



**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 is 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  
Jobs For The Future study: Opening the Door: How Community Organizations Address the Youth Unemployment Crisis

**THE RESPONSE**

Educate Texas launched the Bridge to College and Career Success (BCCS) initiative in the Gulf Coast Region to address the needs of the region's disconnected youth and young adults. Through seed funding from JPMorgan Chase & Co. and other donors, the BCCS initiative stimulates partnerships between community colleges, employers and community-based organizations to create programs that will provide targeted training and higher education credentials, leading to employment for disconnected youth.

**ABOUT THIS TWO-PHASE INITIATIVE**

In Phase One, chosen partnerships are receiving planning-grant funding and technical assistance from both Educate Texas and Jobs for the Future (JFF) in support of their efforts to design potential programs (see back for list of partnerships).

The resulting plans will be reviewed, and selected partnerships will receive Phase Two implementation-grant funding. The chosen partnerships will participate in a Community of Practice and receive ongoing technical assistance to implement their programs. Simultaneously, Educate Texas will develop a communication network to share resources and best practices with a broader audience.

**OBJECTIVES**

BCCS is designed to build capabilities and resources for partnerships to adjust current systems to improve higher education completion rates and career opportunities for the Gulf Coast's disconnected youth.

By the end of the program, we anticipate that participating organizations will have:

1. Increased knowledge in serving this population
2. Built strong, lasting cross-organization partnerships that share and grow assets and resources
3. Supported participating youth to achieve either a higher education credential or job placement with career growth options

# Phase One Planning Grant Recipient Partnerships

## ON EDUCATION



*"I applied to college three times and there was always something that got in the way."*

*"I have bills plus two-hour transportation to school each way. But I want to better myself."*



## Community-Based Organization and Community College Planning Partnerships

GRANT RECIPIENT	PARTNER(S)	DESCRIPTION of INNOVATION
Lone Star College	Communities in Schools of Greater Houston	Prevention approach identifying at-risk seniors with no college or career plans, focused on short-term training for job placement
Capital IDEA	Houston Community College Southeast Campus and Harris County Department of Education	"Career Your Way" emphasizes self-discovery, career exploration, whole-person development and academic preparation for empowered decision making for postsecondary or employment opportunities
Project GRAD Houston	Houston Community College and City of Houston	Developing strategies to re-engage college "stop-outs" and reconnecting them to successful completion of relevant college certifications, coursework and career paths
Tejano Center for Community Concerns	Houston Community College Southeast Campus	Local partnership focused on college and career pathways for youth aging out of foster care, charter school graduates with no college plans
Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans (AAMA)	Houston Community College Southeast Campus	Focuses on addressing the challenges faced by charter school and High School Equivalency graduates who have no postsecondary or career plans
West Orem Family YMCA of Greater Houston	Houston Community College Southwest Campus	Expansion of Achievers Program to build a direct bridge to HCC featuring high-demand career opportunities in Southwest Houston

## ON WORK



*"It's easy for me to apply for the smaller jobs but without [the right] credentials, there's a limit to how far I can go."*

*"I want to help people like me so they don't have to go through what I went through."*



## Community-Based Training Provider and Employer Planning Partnerships

GRANT RECIPIENT	PARTNER (EMPLOYER)	DESCRIPTION OF INNOVATION
SER – Jobs for Progress of the Texas Gulf Coast	Gutier Construction	Using Community-Based Training Provider as "employer of record" for internships and work-based learning; Employer involved in curriculum development
Baylor College of Medicine Teen Health Clinics	Baylor College of Medicine	Meeting high demand for middle-skill employees at Texas Medical Center through developing training, work-based learning and job placement

