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# President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

## *Houston Area Aerospace Technology Skills Training*



**Grant amount:** \$1,000,000

**Grantee:** Houston-Galveston Area Council for the Gulf Coast Workforce Board

**Leveraged amount:** \$537,606, primarily from Houston-area aerospace companies and other partners.

**Key partners:** Gulf Coast Workforce Board and area One-Stop Career Centers, San Jacinto College, the Aerospace Academy, and 23 Houston-area aerospace employers, including NASA Johnson Space Center

**Location of grant activities:** Houston, Texas

### **Challenge:**

The evolving processes for design, advanced manufacturing and data development, collection and use require continuous skills upgrades at aerospace companies on the Texas Gulf Coast, among the fastest growing aerospace regions in the country. As a result, 48 percent of the employer partners in this proposal report that they have had to turn to H-1B visa workers in the last three years to meet such skills needs. H-1B visas enable foreign-born workers to obtain temporary work status to meet skills needs in such specialty occupations. Employers involved with this proposal seek to reduce their dependency on H-1B workers in several high technology high skill aerospace job occupations, and have provided a framework to train incumbent and unemployed persons for competitive, high skilled aerospace jobs.

### **Addressing the Challenge:**

Houston-Galveston Workforce Board and its partners will prepare current aerospace workers to assume higher skill responsibilities and place unemployed persons in targeted, high demand occupations. An employer-driven, customized process for developing curriculum with practitioner input will be used in advanced manufacturing and information technology areas, including design, advanced manufacturing and data development, collection and use. Delivery options will include in-person and online training.

### **Projected Outcomes:**

- Training for 625 incumbent and unemployed workers in information technology and advanced manufacturing-related aerospace disciplines
- Ninety percent of unemployed trainees who successfully complete training will be hired in a training-related or other job within the aerospace industry
- Five percent of participating trainees will receive a promotion or assignment to higher skill level responsibilities over the life of the grant