



Bexar County
STRONG



BEXAR COUNTY
**ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 22, 2020

Contact: Eric Maldonado
210.335.0073/o
210.449.1569/m

BEXAR COUNTY LAUNCHES NEW WORKFORCE PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY COVID-19

Bexar County is launching the new \$18 million Bexar County Strong Workforce Program to assist residents whose employment status has been negatively impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligibility requirements include:

- Must be a resident of unincorporated Bexar County or a suburban city within Bexar County, such as Leon Valley, Somerset, Von Ormy, and Kirby
- Must have incurred a negative impact to employment status due to COVID-19 (March 1, 2020 or later)
- Need assistance connecting to a job, work experience opportunity, or training program to further their career options
- City of San Antonio residents can apply only if their employment status has been negatively impacted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and they are participants in County justice programs such as Reentry, Pretrial Diversion, Adult/Juvenile Probation, are foster youth, or are interested in participating in the Bexar County Sheriff's Academy.

Together with Workforce Solutions Alamo, Project Quest, and SA Works, the County plans to implement the Workforce Program, with Workforce Solutions Alamo being the primary point of access to this program and will partner with Project Quest to ensure eligible residents are connected to jobs, work experience opportunities, and/or training programs.

"In response to the economic challenges presented by COVID-19, the County has launched many assistance programs to assist our residents," stated Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff. "For example, for those who are currently unemployed due to the pandemic, our Economic Development Department has created this holistic workforce program and I would urge anyone who is out of work to reach out and see if they qualify."

SA Works' primary responsibility is to ensure the workforce program is in alignment with what opportunities our industries and economy have open in real-time. Partnering with these agencies and utilizing their core competencies will help connect our residents to the right opportunities and get them back into the workforce.

“The pandemic has accelerated and amplified our collaborative workforce efforts. The Bexar County Strong Workforce Program will help connect unemployed members of our community to immediate job openings and training and education programs to enter into new jobs in resilient industries,” stated Romanita Matta-Barrera, Executive Director of SA Works, the San Antonio Economic Development Foundation’s workforce development team.

The Bexar County Commissioners Court approved their Bexar County Strong Workforce Program at Commissioners Court on July 16, 2020.

“Workforce Solutions Alamo is excited to collaborate with The Bexar County Strong Workforce Program and partners in the workforce ecosystem to connect our community to opportunities for jobs and careers. Our vision is to offer access to meaningful employment through education and skills training. We hope to inspire people and give real life possibilities to individuals and families, while providing the critical support to see them successfully obtain the tools necessary for their next career move,” stated Adrian Lopez, Chief Executive Officer of Workforce Solutions Alamo.

“Project QUEST’s partnership with Bexar County’s Economic Development team has been long-standing,” stated David Zammiello, President and CEO of Project QUEST, Inc. “When the unemployment rate increased rapidly as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, it became apparent to the all key partners that our roles in education, training, and work readiness would become even more prominent in response to the economic impacts of COVID-19.”

“We are all very committed to this program. It can really make a difference for people who need a new career opportunity because of COVID-19,” stated Pooja Tripathi, the County’s Workforce Development Manager.

For further information or to see if they qualify for this program, residents should contact Workforce Solutions Alamo at 210-224-HELP (210-224-4357) or <https://www.workforcesolutionsalamo.org/>.

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