

**WHAT IS THE SOUTH DALLAS EMPLOYMENT PROJECT?**

The South Dallas Employment Project (SDEP) is focused on closing the skills gap in Texas, by serving opportunity populations, providing training, resulting in nationally recognized industry certifications, that provide job seekers with the skills and competencies needed to enable an individual's employability. The South Dallas Employment Project (SDEP) was established in February, 2020 by Redemption Bridge(RB), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit intermediary, in partnership with the State Fair of Texas (SFOT), supported by the City of Dallas. Our overarching goal is the development of a strategic approach to support 239,911 individuals returning to or living in south Dallas in 5 identified zip codes lead sustainable lives. We have accelerated our work, given the challenges posed by both COVID-19, and the issue of justice equity.

**WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT?**

The Project has engaged 100+ organizations that have committed to align and integrate their resources with the Project. There are 12 primary partners that include the City of Dallas, UNT Dallas, Dallas College, DISD, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments; 60+ nonprofits that provide one or more direct services to individuals and families; 12 organizations that provide services to the 60+ nonprofits; 18 government entities, including the regional offices of 3 state agencies; the Dallas County Specialty Courts, County, State and Federal Prisons; and 418 employers recruited to date, who have agreed to interview, without prejudice, certified job seekers from our Talent Pipeline.

**The complete list of partners is available at [southdallasemploymentproject.org](https://southdallasemploymentproject.org)**

**WHAT ARE "OPPORTUNITY POPULATIONS"?**

The Project offers a Pathway from unemployment to permanent work for unemployed or under employed youth and adults; those who are incarcerated or are coming out of incarceration; those who have a physical or mental disability; and other individuals with significant barriers to employment. Please know these populations represent 1/3 of the total workforce in Texas.

***There are also federal tax benefits & incentives available to employers who employ them.***

**WHAT TYPES OF JOB SEEKERS CAN THE PROJECT PROVIDE?**

We are working with all populations to provide both skilled and non-skilled job seekers, providing job skills training resulting in nationally recognized industry certifications; financial and digital literacy training; and soft skills training.

**WHAT IS REQUIRED OF AN EMPLOYER TO PARTICIPATE?**

We ask employers to (1) provide information on the types of jobs they have and their skill requirements; (2) commit to interview the individuals we refer; and (3) consider providing support to the project in one or more of the following ways:

- Provide financial support for the Project
- Provide technical training equipment to participating schools
- Provide teacher externships
- Provide student internships
- Provide employment for registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs
- Provide technical support to Dallas ISD Career Awareness Education
- Provide guidance to the Project, related to your business or industry sector needs, and your own employment needs.