



*For the Gulf Coast's Opportunity Youth and Young Adults*

**The CHALLENGE**

The disconnected youth and young adults in the Gulf Coast Region total

**111,000**



These individuals, who neither work nor attend school or college, are ages



of the area's young people are represented by this group.

Lack of college and career opportunity costs the Gulf Coast Region approximately

**\$30B**

**78%**

of these youth have a high school credential, but few resources exist to connect them to employment.



Meanwhile, businesses in the region invest millions to import workers for middle-skill jobs across a range of industries.



Source: Rice Kinder Institute for Urban Research study: Houston's Opportunity: Reconnecting Disengaged Youth and Young Adults to Strengthen Houston's Economy  
JFF study: Opening the Door: How Community Organizations Address the Youth Unemployment Crisis

**GRADCAFÉ ON THE GO  
and COLLEGE "STOP-OUTS"**

Most students don't drop out of college for academic reasons. Instead, it's often obstacles like family problems, medical issues or a lack of clarity around educational goals that gets in the way. These "stop-outs" are a priority population for Project GRAD and Houston Community College. GRADcafé on the Go, a mobile college and career advising center, meets these students where they are and helps them get their educational goals across the finish line.

Educate Texas awarded Project GRAD funding to implement "GRADcafé on the Go" as part of the Bridge to College and Career Success initiative that launched in 2017. Funders include JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Trellis Foundation.

*"Halfway through the semester, my dad gets another stroke. I was so close to finishing."*

ERIKA

*"I didn't know how to choose a major."*

DARNELL

**PARTNERS**

Lead Organization



Partnering Organization



# WHY GRADCAFÉ ON THE GO?

Project GRAD provides free, accessible college and career services to help individuals in low-income communities achieve their educational aspirations. Its GRADcafé advisors help students choose a career, apply to college, and find financial aid. Project GRAD partnered with Houston Community College (HCC), the City of Houston, Harris County Public Library and Workforce Solutions to develop GRADcafé on the Go, a van that enables advisors to conduct a mobile version of its existing Aspiring Young Adults college advising model.

GRADcafé on the Go expands Project GRAD's service area and allows advisors to meet with opportunity youth and young adults and college stop-outs in their own communities. The collaboration leverages existing resources to provide intensive support and ongoing case management. Project GRAD and HCC plan to cross-train and co-locate to learn about one another's services and advising models, while collaborating on specific needs and interventions for participants.

## AREAS SERVED

Acres Homes

Gulfton

Northside

City of Houston

Multiservice Centers

## HOW it WORKS



### RECRUITMENT

- Walk-ins to cafés
- Outreach to high-need communities via mobile unit
- Outreach to HCC stopouts within 18 hours of earning a degree or certificate



### ONBOARDING & INTAKE

- Case manager assigned
- Assessment and contract signing
- Action plan completion and career pathway selection
- Postsecondary pre-testing



### PREPARATION & BRIDGING

- Career Institutes at HCC Centers of Excellence
- Individual Action Plans: financial aid assistance, academic preparation, employability skills
- Connection to social services
- GRAD and HCC advising



### COLLEGE ENROLLMENT & COMPLETION

- Ongoing social services support
- College enrollment
- Student progress check-in
- Career advising and readiness support



### EMPLOYMENT PLACEMENT

- Match local employers to participants' skills and needs
- Paid internships through the City of Houston's Hire Houston Youth program
- Access to free HCC job training programs

Learn more about BCCS

Visit: [edtx.org/bccs](http://edtx.org/bccs)

Learn more about  
**GRADcafé on the Go**

Email Adriana Estrada at:  
[aestrada@projectgradhouston.org](mailto:aestrada@projectgradhouston.org)

To donate, mentor participants,  
or share work-based learning and  
employment opportunities

Email: [BCCS@cftexas.org](mailto:BCCS@cftexas.org)



EDUCATE TEXAS  
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

5500 Caruth Haven Lane  
Dallas, TX 75225

1303 San Antonio Street, Suite 830  
Austin, TX 78701

407 N. 77 Sunshine Strip  
Harlingen, TX 78550