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 16-24. Meanwhile, businesses in the region invest millions to import workers for middle-skill jobs across a range of industries.

Lock 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.

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

CAPITAL IDEA CAREER MY WAY PROGRAM

Many of Houston’s young adults struggle in college because they don’t know their strengths and are unsure which careers are best matches for those strengths. As a result, they don’t bother to apply, or leave soon after enrollment.

Capital IDEA Career My Way provides personalized career exploration to help young people achieve their college and career goals. Educate Texas awarded Capital IDEA grant funding to implement Career My Way as part of the Bridge to College and Career Success initiative that launched in 2017. Funders include JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Trellis Foundation.

“I really didn’t believe I belonged in college and I didn’t know why I was there. So when my work schedule changed, it was easier to quit school than to ask for advice.”

DOMINIC

PARTNERS

For more information, visit edtx.org or contact BCCS@cftexas.org
**WHY CAREER MY WAY?**

Capital IDEA Houston created Career My Way to help fulfill their mission of providing academic, career, financial and emotional support to individuals in Harris County, with the goal of alleviating poverty and improving access to living-wage careers. Career My Way leverages Capital IDEA's deep experience in career training and development, and provides opportunities for self-discovery, career exploration and academic preparation. Young adults who enroll are empowered to make informed decisions that align with their interests and abilities. The following organizations are engaged as partners:

- **Houston Community College**
  - Assists students in attaining postsecondary credentials

- **Harris County Department of Education**
  - Provides preparation for postsecondary academics and testing

- **BridgeYear**
  - Allows participants to experience real-world careers through hands-on simulation

- **Fast Forward Analytics**
  - A mobile tool for exploring interests, strengths and career options

- **Power Up with Mahdi**
  - Life and motivational coaching

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**HOW it WORKS**

- **RECRUITMENT / INTAKE AT CAPITAL IDEA**
  - Leverage and recruit from local programs
  - Host “The Xperience” information session
  - Peer engagement

- **SELF DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION**
  - **PATHWAY SELECTION**
    - Career Navigator meetings
    - Fast Forward assesses for natural abilities
    - Academic assessments
    - Workshops on finance, employability skills, communication
    - Field trips to colleges and employers
    - Career simulations with BridgeYear
    - Team-builders
    - Apprenticeships and job training education

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**3 Pathway Options to Choose from**

1. **POSTSECONDARY**
   - Employability skills workshops
   - Co-enroll in Houston Community College Intro course
   - Academic and TSI Prep
   - Tutoring
   - Connect with Career Navigator and college advisor

2. **EARN AND LEARN**
   - Gulf Coast Trade Union pre-apprenticeship program for HVAC, electrical, welding, pipe fitting, maritime, etc.
   - Workforce Solutions on-the-job training
   - Employability skills workshops

3. **EMPLOYMENT**
   - Harris County Dept. of Education short-term training
   - HCC short-term training for Level 1 certifications
   - Job placement

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**Learn more about BCCS**

Visit: edtx.org/bccs

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**Learn more about Career My Way**

Email Michelle Paul at: mmpaul@capitalideahouston.org

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

Email: BCCS@cftexas.org