



WELFARE PEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NETWORK

GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

June 12, 2003

Short Report



BACKGROUND

Brighter Future, Inc. (Brighter Future) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Texas. This organization is a minority operated, community-based organization that was chartered in December 1995 to provide educational training, vocational support services, and pre-vocational services to underprivileged Texas adults and adolescents.

The organization's mission is to provide industry-driven training and unique support services to empower individuals with academic proficiency and marketable skills, in addition to a strong work ethic and life adjustment skills. Moreover, this empowerment is designed to foster and develop rewarding vocations, productive lives, and the personal search for excellence without excuses.

When first developed, Brighter Future classes were underwritten by Gulf Coast Career Centers, presently known as the Work Source and Houston Galveston Area Council (Hgac). Brighter Future currently has a contract with the local Work Source Centers in Texas who frequently refer customers for services. Additional funding was also provided by the Texas Workforce Commission to provide computer literacy, ESL, ABE and GED preparation classes to TANF customers. As a result, 300 customers were serviced and 70 percent were successfully transitioned into the workforce. The performance period outlined for these funds was September 1, 2001, through August 31, 2002; funding is not available in FY 2002 or 2003.

TA REQUEST

On May 16, 2003, Bright Ihezue, Executive Director of Brighter Future, submitted a technical assistance (TA) request to the Welfare Peer TA Network requesting assistance and guidance in securing grants that would allow for the expansion of their youth and adult literacy education program services. An immediate concern was outlined for those customers receiving food stamps and those whose TANF eligibility will be terminating soon.

Upon a conversation with Mr. Ihezue, The Welfare Peer Technical Assistance Network linked Mr. Ihezue with the Institute for Youth Development (IYD). IYD serves as an intermediary grantee to provide a variety of assistance, including free grant writing seminars, to faith and community-based organizations.

TA OUTCOME & FUTURE

On June 12, 2003, Mr. Ihezue attended a one-half day seminar in Houston, Texas hosted by IYD. This seminar provided informative resources to guide participants in properly planning, writing and bidding for Federal grants.

When the Welfare Peer TA Network contacted Mr. Ihezue for a routine follow-up of his experiences as a TA recipient, he provided positive feedback. He asserted that the seminar was exactly what Brighter Future needed. Further, he stated that the seminar provided clarity as to what incorrect methods and strategies were being implemented in the attempt to secure funding. He plans to take the newly

acquired resources and strategically develop a fresh approach to secure Federal and State funding assistance. He expressed sincere gratitude to the Welfare Peer TA Network for linking and facilitating Brighter Futures with quality TA without cost.