

Project Abstract

1. **Lead Applicant Name:** Project QUEST, Inc.
2. **Lead Applicant City/State:** San Antonio, Texas
3. **Primary Partnership Entities:** *Lead/ Community Based Organization:* Project QUEST, Inc.; *Workforce Investment System:* Workforce Solutions Alamo; *Training Provider:* Alamo Colleges; *Business Related Non-Profits:* San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, North San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
4. **Areas Served by Grant (by city, county and state):** *State:* Texas *County:* Atascosa, Bandera, Bexar, Comal, Frio, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Karnes, Kendall, Kerr, Medina and Wilson *Cities:* Pleasanton, Bandera, San Antonio, New Braunfels, Pearsall, Fredericksburg, Seguin, Kenedy, Boerne, Kerrville, Hondo and Floresville
5. **Total Funding Requested:** \$6,000,000
6. **Project Name:** Homegrown IT
7. **Summary of Program Activities and List of Credentials Awarded:**

QUEST and its partners, will focus on the long-term unemployed, and other unemployed San Antonio, Bexar County residents to fill the need in high-skills Information Technology (IT) occupations. QUEST's strategy includes identifying in-demand occupations, outreach and recruitment, comprehensive applicant assessment, skills training and paid internships, case management, support services, job search in demand occupations, and job placement. *In-demand occupations* are identified in collaboration with Workforce Solutions Alamo, the City of San Antonio Economic Development Department, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce and employer partners. *Outreach and recruitment* will include presentations, partner agency referrals, participation in job and education fairs and social media campaigns.

Applicants receive a two-phase *assessment* to determine their training readiness: one for academic skill level and the other to establish career suitability. *Skills training* includes accelerated classroom training, employer sponsored training, and paid internships. *Case management* includes guidance and career counseling, weekly VIP (Vision, Initiative, and Perseverance) meetings, support services, and other relevant assistance. *Work Readiness Skills* training is provided by the career advisors during the weekly VIP meetings. Topics included are time management, stress management, goal setting, financial planning, ethics, morals, and values, motivation, self-esteem, and transition to employment. *Support services* such as childcare, transportation allowances, and utility assistance are vital elements of Project QUEST's support and are available to participants so they can focus on their training activities. *Job search and placement assistance* is offered to participants through coordination with Workforce Solutions Alamo and employer partners.

- 8. Populations to be Served:** Long-term unemployed (85%) and other unemployed workers.
- 9. Targeted H-1B Industry/Occupations:** Information Technology – Computer System Analyst, Network and Computer System Administrator, Computer Programmer and Information Security Analysts
- 10. Required Employer Partner(s):** Rackspace, Denim Group, Zachry Holdings, WP Engine, Mission Pharmacal, and HTS Voice and Data System
- 11. Additional Key Partners:** City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Communities Organized for Public Services, The Metro Alliance, Congressman Lloyd Doggett and Congressman Joaquin Castro
- 12. Public Contact Information:** Sister Pearl Ceasar, Executive Director, Project QUEST, Inc., 515 SW 24th Street, San Antonio, TX, 78207, (210) 630-4690, pearl@questsa.org