

**TCDD Project Highlights
Employment Projects
August 2010**

Texas A & M Research Foundation

Project Title: Field-Initiated Employment: Brazos Valley Employment
Project Location: College Station

Year: 3 of 3
TCDD Budgeted: \$125,000

RFP Intent: To increase employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and develop strategies that will make these activities sustainable after grant funding has ended. The grantee will demonstrate innovative and strategic approaches to addressing employment-related needs that results in documented long-term employment for people with developmental disabilities.

- 150 individuals with disabilities have directly participated in the employment programs.
- 4 high-school work experience programs developed: 1 work-based service model; 1 service learning model; and, 2 school-based models.
- 153 participants (Disability in the Workplace seminar) received information on hiring people with disabilities.

Sustainability: Timber Academy will have a self-sustaining horticultural-based service learning program and Trinity High School will have a self-sustaining food and hospitality based enterprise program.

Products: N/A

Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Development Board

Project Title: Field-Initiated Employment: Project Rise
Project Location: Edinburg

Year: 3 of 3
TCDD Budgeted: \$125,000

RFP Intent: To increase employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities and develop strategies that will make these activities sustainable after grant funding has ended. The grantee will demonstrate innovative and strategic approaches to addressing employment-related needs that results in documented long-term employment for people with developmental disabilities.

- 274 students with disabilities trained in employment opportunities resulting in 27 having jobs of their choice; 8 attending post-secondary education, and 1 graduating from the Certified Nursing Assistants program.
- Project featured in *Solutions Magazine* article published/distributed by the Texas Workforce Commission.

Sustainability: At the conclusion of TCDD funding, Project RISE will transfer to the local Easter Seals that has developed a contract with DARS to provide supported employment services to participants.

Products: N/A

Community Healthcore (formerly Sabine Valley Center)

Project Title: Customized Self- Employment
Project Location: Bowie, Cass, Gregg, Harrison, Marion, Panola, Red River, Rusk, and Upshur

Year: 3 of 5
TCDD Budgeted: \$125,000

RFP Intent: To provide customized self-employment opportunities for people with developmental disabilities by training them, their families, and local collaborating agencies in how to develop and implement an individualized self-employment plan. The process will include assistance in securing the necessary natural supports and funding for the self-employment endeavor.

- 121 individuals with disabilities trained in customized self-employment opportunities.
- 15 individuals have customized self-employment businesses through the project.

Sustainability: Although there is no specific commitment for funds to sustain the project after TCDD funding ends, partnerships have been established with Small Business Development Center, DARS (self-employment as a billable form of Supported Employment), Social Security Incentives and Real Jobs for Youth.

Products: DVD & Self-Employment training materials