

Community Action, Inc.
Adult Education Team Quarterly Report
February 2010-May 2010
May 14, 2010

Key Strategy: To provide low-income families with the skills necessary to attain living wage jobs.

- **Program Update:** The CAI Adult Education Program and all three of its English Literacy Civics Partnership programs (San Marcos CISD, Hays CISD, and Leander ISD) were recognized by Texas LEARNS for meeting or exceeding all federal performance measures in the 2008-2009 program year at the State adult education conference in Dallas this February. The United States Department of Education (USDE) conducted a monitoring visit of the Texas Adult Education Program and Community Action was one of a group of programs selected for a site visit by USDE staff. The monitors met with the management team, and visited the GED class for court ordered youth at the Hays County Juvenile Justice Center where they observed the teacher and interacted with the young men and women in the class. A representative from the Hays Juvenile Probation Department identified several students in the class who were no longer on probation who continue to attend class because they are comfortable in the class. A Texas LEARNS representative called us after the monitoring visit to tell us that we were the most prepared local program visited.
- **Success Stories:** The CSBG ARRA funded Career Pathways for Central Texans (CPCT) program has been quite successful and popular with clients. 109 clients from Hays and Caldwell counties have enrolled in the program. They have benefitted greatly from the occupational training, community college coursework, and support services that the program provides. 35 clients completed Certified Nurses Aide Training. 26 of these graduates have passed the State Board exam and 11 have found employment in the health sector. 12 clients are working with Capital Idea. It is the first time that Capital Idea has worked with low income clients outside of Hays and Williamson counties. Other clients have enrolled in Pharmacy Technician Training, Dental Assistant Training and one is completing the Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator Program. Jobs For the Future (JFF) a national non-profit involved in developing policy and best practices for education and training programs for disadvantaged youth was hired by TEA to provide technical assistance to the Texas Dropout Recovery Pilot Project Network. JFF asked the CAI College Readiness Program Coordinator to recruit students to serve on a Youth Panel at their technical assistance conference in Austin. Two of our students who currently attend ACC served on the panel with three Capital IDEA clients. It was by far the most popular session at the conference. The students were enthusiastic and spoke very highly of the CAI College Readiness Program and articulated the importance of the support that the Program Coordinator provided as being a key to their success to date.
- **New Initiatives:** Despite the success of the College Readiness Program and the recognition of its best practices by Jobs For the Future, TEA chose not to provide continuation funding to our College Readiness Program. In recent months program staff have been working with the ACC San Marcos Site Supervisor and ACC representatives from Austin on the development of a summer College Prep Academy that will be held for six weeks starting June 14. The Academy is designed to prepare students for college level coursework so that they will not have to “waste” their financial aid on non-credit Developmental Education courses. If you have clients that may be interested, you should contact the CPCT Career Counselor. CAI has partnered with ACC and two local workforce boards to submit an adult basic education innovation grant. If funded, the program will offer Vocational ESL and Vocational ABE courses to prepare clients for targeted occupations in Central Texas.. The project is scheduled to begin in June. The Central Texas Literacy Summit sponsored by the City of San Marcos and the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas will be held from 11 to 1 on June 3rd at the San Marco Convention Center. The Hays County GED Graduation Ceremony will be held at the Hays Performing Arts Center on Thursday, June 10 at 6:30 PM.

Adult education program serves Hays, Caldwell, Blanco, Bastrop, Burnet, Lee, Fayette, Gonzales, Llano and Williamson counties. Please see the agency website at www.communityaction.com for additional information.

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