



CUI EDUCATION *Programs and Initiatives*

Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Pre-Employment Education and Training

A. Talking Points - Description

- Initiative that will provide local churches with fifty (50) hours of pre-employment, self-advocacy, career exploration education to students of ages 15-21 years old.
- Participants will be those having an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or 504 Plan for learning. Funding is available for this program, provided through Department of the Education, and is administered by your state's Vocational Rehabilitation Services.
- Program is executed primarily during the summer, however, may extend into the next fiscal year. Contact state VR office.

B. Benefits

- The local church holds the primary opportunity to encourage youth in the to remain in high school and receive a diploma
- Local ministries can provide an educational overview of work, self-advocacy, soft skills, and job exploration for a student population of youth which, otherwise may not be targeted for such services by faith-based entities.
- Local churches can enjoy the unique designation to serve a student population that holds membership in congregations, which can benefit from initiatives of socialization; improved oral communication skills, and training on skills that lead to their gainful employment.

C. Implementation Steps:

1. The pastor/leader will identify a point of contact (POC) for the Vocational Rehabilitation Youth Pre-Employment Education and Training Program
2. The local ministry POC will contact the state office of Vocational Rehabilitation to secure information on program regulation, qualification, implementation, and evaluation.
3. Develop training organization structure; draft a budget narrative
4. Complete necessary steps for obtaining contracts from key providers and locating partner facilities that may be used for training classes.

5. Hire Instructors and develop Curricula and Course outlines
 6. Compile all training-related documentations for files
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COGIC Retool and Employ

A. Talking points- Description

- The goal is to educate citizens to facilitate job placement.
- Participants will receive industry certification for training in areas as pharmacy technology, information technology, welding, commercial driving, plumbing, electrical, HVAC, process operating, and the like.
- In two years or less students can quickly find jobs with salaries ranging from \$40,000-\$60,000 yearly – and without the burden of lifetime of student loans.

B. Benefits

- The combined unemployment and underemployment of black Americans has been at above 10% for the last 50 years. The Church of God in Christ is the largest African American Pentecostal denomination and one of the largest black organizations in America. With millions of members in America, the COGIC can be a pipeline for and leader in closing the employment/under employment gap.
- Local churches and neighborhoods will benefit from a more skilled and higher paid members.

C. Implementation

1. Organization leader identifies a point of contact (POC) who will coordinate the local ministry's Retool and Employ initiative.
2. Once identified, this point of contact will determine a strategic need for areas of employment interests of members of local assembly; POC selects an assessment tool and completes an assessment of potential students in local church and greater community.
3. Ministry POC will conduct an education analysis of regional demand, to include Church of God in Christ churches. POC is encouraged to contact ministries across denominational boundaries and neighborhood educational levels.
4. POC will explore partnerships, with the goal of creating MOU with industry partners, local Community Colleges, and reputable providers of choice.
5. Identify programs, funding sources, and students as program participants.
6. POC will seek out and identify learning coaches, preferably members of local ministry.

7. POC will partner and collaborate for job placement.
 8. Evaluate program.
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Project LEAF (Learning English Among Friends)

A. Talking points-Description

- Project L.E.A.F is a collective effort of several organizational partners, college students, community volunteers, and the neighborhood staff, all of whom partner to create interactive literacy activities between parents and their children.
- Parents are afforded literacy in language and cultural awareness. As well, the local ministry will partner with local agencies to provide a presence for a myriad of resources on site.

B. Benefits

- Local churches have an opportunity to develop a family literacy program that becomes the collective effort of several community and organizational partners.
- Enables the program administrator to transform local church space into a stimulating family learning environment.
- An opportunity for educating parents and youth that translates into quality time for family social interaction and enlightenment.

C. Implementation

1. Program will be implemented weekly at a specific time of the day, preferably the evening.
2. Parents will proceed to GED classes and/or ESL sessions. Before going to class to ESL or GED classes, the parents accompany their children to one of three places.
3. Children from infancy to 3 attend enriched child care classes provided by AVANCE Waco, a parent education agency that serves Spanish-speaking individuals in Waco.
4. Children between the ages of 4 and 6 attend LEAF Kids, a pre-reading class where they play, listen to stories, and engage in activities that expose them to hearing and speaking English.
5. Children 6 and older participate in age-appropriate games, art, and craft activities in the gymnasium. Develop a partnership for supervised recreation by staff from the YMCA.
6. The rest of the program schedule is carried out which includes discussion and recreation time.
7. Partner with state representatives to arrange a trip to state capitol for LEAF participants to tour the Capitol and meet with legislative delegation of similar culture. In Waco, it was the Mexican American legislative delegation.

D. Evaluation- Opportunity for Community Partnership

Relevant partnerships were developed to empower parents by introducing them to new options for family activities in the community and opportunities for education. Developing partnerships and linkages to education with various sectors – business, education institutions, government, social service, and religion – has been a key component in the strategy for reaching and teaching these families. To achieve the larger goal of strengthening families and building community, LEAF must be positioned as an integral part of the community.

Cultivating Creativity

A. Talking Points- Description

- Program is meant to help local churches pour into the lives of youth in their community by helping them identify and cultivate their natural gifts, talents and creative capacity.
- By participating in a meal program, a church can feed neighborhood children any combination of meals and snacks, while nurturing the mind.
- Depending on the church's capacity, it can offer activities in the areas of Art, Crafts, Music (singing, piano lessons, etc), Creative Writing (poetry, drama, etc.), and Dance (Praise Dance, Drill Team, etc), Oration, and Drama.
- All activities offered can be supplemented with a vacation-bible-school type class.

B. Benefits

- It is a foundational local ministry obligation and, yet, great privilege to nourish its members, that is, those within the local assembly and those throughout the community at large.
- Students may benefit from learning skills that not only increase their competence in areas of importance but also help them foster personal creativity.
- One way that the local ministry can nurture children and youth is by building their self-esteem, developing competency, by increasing opportunity for self-expression, and fostering discipline.

C. Implementation

1. Assign a Cultivating Creativity Initiative point of contact, a member of your local ministry.
2. Sign up local ministry to be a Summer Feeding Program Site or Provider/Site through your local Department of Agriculture.

3. Contact any one of several food provider programs that operate year round. These may include: e.g., the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Summer Food Service Program, local Culinary Arts Ministry, Kid's Café, Backpack, or similar. Therefore your local ministry is not limited to summer implementation.
 4. Recruit Volunteers/Teachers of Creativity (within your congregation if possible/doesn't have to be an adult) who can provide competent mentorship in their respective area/activity.
 5. Secure or purchase curriculum. If "Answers in Genesis", visit website; allow time for delivery.
 6. Market to family members, surrounding neighborhood, and larger community.
 7. Prepare to welcome new members!
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Family That Stays Initiative

A. Talking Points-Description

- Coupling the concept of nurturing body, soul, and spirit has a direct correlation to personal creativity and achievement in students (young ministry members). This priority can increase student literacy, while positioning the church as a neighborhood source of mentorship, and family encouragement.
- This initiative couples family development education support to youth, ages 10-14. Specifically, it promotes a time during which youth complete homework assignments with assistance from the Khan Academy tutorial online program for the four (4) core subject areas.
- Primary ministry responsibility includes identifying instructors to assist youth with their homework or in areas needing academic strengthening.
- Research shows that familial support increases opportunities for achievement and, ultimately, student learning. The core of this initiative actualizes this concept.

B. Benefits

- The youth benefit by having a network of support in completing their homework.
- The family benefits through strengthening of the family unit. Evidence shows that this family participation increases tests scores in the classroom.
- The local church benefits as it targets the youth population in the neighborhood, serving as an outreach mechanism to build the image of the local church in the community.
- Many parents of participants testify they accepted Christ as families begin to attend the local churches and worship as a unit.

C. Implementation

1. Identify a local ministry point of contact to be responsible to ensure the following steps are taken for the success of The Family That Stays.
 2. Gain partner buy-in and obtain grant dollars from the church or other funding entity, e.g., Devos Foundation.
 3. Designate staff that will work on the project (cook, tutors, program director, information technology support)
 4. Set program schedule for the school year.
 5. Set up of the I-pads by the information technology support on the days of use.
 6. Operation of the program with sign-in sheets, cooking and serving of the meal, work on I-pads for homework through the Khan Academy, follow-up with homework results by tutors and assignments for next session.
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Tutoring After – Teach

A. Talking points-Description

- Today, students are being exposed to algebra concepts and formulas much earlier, this causes a gap between what is their expected level of achievement and their actual performance. Parents can bridge this gap by getting themselves and their kids involved in Mathematics enrichment classes, and their supporting cast of subjects like Science and History.
- Local churches will augment the in-class, in-school teaching experience by Tutoring After-Teach, an afternoon Mathematics enrichment program for grades 5-12. High quality, one-on-one tutoring in all levels of Mathematics, from Pre-Algebra to Calculus is also available.
- This program provides assistance in all levels of Mathematics and Science, as well as History and English. Qualified personnel teach concepts in small groups with enhanced one-on-one help as needed.

B. Benefits

- For grades K-6, the local church offers CARES After-School Program free of charge.

C. Implementation

- For grades K-6, the local church offers CARES After-School Program free of charge.
- Homework Assistance Program for Grades 6-12- With a goal to send students to college with the tools and strategies for success, we recognize the importance for students to learn successful study and homework strategies. Among others, the

tutoring program that augments in-classroom learning is the Homework Assistance Program (HAP) free-of-charge to all students in grades 6-12.

D. Above and Beyond

- For parents who want to go above and beyond what day school provides in the classroom and what is offered through afternoon programs, the local church will offer the “Above and Beyond” tutoring initiative. Expert teachers will be available for extra support in any subject area and for any grade.
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Kids Hope USA

A. Talking points-Description

- Kids Hope USA is a national, non-profit organization which facilitates mentoring relationships with at-risk children through a church-school partnership.
- The Kids Hope USA model was designed to teach churches how to give hope to at-risk public elementary schoolchildren through a relationship with a caring church member. Today, it has nearly 1,000 church-school partnerships in 34 states across the U.S. with over 15,000 mentor-student relationships existing within these partnerships.
- Located in urban, suburban and rural communities, these churches range in size from 40 to 5,000 members and represent over 30 different denominations.

B. Benefits

- Churches that mobilize and train their members to form one-to-one relationships with the youngest children can make a profound difference in their lives.
- This nationally sponsored program was approved by local school districts across the nation and successfully implemented through local churches. This same initiative can be replicated in your local church.
- A Church of God in Christ ministry in Louisiana reports it experienced great success with this program. When possible, it paired the at-risk child with an educator/mentor. That child was mentored by that mentor until he or she was fifth grade, experiencing great bonding and great success.

C. Implementation

- The model relies on the interplay of four integral parts. Each local ministry may exercise complete authority to implement activities compatible and consistent with each integral part. They are:

1. One Child - An at-risk public elementary school child who needs a relationship with a caring adult

2. One Hour - Sixty critical minutes each week when a trained mentor befriends a child and helps him or her acquire basic academic skills
3. One Church - A committed congregation who owns the program with its neighborhood school and provides a trained mentor and a behind-the-scenes prayer partner for each child
4. One School - A school that welcomes this proven intervention to increase the academic skills of at-risk children, at no cost to the school.

Each local ministry is encouraged to identify a point of contact to facilitate Kids Hope USA. Identification of children is paramount. Ensure screening of adult participants, as each becomes a mentor who affects the life of the child for years to come.

EnlightenMENT Initiative

A. Talking points-Description

- The EnlightenMENT Initiative designates local churches as a resource for enlightenment and education. By this designation, the leader clearly asserts the ministry's commitment to education as a priority in the body – local and neighborhood.
- The ministry's Education point of contact (POC) will initiate relationships with selected education entities in the local church proximal community. These may include: the school system, education agencies, colleges, and universities, Duke TIP program, National Honor Society, to name a few. With leader support and approval, the POC will set aside space to reserve and display education material important to enlighten members.

B. Benefits

EnlightenMENT Initiative is an avenue for local churches to build partnerships with local schools, community, families and parents, in particular. Through the EnlightenMENT Initiative benefits are to:

- Establish access and dialogue with the community by providing families a one-on-one opportunity to gain answers to their questions regarding education opportunity and options
- Provide readiness and preparation for college entrance exams and standardized tests
- Help students develop the life-long skills and resources needed to be productive citizens
- Build a more positive community with the local church as a relevant entity for maximal access to education services
- Involve members of the home environment in student learning and support for the learner
- Empower families!

C. Implementation

1. Select a contact/lead person in your church and establish a group who will facilitate the process and act as your EnlightenMent point of contact (POC).
 2. Determine where resources for the families will be placed in your facility.
 3. Lead person will contact local schools for resources, and then gather and organize the resources based on grade levels. Your most helpful resource for EnlightenMent will be your child care teachers, tutors, and faculty who have resources to donate such as books, manipulatives, math fluency, handouts, and reading strategies.
 4. Expand your services by providing direct assistance to parents/guardians (listening, problem-solving, resource identification and referrals). Also, start offering information sessions for parents, school staff and community, and promote parent/professional partnerships.
 6. If you are unsuccessful in gathering resources from the schools, contact local businesses and inquire by letter using your church letterhead, ask those businesses to partner with the local church in its Education Initiative by providing donations. Make sure that the letter clearly states that the EnlightenMent center is an Education Initiative, created to provide the types of resources to families that will ultimately increase student achievement in your local community.
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EdLife Training Initiative

A. Talking points-Descriptions

- The EdLife Training Initiative is modeled after a program of Cornell University's Institute for Prevention and recognized as a Model/Exemplary program by an array of government agencies, including the U.S. Department of Education and the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention.
- Research reports a reduction in the prevalence of tobacco, alcohol, illicit drug use, and violence by as much as 80 percent – when implemented.

B. Benefits

- This model, introduced to local ministries as CUI-EdLife Training (ELT), enables local ministries to address substance abuse via a prevention program that targets the major social and psychological factors.
- Churches promote an onset of substance use and other risky behaviors by providing adolescents and young teens with the confidence and skills necessary to successfully handle challenging situations.
- Rather than merely teaching information about the dangers of drug abuse, CUI Education consults with a local ministry designee to offer prevention approach

curricula as the highest honored program by more government agencies than any other prevention program in America.

C. Implementation

a.) Rather than merely teaching information about the dangers of drug abuse, upon request CUI Education works with local ministries via ministry leaders to identify in-house resources or community partners to promote community-specific healthy alternatives to risky behavior. Activities and modules are designed to:

1. Teach students the necessary skills to resist social (peer) pressures to smoke, drink, and use drugs
2. Help students to develop greater self-esteem and self-confidence
3. Enable students to effectively cope with anxiety
4. Increase their knowledge of the immediate consequences of substance abuse
5. Enhance cognitive and behavioral competency to reduce and prevent a variety of health risk behaviors.

D. Evaluation

- For optimal results, implement any of a number of classroom settings, conducive to learning. The curriculum can be taught in a community faith-based, summer school, bible school, or after school setting. The Training can be implemented/woven in any instruction, across multiple subjects – using developmentally appropriate and collaborative learning strategies, i.e., lecture, discussion, coaching and practice to enhance students' self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to make independent decisions, and experiential enhancements to the ability to resist peer and media pressure.
- Curriculum sets, instructional manuals, and participant guides, available. Serious requests assessed, considered, and supported by CUI Education.
- Funding may be secured from a myriad of resources, to name a few:
 - Federal and State Departments of Education
 - Federal and State Departments of Health and Human Services
 - Center for Disease Control and Prevention
 - Bank of America
 - AllState
 - Bayer
 - AmeriCorps
 - Boston College
 - Bayer, to name a few!

– Application Deadline 12/31/17

The Business of Education

A. Talking points-Descriptions

- The education market is experiencing exponential rate of growth in virtual education and blended learning throughout the United States and in each state.
- The U.S. Congress and each recent administration has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars in the support of this rapid growth.

B. Benefits

- Foundationally, this initiative urges local ministries to seek out state and local funds earmarked to support individualized education.
- Local ministries are strongly encouraged to determine its state's equivalence of "Step Up for Students" and "McKay Scholarships."
- Each resource supports personalized education and can be awarded through the State funded programs and foundations, *e.g., School Choice Programs.*

C. Implementation

A Partnership

a.) CUI Education partners with The Excellence Academy, a learning incubator committed to offering a comprehensive approach to learning in a faith-filled environment. This collaboration enables a local church to educate its surrounding community and citizens of its neighborhood . . . including students who are driven, motivated, those who drop out, stop out, or who seek technical professions.

b.) In this venture, an organization can offer a comprehensive approach to blended and e-learning in an ecclesiastical environment.

c.) This Education Initiative forms the infrastructure to ensure capacity for local ministries to launch, operate and grow learning centers. Learning Centers can be in the form of brick and mortar or virtual – each fully accredited.

d.) CUI Education features in this partnership, The College Board registration with certified preparation for the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and ACT, whose mission is to connect students to college success and opportunity.

e.) Offerings range from K-12 common core curriculum to career readiness or technical and certification preparation; each meets all respective state standards.

D. Epilogue

CUI Education Learning Centers are college preparatory and provide students with academic courses, honors and dual enrollment programs in partnership with their neighborhood college or university, career and technical academies and faith-based programs. All of this is offered against a Christian, religious education backdrop that follows all standards and guidelines set by most all relevantgoverning affiliates.