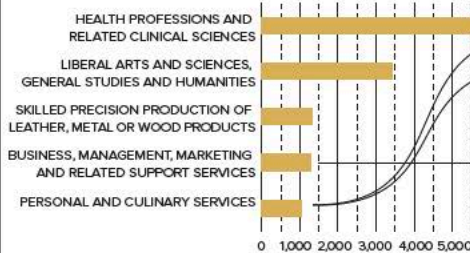
TOTAL REGIONAL ADDITIONAL WAGES

\$819.6 MILLION

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, JobsEQ and Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

### CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES

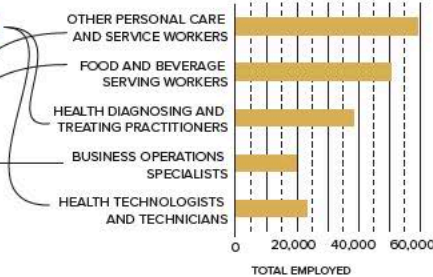
TOP CERTIFICATES AND DEGREES, SOUTH TEXAS REGION, 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR



The South Texas region's community college districts awarded more than 5,500 certificates and associate degrees in health professions in the 2017-18 school year; the next most-common award areas were general studies and liberal arts and precision production.

### REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT NEEDS

FASTEST GROWING OCCUPATIONS, SOUTH TEXAS REGION, 2014-2019



Source: JobsEQ

### SUMMARY

Community colleges play a vital role for students and businesses by offering postsecondary education and job training at great value. As the South Texas region's six community college districts work to address local skills gaps and meet the specific needs of area employers, they support nearly 8,400 jobs and add almost \$821 million in economic output annually. Furthermore, the higher pay of those with some college or an associate degree helps raise total wages in the region by another \$820 million per year.

### SPOTLIGHT

#### SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

- The South Texas College (STC) Regional Center for Public Safety Excellence provides advanced training for local, state and federal public safety professionals along the U.S./Mexico border to help address public safety challenges including cyber incidents and threat assessment.
- STC's Registered Apprenticeship Program focuses on connecting students studying automotive technology, industrial maintenance, HVAC and machining with local employers.
- To help students learn about growing industries in the community, in fall 2019 STC added a personal trainer certification as well as courses in drama, public safety and culinary arts.

TO SEE INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY COLLEGES AND THE TEXAS ECONOMY: <https://comptroller.texas.gov/economy/economic-data/colleges/>

Glenn Regar

Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts

# STUDENT NEEDS SURVEY

## COVID-19 PANDEMIC



Texas Association of  
Community Colleges

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused major disruption in the lives of Texans; college students are no exception. The Texas Association of Community Colleges created a survey to better understand **how community college students are handling the COVID-19 outbreak, what challenges they are facing, and whether or not these students will persist towards their academic goals.**

### DELAY GRADUATION

26%

of students are  
**VERY LIKELY**  
to delay graduation

19%

of students are  
**SOMEWHAT LIKELY**  
to delay graduation

21%

of students are  
**VERY LIKELY**  
to take fewer  
classes



16%

of students lack regular  
**ACCESS TO A COMPUTER**



57%

of students struggle to find a  
**QUIET PLACE/TIME TO STUDY**



47%

of students cannot always  
**ACCESS THE INTERNET**



57%

of students reported  
**LOSING INCOME  
AND/OR  
WORK HOURS**

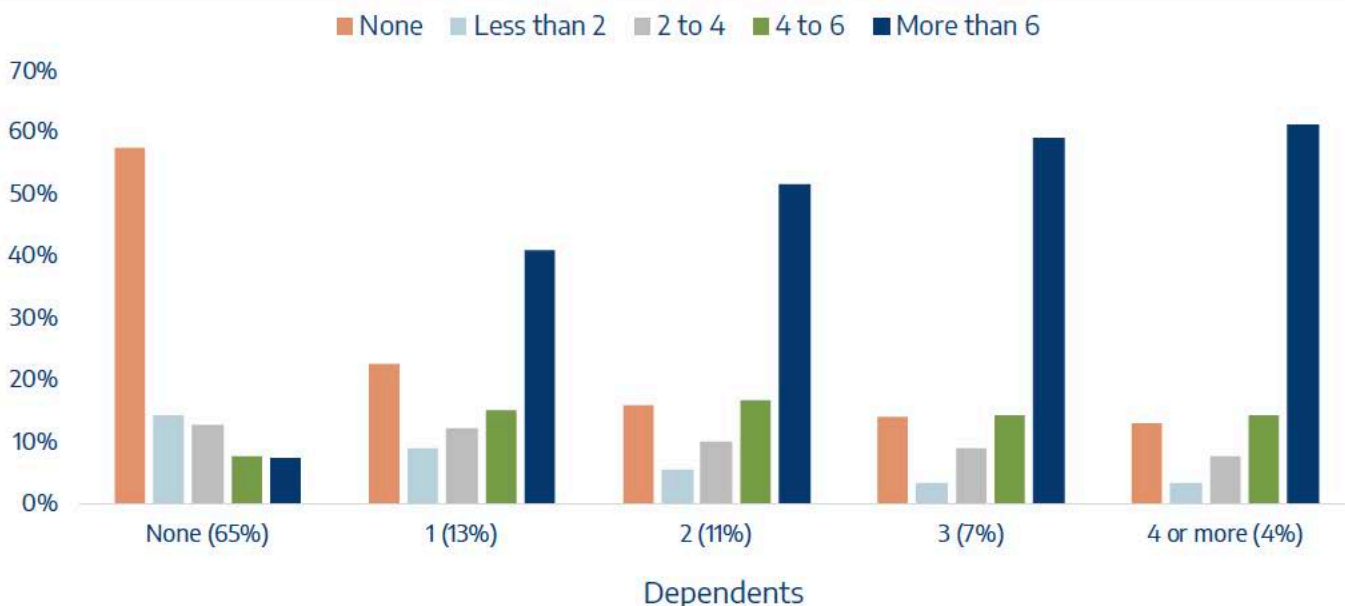


73%

of students would have  
difficulty **ACQUIRING  
\$500 IN CASH/CREDIT**  
within 30 days



# ADDITIONAL DAILY CARE HOURS BY NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS



## 44%

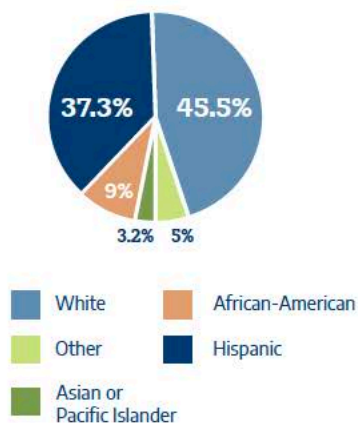
of students are likely to experience some level of **FOOD INSECURITY** within 30 days

## 47%

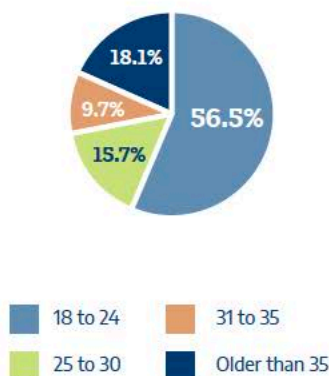
of students report having household **HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE**

## RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

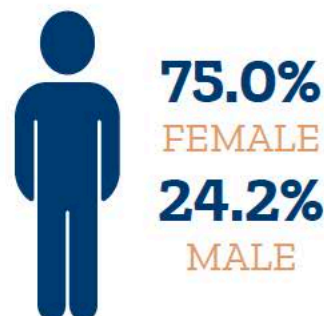
### RACE



### AGE



### GENDER



**TOTAL STUDENT RESPONSES :**  
27,630

Infographic Data Source: TACC Student Needs Survey 2020

# State Leadership Exempts Community Colleges from Budget Reductions for FYs 2020-2021



STATE OF TEXAS

May 20, 2020

To: State Agency Board/Commission Chairs  
State Agency Heads/Executive Directors  
Appellate Court Justices and Judges  
Chancellors, Presidents, and Directors of Institutions and Agencies of Higher Education

Please accept our sincere thanks for the incredible work provided by your agencies and institutions and the dedication you have shown to help the state through this troubling time. Each agency has taken on the challenge and worked tirelessly to ensure that essential services are provided to Texans in need. Know that we are committed to prioritizing the public health of our state.

As you have no doubt seen, there is significant economic uncertainty not only in this state but across the country and around the world. We are confident that Texas will get back to work and continue leading the nation in job growth, economic innovation, and business creation. However, it will take months until we know the true extent of the economic ramifications of COVID-19, and how combating this virus will impact state finances. To prepare for this economic shock, we must take action today to ensure that the state can continue providing the essential government services that Texans expect.

To achieve that goal, every state agency and institution of higher education must engage in prudent fiscal management efforts. Savings achieved in the current biennium are not only necessary to offset current year revenue losses, the savings will provide for the smoothest path toward recovery as you provide necessary services to Texans. Some cost saving strategies that agencies should pursue that will not affect the state's response to COVID-19 include foregoing any capital expenditures that can be deferred, any avoidable travel expenditures, any administrative expenses that are not mission critical, and keeping unfilled any open positions that are not essential to the COVID-19 response. These savings should be lapsed to the Treasury.

Additionally, we request each state agency and institution of higher education submit a plan identifying savings that will reduce your general and general revenue related appropriations by five percent for the 2020-2021 biennium. Please submit this plan to the Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Governor by June 15, 2020.

Given the importance of the state's response to COVID-19 and the continuity of critical government functions, the following are excluded from the five percent reduction:

- Appropriations to the Texas Division of Emergency Management, the Texas Department of State Health Services, the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Military Department, and the Texas Department of Public Safety;

May 20, 2020  
Page 2

- Funding for debt service requirements and bond authorizations;
- Current law requirements for the Foundation School Program and school safety;
- Funding for Child Protective Services;
- Benefits and eligibility levels in Medicaid programs, the Children's Health Insurance Program, the foster care program, the adoption subsidies program, the permanency care assistance program, and services for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities;
- Funding for behavioral health service programs;
- Appropriations for Correctional Security Operations and Correctional Managed Health Care at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
- Appropriations to Health Related Institutions and Community Colleges; and
- Employer Contributions to the Teacher Retirement System and Employees Retirement System funds and to Social Security.

In the coming weeks, the Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Governor will issue instructions for the Legislative Appropriations Request that each state agency and institution of higher education will submit for the 2022-2023 biennium. While the exact final instructions are still being determined, every state agency and institution should prepare to submit reduced budget requests as well as strategies to achieve further savings. Furthermore, when the state revenue picture becomes clearer in the coming months, it may become necessary to make additional budget adjustments.

Though state leaders will make difficult decisions in the future, please know that we will not impede your agency's response to the coronavirus threat or take actions that will harm the public health of this state. As Texans recover from this pandemic, it is incumbent that state government continues to maintain mission critical services without placing a greater burden on taxpayers. Your assistance in achieving these goals is imperative.

Our offices stand ready to assist you with any questions you have or any clarifications that may be necessary. Thanks again for your service to the state and her people. We will get through this time by helping our fellow neighbors and relying on them in turn.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Greg Abbott in black ink.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

Handwritten signature of Dan Patrick in black ink.

Dan Patrick  
Lieutenant Governor

Handwritten signature of Dennis Bonnen in black ink.

Dennis Bonnen  
Speaker of the House



# TEXAS PATHWAYS

Systemic Transformation Dedicated to Socioeconomic Mobility







# Texas Association of Community Colleges 87th Legislative Session Policy Priorities

## 1 INVESTING IN COMMUNITY COLLEGES (Formula Funding)

The Association adopted formula funding recommendations informed by the findings of the Community and Technical College Formula Advisory Committee (CTCFAC). However, the CTCFAC concluded its work prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic when expectations for the 87th Legislature were optimistic. Considering current circumstances, TACC recommends **an increase in appropriation** for core operations to support stabilization of college operations in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Recommendations

1. Propose overall funding for FYs 2022-2023 to equal the FYs 2020-2021 funding level, or **\$1,833.2M** and give priority to the rate of **\$215 per Student Success Point** and an increase in Core Operations to support college stabilization, providing for **\$2M per college**. Remaining funds would be allocated through the contact hour formula.
2. Propose exceptional funding of **\$50M**, requested as **\$1M** non-formula support items at each of the 50 college districts, to support a new state workforce initiative.

### Summary of Recommendations

	2020-2021 Appropriations (millions)	2022-23 Legislative Appropriation Request (millions)	Amount Change (millions)	Percent Change
Core Operations	\$68.0	<b>\$100</b>	\$32	47.1%
Success Points	\$228.3	<b>\$282.8</b>	\$54.5	23.9%
Contact Hours	\$1,533.7	<b>\$1,447.2</b>	<b>(\$-86.5)</b>	<b>(-5.6%)</b>
Bachelor of Applied Technology	\$3.2	<b>\$3.2</b>	\$0	
NEW: Workforce Initiative	\$0	<b>\$50</b>	\$50	
TOTAL	\$1,833.2	<b>Formula - \$1,833.2 Total - \$1,833.2</b>		

### Performance-Based Funding (Student Success Points)

The Association approved the Student Success Point improvements as proposed by the CTCFAC and TACC Metrics Task Force. Revisions to the metrics include updating the critical fields component and weighting certain points to better acknowledge the additional resources needed to support economically and academically at-risk students.

[View Full Taskforce Report Here](#)

#### Progression

Complete 15 credit hrs.



Complete 30 credit hrs.



Additional weight for students whose first completed 15 semester credit hours come from dual credit.

Additional weight for academically disadvantaged students and economically disadvantaged students upon credential completion or university transfer

#### Credentials/Transfer

Transfer w/ 15 semester credit hours



Degree/  
Certificate  
awarded



Degree/  
certificate  
awarded in critical  
field  
**[TARGETED]**



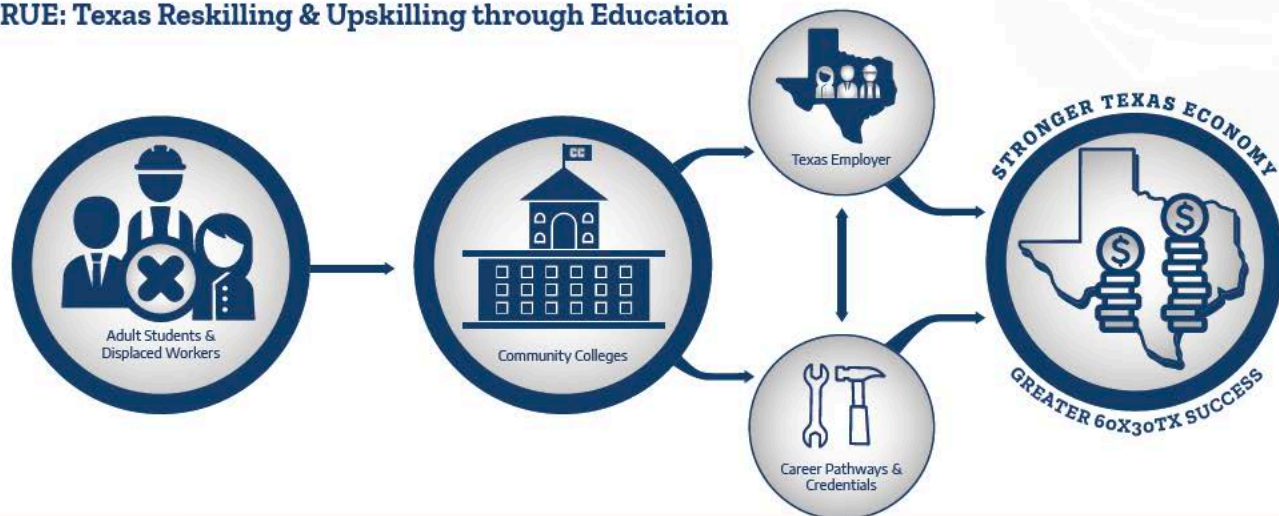
# 2 WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC RECOVERY POLICY

The Association recommends supporting the Texas Reskilling & Upskilling through Education (TRUE) initiative, and specifically seeking statutory authority to create a state fund to support the program. To achieve the dual goals of workforce and economic recovery, TRUE recommends the following:

## Recommendations

- Design sustainable talent pipelines to fill critical regional workforce needs and provide ongoing support to Texas businesses and the state's economic recovery.
- Expand employer-informed micro-credentials and short-term certificates that will enable displaced and underemployed workers to lead fulfilling and economically self-sufficient lives by getting them work-ready in as little as a few weeks to six months.
- Identify high-demand, short-term credentials to be recognized as a part of the 60X30TX Plan for Higher Education.

## TRUE: Texas Reskilling & Upskilling through Education



## Small Business Development Centers

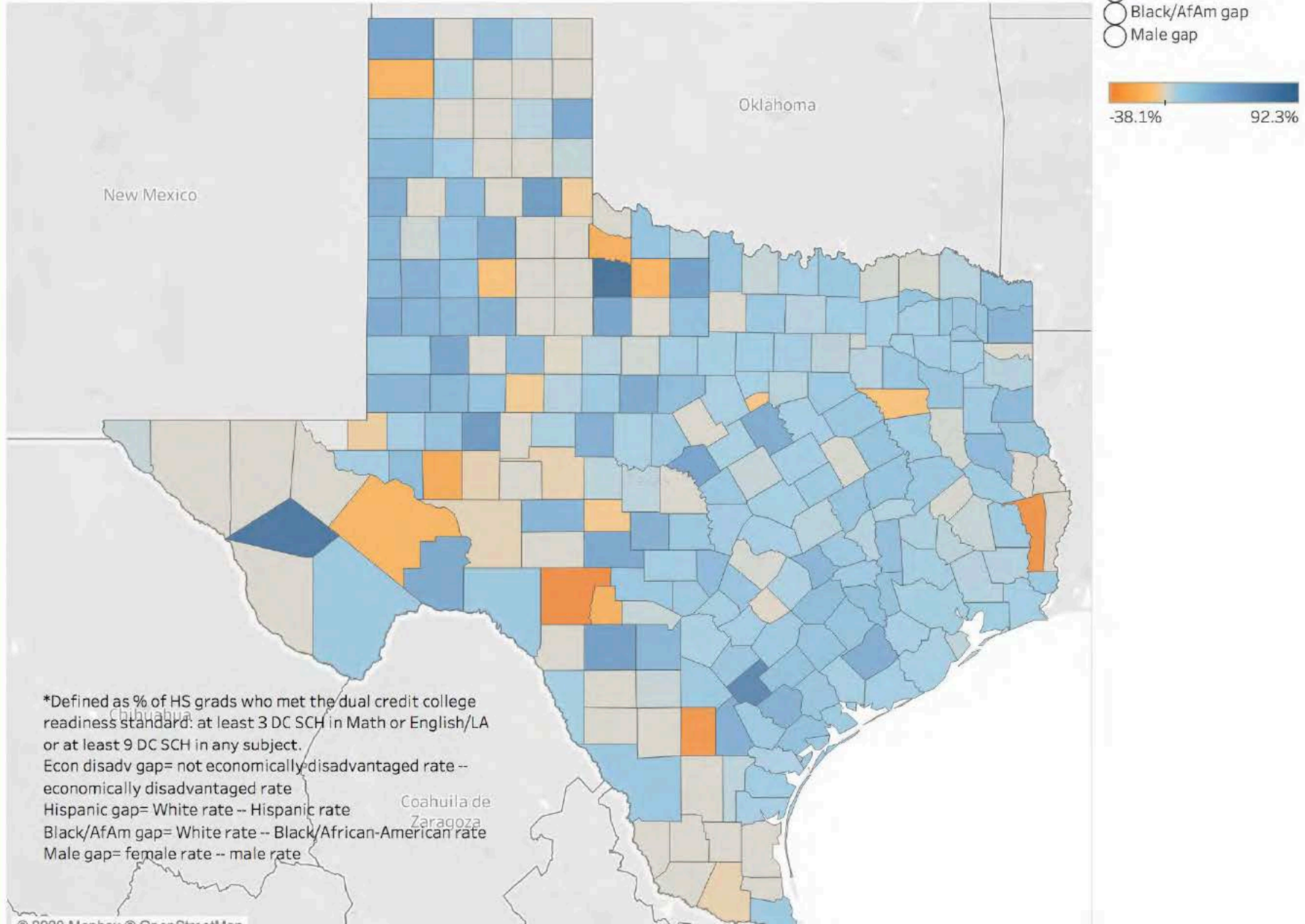
The Association recommends transitioning Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) within the General Appropriations Act from Article III (Education) to Article VII (Business and Economic Development), specifically within the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) appropriation. Currently, SBDCs are funded as non-formula support items at select institutions of higher education. **Under the recommendation, administration of the SBDCs would remain at the current institutions of higher education with funding flowing through the TWC.**

The national Small Business Development Center program was legislated via the Small Business Act of 1976 as a program of the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBDCs provide small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs with no-cost professional business advising and at-cost training on topics such as developing a business plan, accessing capital, finding new customers, compliance with regulations, exporting, cybersecurity, technology commercialization, and more. Combined, they manage the 50+ field Centers in urban and rural Texas. SBDCs provide hands-on guidance, which leads to greater prosperity via job creation, increased capital access and other small business growth.

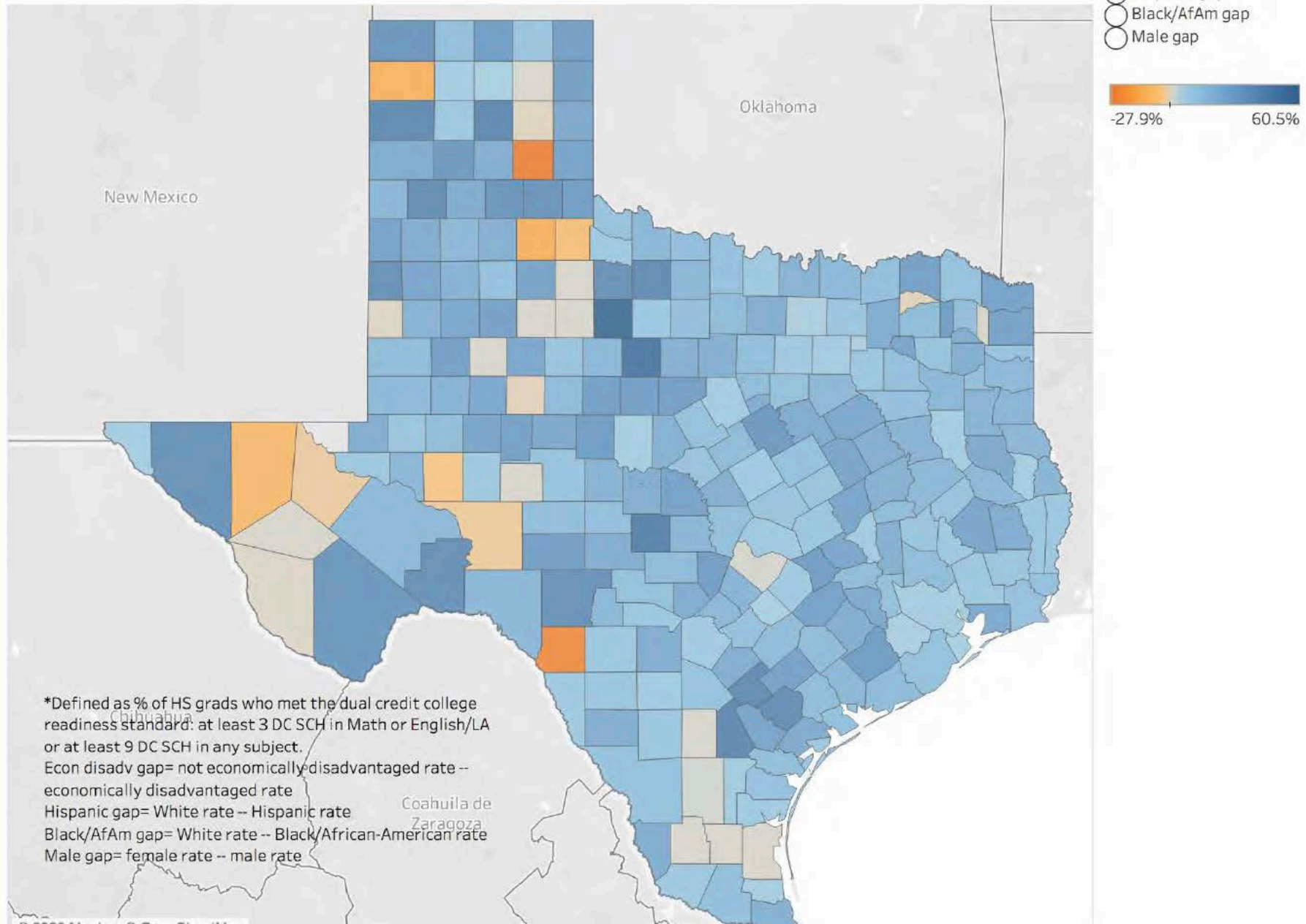




# 2018 High School Grad Dual Credit Completion Rates\* and Demographic Differences in Rates, by County



# 2018 High School Grad Dual Credit Completion Rates\* and Demographic Differences in Rates, by County





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