



Volunteers of America®

TEXAS



# CONTEXUALIZED BRIDGE PROGRAM

**ENGAGING THE ADULT LEARNER  
FOR EMPLOYMENT SUCCESS**

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Regional Director Houston

# Making a Difference through Adult Basic Education



# Why is it important to Integrate ABE with Technical Programs?



- Integrated adult basic education (reading, writing & math) with professional instructors is to provide basic education and workforce together.
- Students must first take all levels of basic education before the technical programs: Purpose - to help provide post-secondary education and help the students become marketable and enter the healthcare workforce.
- One instructor teaches the students reading, writing, math & employability skills, while the other instructor teaches the technical courses and how to apply the skills as professionals.
- During the ABE course the students will improve their basic reading and writing and math skills using materials related to the health care industry.

# We are Ready to Meet the Challenge

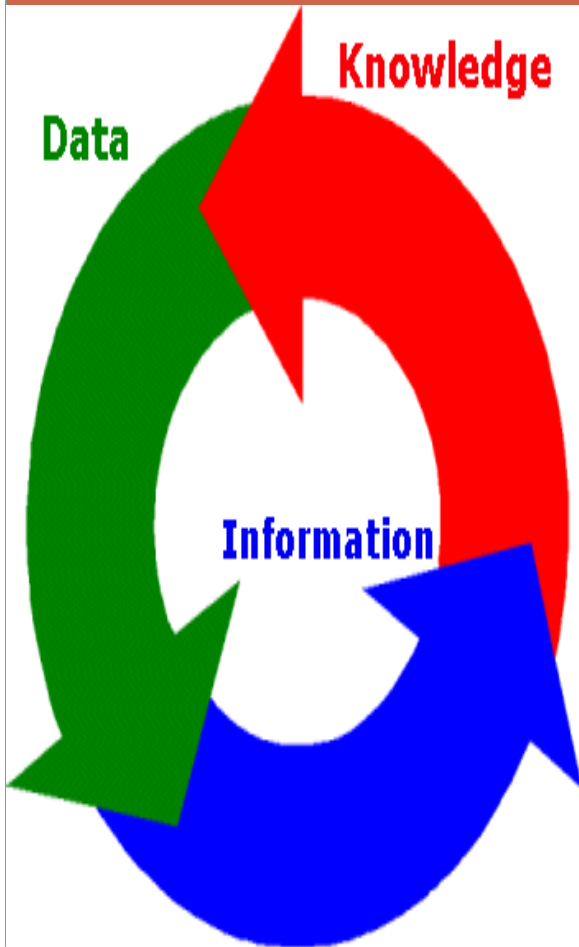


HOUSTON HAS BEEN CHALLENGED WITH THE TASK OF FINDING WELL-TRAINED, PROFESSIONAL INDIVIDUALS TO FILL WHAT ARE KNOWN AS “MIDDLE-SKILLED OCCUPATIONS”.

A REPORT RELEASED BY THE GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS THAT BETWEEN 2016 AND 2020 THE REGION WILL HAVE 84,257 JOB OPENINGS AVAILABLE FOR POSITIONS THAT REQUIRE MORE THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA BUT LESS THAN A FOUR-YEAR DEGREE.

## The Pilot

- *Volunteers of America Texas began a pilot program in 2014 to find a solution to alleviate the skills-gap within healthcare and to create meaningful employment options for our clients.*



# Progressive Outcomes for the Workforce



**THE OUTCOME WILL BE A MARKETABLE  
POOL OF HIGH SKILLED WORKERS READY TO  
BEGIN WORK IN THE HIGH GROWTH  
INDUSTRIES WITH IN-DEMAND SKILLS TO  
FILL VACANCIES.**

A graphic with a yellow and blue background. The text 'PREPARE THE WAY' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. 'PREPARE THE' is in blue and 'WAY' is in white with a dotted pattern. Below the text is a blue horizontal bar. At the bottom, the text '→ Get Ready ←' is written in a smaller, blue font.

**PREPARE THE  
WAY**

→ Get Ready ←



# Career Preparedness is the Goal



- In order for clients ultimately to move forward on the pathway to receiving a certification and employment, they would need to successfully meet both academic benchmarks and professional expectations. Volunteers of America Texas began with a “gaps analysis” to understand how to address areas where clients fail to transition successfully up the ladder of professional growth due to lack of information, support or training.
- VOATX designed the Foundational Skills program to provide academic and professional skills training for clients in order to enhance their likelihood of long-term professional success along a healthcare pathway

# Career Preparedness is the Goal



- VOATX has a contextualized curriculum, reflecting healthcare content and led by skilled adult-educator and healthcare training provider.
- The core elements of the curriculum include: • Math • Reading • Computer literacy • Understanding healthcare careers (required training, work expectations, pay scale, professional growth opportunities) Professionalism skills (interviewing, resumes, communication, conflict, etc.)





## Success Story

- Shamorrow, a young teen who dropped out of high school
- Lacking confidence to complete her education and get a career
- 10+ years after school, wanted a change
- Completed GED, and was looking to get out of fast food industry
- Enrolled in HPOG, started Medical Billing & Coding training
- Integrated curriculum helped overcome challenges
- Coaching support & personal motivation = successfully passing certification exam
- Now gainfully employed at a medical clinic @ \$17/hour





## Connect with Us

[www.volunteersofamericatexas.org](http://www.volunteersofamericatexas.org)

[www.facebook.com/VolunteersofAmericaTexas](https://www.facebook.com/VolunteersofAmericaTexas)

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*Celebrating*

100

Years of Service



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