

HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTIONS ASSISTING COMMUNITIES GRANT

SOUTH TEXAS COLLEGE

The Career Pathways and Housing Opportunities Program at South Texas College consists of two major activities: (1) demolition of 34 condemned homes posing threats to the health and welfare of the tenants, and (b) training of 84 participants in the areas of Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA); General Office Clerk; English as a Second Language, Employability Skills, Computer Applications, and Financial Literacy (Occupational ESL); Green Construction; and Welding.

Demolition of the condemned homes was triggered by the need to mitigate living conditions posing serious and immediate threats to the health and welfare of tenants, and the training of 84 participants in English language acquisition as well as target and demand occupations was a consequence to the need to equip these low-skill low-literacy individuals with necessary knowledge and skills to enter the workplace, become competitive, advance in their career pathway, and ultimately become financially self-sufficient.

Partners involved in this project include: (1) Starr County Industrial Foundation: responsible for identifying participants and coordinating the demolition of condemned homes and the construction of new dwellings; (2) Lower Rio Grande Workforce Development Board: responsible for determining WIA eligibility of Section 8 tenants and providing support services accordingly, including job placement; (3) Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges: responsible for providing guidance to STC in developing the CNA and General Office Clerk programs using the Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) methodology; and (4) South Texas College: responsible for implementing and coordinating both programmatic and fiscal aspects of the grant.

The project will cover the salaries of a full-time Project coordinator who will be responsible for the implementation of the program, three part-time instructors responsible for delivering training, and three full-time advisors, working part-time on the project, responsible for case management, career counseling, and instruction quality assurance. Funds will also be utilized to cover all necessary labor, materials, equipment, machinery, tools, and safety gear required to perform the scope of work in accordance with specifications supplied and reviewed by the Housing Authority of Starr County for the clearing and demolishing of 34 housing structures that have been condemned.

The goals of this project in terms of measurable proposed activities are:

1. 34 condemned homes inhabited by Section 8 tenants will be demolished to remove serious threats to their health and welfare.
2. 84 participants will be trained in the areas of CNA, General Office Clerk, Occupational ESL, Green Construction, and Welding.
3. 85% of the 84 participants will complete training and receive a certificate or credential; this translates to 71 completers.
4. 75% of the 71 completers will be placed in jobs; this translates to 53 new hires.