

The Child & Adolescent Policy Research Institute (CAPRI) at the **University of Texas San Antonio** will implement a three-year HSIAC program to assist foster care youth with supportive services, training, and financial resources for the purpose of attending college or other job training opportunities. UTSA meets the Hispanic Serving Institution criteria with 43% Hispanic student population and is a Southern Association of Colleges and Universities (SACS) accredited 4-year university. By facilitating post-secondary education of foster youth, this program impacts the community by helping them secure high wage jobs and become financially stable contributing members of society. The outlook for foster care youth is especially bleak, with many experiencing homelessness or incarceration. Lack of educational attainment leaves them locked into low-wage jobs and financial insecurity throughout adulthood. CAPRI has partnered with UTSA faculty in multiple disciplines and five community-based organizations in the design of this program. These partners will remain involved throughout program implementation. The program consists of **four activities**: 1). Foster Care Youth College Readiness, Leadership and Job Training. This activity has a “how to do college” focus and will also provide assistance to foster youth wishing to pursue other post-secondary training opportunities. This activity includes UTSA working in partnership with five community organizations to provide social services, college readiness and job training activities, connections with financial aid, and services for foster parents and advocates working to assist foster youth achieve a successful transition to adulthood. 2). Provide Social Services for Foster Care Youth Focusing on Crisis Management for Housing and Young Adult Life Issues. UTSA graduate students and interns working under supervision will explore obstacles and challenges facing foster care youth and design appropriate social services for effective crisis management. This activity will also provide direct social services through community partners and a Housing Fund for transitioning youth in need for housing deposits. 3). Develop Database and Workshop Resources for Housing Foster Youth Attending College or Job Training. UTSA faculty and graduate students will research existing housing opportunities for foster youth attending college or job training programs and use this information to create a database that will be made available through case management services, at the CAPRI, and online through a social networking webpage. In addition, workshops will be offered to foster youth on housing and financial literacy. Finally, this activity also includes development of a social networking webpage that includes information on jobs, housing, and educational opportunities. 4). Develop the Assistance in College Completion, Employment, and Socioeconomic Success (ACCESS) Center located at the CAPRI. This activity includes equipping and supporting a community resource center and job bank designed to serve foster youth.

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The following diagram illustrates how the UTSA team will work with collaborating community organizations in the HUD HSIAC grant.

