



**ADVANCING CAREER EDUCATION INITIATIVE “ACE”
HIDALGO COUNTY LITERACY PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, Hidalgo County (the “County”) is authorized pursuant to Section §381.004 of the Texas Local Government Code, to develop and administer state and local economic development programs for the purpose of stimulating business and commercial activity in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court created the “Hidalgo County Literacy Program” on March 3, 2015, under the authority of the Texas Local Government Code §381.004(b)(6), focused on assisting economically disadvantaged, underemployed & unemployed residents gain employment through skills development training for demand occupations; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section §381.004, the County is authorized to spend public funds and provide personnel and services of the county to develop such programs, and to contract with another entity for the administration of such an economic development program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the County does hereby resolve and agree as follows:

1. The Commissioners Court shall hereby develop the Advancing Career Education Initiative (“ACE”), herein after referred to as the (“Initiative”), aimed to attain the objectives established by the Hidalgo County Literacy Program.
2. The Initiative is designed to develop a comprehensive literacy program for the benefit of county residents, focusing on skills development training for demand occupations with an emphasis on serving residents with barriers to employment in an effort to help them achieve long-term self sufficiency.
3. The Initiative’s primary focus shall be on education and training the existing workforce to prepare county residents with skills needed for our increasing health care industry. By developing the quality of the workforce, it will empower the disadvantaged, underemployed & unemployed residents with the technical and academic tools necessary to become qualified candidates for job opportunities identified in the County.
4. The Initiative shall recognize the prospective growth and demand in the allied health industry, as well as other prospective industries. Coupled with fostering a trained workforce, the Initiative serves as a catalyst to stimulate local economic development, encouraging business location, and promoting commercial activity in the county. The result of which shall be to increase employment among eligible residents of the Hidalgo County in jobs that pay competitive wages with benefits and upward mobility.

5. The County may seek to collaborate with a qualified organization(s) or company(s), herein after referred to as the “Contractor(s)”, in assisting with the administration of the Initiative by providing comprehensive literacy services to include job-training; attracting, retaining, and developing workforce talent; furthering the goals and objectives of meeting the needs of current industries, and supporting the development of future business location in the area.

Services may also include:

- (a) Strengthening skills development and career advancement;
 - (b) Developing higher skills and higher wage jobs; and,
 - (c) Addressing professional shortage areas (e.g., allied health).
6. The Contractor shall be registered and licensed (if applicable) for the services being requested in the State of Texas, and shall demonstrate experience in, but not limited to:
 - (a) The field related to skills development programs, career counseling, training, and job placement support while working closely with students on their efforts of continuing education and the commitment needed for success.
 - (b) Establishing relationships working with community and private industry leaders at identifying, addressing and linking employers’ needs and education programs to develop a skilled workforce within the county.
7. The Contractor shall be responsible for outreach, recruitment, intake and acceptance of a sufficient number of eligible residents for any proposed program.
8. The Contractor shall be responsible for reporting to the County as to the progress of this County Initiative under the Hidalgo County Literacy Program, as further detailed in the service agreement.

Approved this 17th day of March, 2015.

Ramon Garcia
Hon. RAMON GARCIA
County Judge

A.C. Cuellar
Hon. A.C. CUELLAR, JR.
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

Eduardo
Hon. EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

Joe M. Flores
Hon. JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

Joseph Palacios
Hon. JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Arturo Guajardo
Attest: Hon. ARTURO GUAJARDO
Hidalgo County Clerk