



**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*

**THE RESPONSE**

In spring 2017, 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 Trellis Foundation, 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 INITIATIVE**

In Phase One, eight partnerships received planning-grant funding and technical assistance from both Educate Texas and JFF in support of their efforts to design potential programs.

As of spring 2018, four of the planning partnerships were selected to receive grant funding to implement their plans in 2018-2019. These partnerships will (see back for details) receive ongoing technical assistance from Jobs for the Future and Educate Texas in executing and integrating youth voice in their programs. Educate Texas has launched a regional professional network to share resources and best practices with a broader audience interested in engaging disconnected youth.

**OBJECTIVES**

BCCS is designed to build capabilities and resources for partnerships to improve systems leading to increased higher education completion and career entry rates 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

# Implementation 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   |
|---|--|---|
| Career My Way<br> | Houston Community College Southeast Campus and Harris County Department of Education | "Career My Way" emphasizes self-discovery, career exploration, whole-person development and academic preparation for empowered decision making for postsecondary or employment opportunities  |
| Project GRAD<br>  | Houston Community College and City of Houston  | Introducing "GRADcafé on the GO", a mobile advising center that provides accessible, ongoing and intensive supports and expands college and career advising for Houston Community College "stop-outs". Reengaging "stop-outs" in successful completion of relevant college credentials and career paths |

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  |
|--|--|--|
| SERJobs of the Texas Gulf Coast<br>                | Gutier Construction and Marek Brothers | Using Community-Based Training Provider as "employer of record" for paid internships and work-based learning; Employer involved in curriculum development and ongoing mentorship |
| Baylor College of Medicine Teen Health Clinics<br> | Baylor College of Medicine             | Meeting high demand for middle-skill employees at Texas Medical Center through developing training, work-based learning and job placement  |

