

## **TEXAS INNOVATIVE ADULT CAREER EDUCATION (ACE) GRANT PROGRAM**

**The request is to restore funding for the ACE Grant Program to \$10 million for the 2020-21 biennium, from the current \$4.56 million in the House and Senate budgets.**

The ACE Grant Program is a nonformula line item in the Austin Community College budget; Austin Community College serves as the grant administrator.

The data provided here is for the six nonprofit workforce training programs that are related to the Texas IAF Organizations: Project QUEST, San Antonio; SkillQuest Dallas; Capital IDEA, Austin; Capital IDEA Houston; ARRIBA in El Paso and VIDA in the Rio Grande Valley.

Because ACE is a competitive statewide matching grant, other nonprofit organizations have also received funding in addition to the above named workforce training programs.

- The six workforce programs named above have trained a total of nearly **16,000 students**.
- Approximately **4,125 participant students** have been enrolled in this 2018-19 biennium.
- **Approximately 1,740** of the 4,125 have benefited from the ACE Grant matching funds.
- If the ACE Grant Program is restored to \$10 million, **an additional 2,000 students** would be added to the 1,740 **for a total of about 3,740 students** served in the 2020-21 biennium.
- The ACE Grant Program has strict statutory outcome requirements in Chapter 136 of the Education Code, some of which are listed below.
- These grant recipient nonprofits meet those requirements, including above average rapid remediation/ developmental education college readiness outcomes in 12 to 24 weeks, and
- Above average year to year 85 to 88 percent persistence rates and above average college completion rates with an associate degree or certificate.
- Additional requirements include:
  - Participants must be under 200 percent of federal poverty level;
  - Training for associate degree or certificate for in-demand, higher-earning occupations;
  - Be in partnership with a community college and business community members;
  - Provide outreach, assessment, case management, support services and career job placement;
  - In in-demand, higher skill, and higher wage jobs. Healthcare and high tech jobs include registered nurses, dental hygienists, surgical technicians and technology network administrators.

As shown above, restoring funding would:

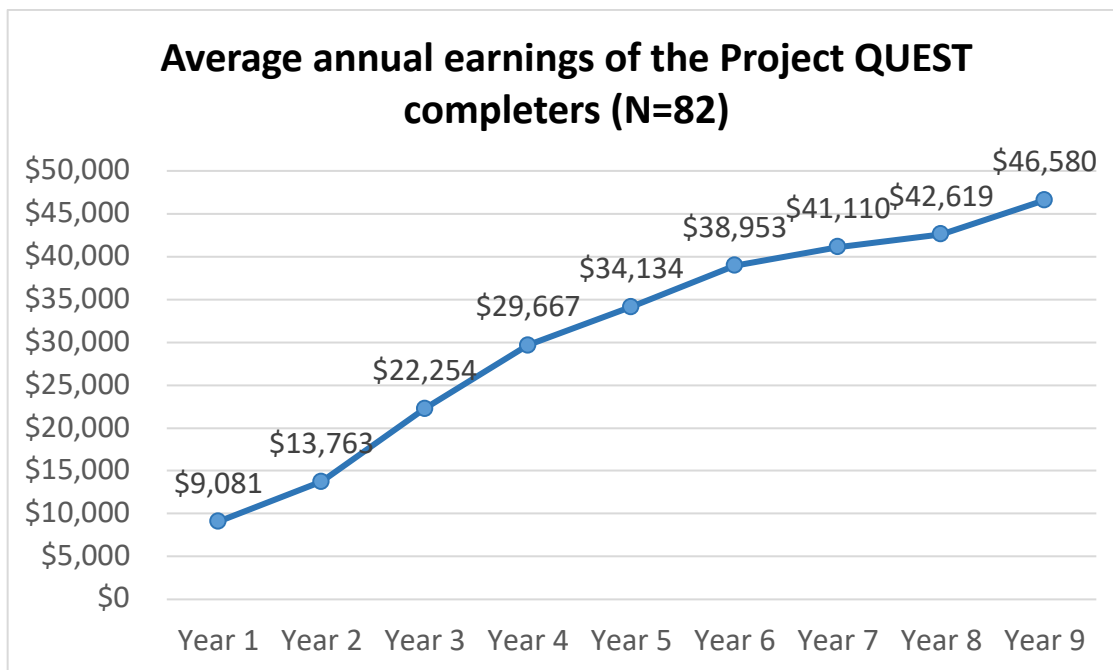
***Texas IAF Network: The Metropolitan Organization, TMO Houston; Dallas Area Interfaith; Allied Communities of Tarrant; Austin Interfaith/Central Texas Interfaith; COPS/Metro Alliance, San Antonio; EPISO/Border Interfaith, El Paso, Valley Interfaith; WTOS, Lubbock; The Border Organization, Del Rio/Eagle Pass***

- Significantly increase program graduates;
- Move more low income adults from poverty to the middle class;
- Move more adults off of public assistance;
- Increase the tax base of local communities and the state;
- Contribute to the strong Texas economy;
- Add to the 60x30 higher education goal of 60% of adults with a degree or certificate by 2030; including
- Children of ACE participants entering college directly after high school
- Maximize the Return on Investment of \$12.12 to \$26.10 to the community, taxpayers and participants.

An ACE Grant Program recipient workforce training program has been shown through a 10 year random assignment study to demonstrate “the largest, sustained earnings impacts ever found in a rigorous evaluation of a workforce development program.” -- *Nine Year Gains: Project QUEST's Continuing Impact*, Mark Elliott, Economic Mobility Corporation study April 2019.

The study shows:

- 29.5 % of participants were age 18-24; 46.4% were 25-34 and 15.5% were 35-44.
- 86% were students of color.
- 24% had a GED and
- 69.1% had a high school diploma.
- 67.2% had children under age 18.



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