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.


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