

San Antonio's Project QUEST Wins National \$1 Million Grant

Josh Baugh

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Project QUEST, the nonprofit workforce development organization created more than a quarter-century ago by the **COPS/Metro Alliance**, has been awarded a \$1 million grant that the organization says will allow it to serve more San Antonians with expanded job training programs.

The award comes from the Rockefeller Foundation and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative as part of their Communities Thrive Challenge, which awarded \$1 million each to 10 organizations across the nation, working to “help low-income and financially insecure people find and retain well-paid, meaningful work, achieve financial security or build economically vibrant neighborhoods.”

David Zammiello, Project QUEST president and CEO, said in a news release that the funding would have a meaningful impact on San Antonio families.

“As a workforce collaborator and an economic resource to the San Antonio community, Project QUEST provides families with life-changing services, education and career skills training for long-term employment and self-sufficiency,” he said. “This funding will be integral as we open the door for more unemployed, underemployed and under-skilled residents in our community to launch new careers in exciting industries.”

Project QUEST has a storied and at times controversial history in San Antonio. It's been held up as a local nonprofit doing good for families in need and chastised for financial troubles.



Sister Consuelo Tovar of COPS/Metro Alliance leads a press conference on the steps of city hall asking City Council to increase funding for Project Quest in the upcoming budget increase wages for city employees (Sept. 5, 2017).

Photo by: Kin Man Hui, Staff / *San Antonio Express-News*

The organization currently receives about \$2.2 million in annual funding from the city of San Antonio, including \$200,000 for its Cloud Academy, an information-technology training program.

Mayor Ron Nirenberg applauded the organization for its efforts in securing the highly competitive grant.

“(The grant) is a welcome boost to San Antonio’s workforce development efforts,” he said. “This new funding will help Project QUEST improve the lives of working San Antonians and the city as a whole.”

The foundations behind the grant received more than 1,800 applications before selecting 20 finalists.

Project QUEST has been working on workforce development in San Antonio for 26 years.

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