

President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Grow Our Own



Grant Amount: \$4,000,000

Grantee: Rio Grande Valley Allied Health Training Alliance – Weslaco, Texas

Key Partners: 10 hospitals, five educational institutions, four counties, two workforce development boards, and one faith-based community organization.

Leveraged Amount: \$4,457,200 (\$1,620,000 in cash and \$2,837,200 in-kind from participating hospitals)

Location of Grant Activities: Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, and Willacy Counties, TX

Challenge: Multiple barriers contribute to the severe nursing and allied health professionals shortages occurring in rural border communities. If these barriers are not addressed, the skills shortage will worsen, jeopardizing health care services in these communities.

Addressing the Challenge: With its \$4,000,000 grant, the Rio Grande Valley Allied Health Training Alliance will assist area businesses and community leaders to develop, attract, and retain homegrown talent. Key objectives include enrolling students in Post-Licensure Specialty Training, creating a Skills Workforce Academy for Nursing and Allied Health candidates, retaining them through tuition assistance, and developing a High School Concurrent Enrollment Program and comprehensive Faculty Sharing Program while drawing from Alliance hospitals' supply of Masters of Science in Nursing.

Projected Outcomes:

- 135 participants enrolled in Post Licensure Specialties with a completion rate of 95 percent;
- 70 students annually prepared in academies;
- 90 high school juniors and seniors have the annual opportunity to take college classes;
- 360 participants receive comprehensive case management with 90 percent student retention rates
- Online coursework used as part of the Faculty Sharing Program for one allied health specialty;
- 400 students' clinical rotations coordinated via on-line, regional scheduling.

