



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*

BAYLOR COLLEGE of MEDICINE TEEN HEALTH CLINIC'S ASCEND PROGRAM

When young adults walk into Baylor's Teen Health Clinic, their health concerns are often only the tip of the iceberg. These individuals struggle to find jobs with sufficient wages, even as Baylor's own College of Medicine and medical campuses can't hire quickly enough to fill long-standing openings.

Leaders at Baylor College of Medicine created the Ascend program to connect both groups, helping disconnected youth secure employment with living wages and career advancement opportunities within the Baylor College of Medicine and other healthcare institutions.

Educate Texas awarded the Baylor partnership grant funding to implement Ascend as part of the Bridge to College and Career Success initiative that launched in 2017. Funders include JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Trellis Foundation.

"I always wanted to be a nurse, but I didn't have much support from those around me; being in Ascend gave me the courage to pursue my dreams and believe that I can do better for myself."

JENNIFER

PARTNERS

Lead Organization



Partnering Organizations



WHY ASCEND?

The Baylor Teen Health Clinic provides free, quality healthcare and community resources to 10 inner-city locations and serves more than 20,000 indigent youth each year. For 10 years, the Teen Health Clinic's Project Bootstrap job-readiness program has provided skills, training and connections to health services for at-risk teens.

Ascend will expand on this foundation by offering career preparation and training through Baylor College of Medicine, which will serve as a partner and employer. Participants will benefit from opportunities to study, train and gain career exposure, leading to job placement in careers with livable wages—all while having access to free and quality healthcare for themselves and their families.

PATHWAYS

Patient Navigator
Medical Data Entry
Medical Billing
Medical Research Operations
Allied Health Occupations
Logistics and Distribution
Information Technology

HOW it WORKS



RECRUITMENT

- Social worker and medical staff
- Community outreach
- Resource staff at local high schools



INTAKE AT THC

- Formal interview and career assessment
- Youth bring GED/HS certificate



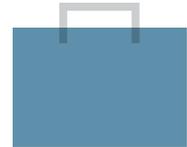
ORIENTATION AT THC

- Employability skills training and trust building in groups
- Counseling meetings
- Career selection



POSTSECONDARY & CAREER PREP WORKSHOPS

- Group advising
- Establish contacts with community college program staff
- Follow-up support 6 months after completion



EMPLOYMENT

- Access to common entry-level jobs and requirements
- Participants identified in application process
- Coaching to complete online application

Learn more about BCCS

Visit: edtx.org/bccs

Learn more about Ascend

Email David McBride at:
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To donate, mentor participants,
or share work-based learning and
employment opportunities

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