



Communities  
Thrive  
Challenge

Chan  
Zuckerberg  
Initiative 

**EMBARGOED UNTIL DECEMBER 4 AT 8 A.M. ET**

## **Project QUEST Receives \$1M to Expand Model Providing Transformative Skills Training Programs and Resources to San Antonio Residents in Need**

*San Antonio-based Project QUEST is a Workforce Intermediary that Provides Career Opportunities to Unemployed, Underemployed and Under-Skilled Community Residents to Achieve Family Sustaining Wages and Financial Security*

*With \$1M in funding from The Rockefeller Foundation and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Project QUEST Will Expand and Diversify to Develop More Targeted Training Programs and Multiply Number of Residents Served*

**San Antonio, TX** – The Rockefeller Foundation and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative today announced that Project QUEST will receive a \$1 million grant in the [Communities Thrive Challenge](#) — a \$10-million effort to expand economic opportunity for low-income and financially insecure people and communities across the country. The San Antonio-based organization is one of 10 grantees — from nine states and Puerto Rico — selected because of their demonstrated success and potential for future impact.

Project QUEST is a workforce intermediary with a 26-year history of helping people living and working in San Antonio attain professional, high-paying jobs and in-demand occupations. Since 1992, more than 7,000 participants have benefitted from Project QUEST’s mix of career mapping, personal and academic counseling, and financial assistance for education, with an 85% completion rate. Project QUEST and nine other grantees of the Communities Thrive Challenge will receive \$1 million to scale their solutions, as well as best-in-class technical assistance.

“As a workforce collaborator and an economic resource to the San Antonio community, Project QUEST provides families with life-changing services, education, and career skills training for long-term employment and self-sufficiency,” **said David J. Zammiello, President and CEO of Project QUEST.** “We are honored to be selected as a grantee in the Communities Thrive Challenge. This funding will be integral as we open the door for more unemployed, underemployed, and under-skilled residents in our community to launch new careers in exciting industries.”

“The enthusiasm for the Communities Thrive Challenge was just off the charts from local organizations like Project QUEST, demonstrating a real hunger to share what’s working for the benefit of all Americans,” **said Dr. Rajiv J. Shah, president of The Rockefeller Foundation.** “By working together to invest in local solutions, we can build an America where all people can earn enough to support their families, achieve financial security, and provide their children with more opportunities.”

“These organizations are creating pathways to opportunity from the ground up. We’ve already learned a lot from these local leaders and hope that others around the country will find useful lessons in these community-driven approaches,” said **Priscilla Chan, co-Founder of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative**.

Since launching in April, the Communities Thrive Challenge received an incredible 1,826 applications that spanned all 50 states, D.C., and 4 of 5 U.S. territories. To ensure that community leaders had a voice in the decision making, applications were reviewed and scored by five other applicants in a peer review process.

Following the peer review process, over 80 were chosen for evaluation by a [diverse panel of experts](#) from academia, policy, business, philanthropy, and community development. Informed by expert and peer review, 20 finalists were selected for the final round. After extensive interviews, site-visits and reviews, the 10 grantees, including Project QUEST were chosen.

Applications were evaluated based on four main criteria:

1. *Impact*: Does the approach improve the lives of the communities where it works?
2. *Potential for scale*: Could this approach be effective at a larger scale or become a model for others?
3. *Community based/informed*: How deep is the organization embedded within the community it serves?
4. *Leadership*: Is the organization led by individuals with a strong history in and commitment to their field and do they represent the communities served?

For the final round, teams from The Rockefeller Foundation and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative visited each of the 20 finalists, including Project QUEST in San Antonio to learn more about their work and visions for the future. The Rockefeller Foundation and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative then selected the final slate of grantees who will each receive a \$1 million grant and technical assistance tailored to their needs.

The Rockefeller Foundation and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative have also released a public, searchable database of eligible applicants so that other funders, policy makers and leaders can learn from these standout approaches.

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### **About Project QUEST:**

Through strategic alliances with employer partners, key workforce development programs, and service agencies, Project QUEST enrolls unemployed and underemployed San Antonio area residents in skills training programs to fill available jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. Through comprehensive support and resources, QUEST provides tuition assistance, coaching, and bundled resources to transform the lives of its participants and meet current and emerging employer workforce needs -- with particular success in healthcare. QUEST graduates saw their annual earnings increase by an average of 282 percent and a recent study found that for every dollar invested in QUEST, \$19+ of economic impact is returned to the San Antonio community.

### **About The Rockefeller Foundation:**

For more than 100 years, The Rockefeller Foundation’s mission has been to promote the well-being of humanity throughout the world. Today the Foundation is focused on securing the fundamentals of human well-being—health, food, power, and jobs—to ensure every family experiences dignity and opportunity in our rapidly urbanizing world. Together with partners and grantees, The Rockefeller Foundation strives to

catalyze and scale transformative innovations, create unlikely partnerships that span sectors, and take risks others cannot—or will not. For more information, please visit [www.rockefellerfoundation.org](http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org).

**About Chan Zuckerberg Initiative:**

Founded by Dr. Priscilla Chan and Mark Zuckerberg in 2015, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) is a new kind of philanthropy that's leveraging technology to help solve some of the world's toughest challenges – from eradicating disease, to improving education, to reforming the criminal justice system. Across three core Initiative focus areas of Science, Education and Justice & Opportunity, we're pairing engineering with grantmaking, impact investing, policy and advocacy work to help build an inclusive, just and healthy future for everyone. For more information, please visit [www.chanzuckerberg.com](http://www.chanzuckerberg.com).