



U.S. Department of Commerce
Economic Development Administration

RE: Letter of Support for Tyler County THRIVE – Tyler County Hub for Resilience, Innovation, and Vision Empowerment

Dear U.S Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration,

We are writing to express my strong support for the Tyler County Development Foundation's application for funding through the Economic Development Administration to establish the Tyler County THRIVE (Tyler County Hub for Resilience, Innovation, and Vision Empowerment).

As the Commissioners' County of Tyler County, we have witnessed firsthand the need for expanded access to adult education, workforce development, and skills-based training opportunities in our region. The THRIVE initiative represents a critical investment in our community's future by providing a centralized hub for education, job training, higher learning, and industry-recognized certifications.

This project will directly address key challenges facing our workforce, including:

- Limited access to continuing education and credentialing programs
- Workforce skill gaps impacting local employers
- Economic barriers that prevent residents from advancing their careers

By creating a dedicated facility focused on resilience, innovation, and empowerment, the Tyler County THRIVE center will:

- Strengthen the local workforce pipeline
- Support economic growth and business development
- Increase access to livable-wage career pathways
- Enhance long-term community sustainability

We are particularly encouraged by the Foundation's commitment to collaborate with local businesses, educational institutions, and community partners to ensure the programs offered align with real workforce needs.

The THRIVE project will enhance Tyler County by helping us provide both GED and CDL classes to citizens who need further education to become readily employable. Also, in working with our local schools, we will be able to offer High School students Trade School

opportunities so that they may graduate with skills to be utilized in careers in our local workforce.

We, as the Commissioners' Court, fully support this application and respectfully urge the Economic Development Administration to invest in this transformative project. The Tyler County THRIVE initiative will have a lasting positive impact on our workforce, economy, and quality of life.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Milton Powers
Tyler County Judge

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