

2016 -2107 AEBG Request for Proposal

Program Name:

Career Skills Institute: Jail

1. Executive Summary

The students we will serve in this program come from the streets, from drug addiction, from jail, and from prison. Their lives started in poverty. Some are one strike shy of life in "the system". Others have never known life on the "outside". Now they are working hard to leave their past behind. The vehicle: A college education. Santa Barbara City College (SBCC) is requesting AEBG funds to develop and implement a program that will prepare formerly incarcerated individuals for college success through year-round bridge programming.

Transitions is a summer bridge program, serving approximately 25 new students annually. In 2012, Transitions was recognized by the California Community College's Chancellor's Office with the Rice Diversity & Equity Award. In its eighth year, the summer 2015 cohort of participants had a 100% success rate – all 28 students enrolled at SBCC in the Fall semester. Transitions effectively prepared formerly incarcerated individuals for college.

More than 4,000 inmates are released throughout the year into this County, necessitating growth from a six-week summer program to year-round programming. With expansion, two cohorts each fall and two cohorts each spring, in addition to summer – the number of students served multiples five-fold.

We are requesting funding to serve this population during the Fall and Spring semesters within the Career Skills Institute. By developing a new CSI badge called Transitions, we can ensure that this population can be served by attending four hours of class each week. And, by including a consultant to provide support to this population during this time we are ensuring student success and assisting students in making the bridge from incarceration into college.

Curriculum Development

We propose creating a new CSI badge called Transitions. The transitions badge consists of 64 hours of training over a 16 week semester, offered as 4 hours per week. Students who are interested can attend the additional highest level of Word and Excel at their own discretion.

The Transition digital badge and/or certificate includes:

- 1) Life Strategies (16 hour class)
- 2) Career Strategist Digital Badge (already exists)
 - a. Consists of two 8 hour classes
 - i. Personalized Career Planning (8hrs)
 - ii. Strategic Job Search(8 hrs)
 - 3) Two Word Digital Badges
 - a. Intermediate Word Digital Badge consists of two 8 hour classes
 - i. Word Level 1
 - ii. Word Level 2
 - b) Advance Word Digital Badge consists of three 8 hours classes
 - i. Word Level 1
 - ii. Word Level 2
 - iii. Word Level 3

Students have the option of enrolling in the advanced level. If they do they receive an advance badge otherwise they receive the intermediate level badge. The Advanced level will be offered on a different day to afford students opportunity to attend 72 hours of training instead of 64. This holds true for the Excel digital badges.

- 3) Two Excel Digital Badges
 - a. Intermediate Excel Digital Badge consists of two 8 hour classes
 - i. Excel Level 1
 - ii. Excel Level 2
 - b) Advance Excel Digital Badge consists of three 8 hours classes
 - i. Excel Level 1

- ii. Excel Level 2
- iii. Excel Level 3

An expert with post-incarcerated individuals will be hired to coordinate with the jail and ensure individuals are properly enrolled and have someone to check in with on an ongoing basis throughout the semester. This consultant will also assist students upon completion of the Transitions badge to bridge to the appropriate program at SBCC.

2. Integration

Our proposal includes a consultant who will be hired to help facilitate to the bridge to other noncredit programs and or credit programs. While this is not an ongoing position it affords the ability to identify the needs of this population and to work with the Santa Barbara County Inmate Services staff to assist in the development of the needs so that going forward SBCC staff can facilitate the transition of these students. The consultant hired to support this population will help move students from the Transitions Program via assessment that is already in place. Students will move through our CSI Transitions program and onto either Adult Basic Skills, Adult High School or GED and then on to College programs. Or they may move directly to College credit programs.

3. Justification

More than 4,000 inmates are released throughout the year into this County, necessitating growth from a six-week summer program to year round program. With expansion to a year round program - two cohorts each and two each spring, in addition to summer - the number of students served through this proposed program multiples five-fold. At 71%, Santa Barbara County's recidivism rate is the 15th highest in the state. Educational programs are proven to reduce recidivism and in-prison education has been shown to improve inmate 'attitude,' yet this County lacks sufficient educational opportunities for individuals post-release. An expanded Transitions program can mitigate these insufficiencies.

4. Outreach & Marketing

The Director of the Career Skills Institute along with the consultant hired through this proposal will work with the discharge specialist at the Santa Barbara County Jail and develop processes and procedures to facilitate enrollment of post-incarcerated individuals.

5. Alignment

Our proposal aligns with Goal 2 of the AEBG Consortium, We have designed a comprehensive program that expands offerings within our area by meeting the unmet needs of post-incarcerated individuals.