

Overarching Narrative

Synopsis – Our growth cluster is the industry of healthcare, and our coalition includes every nursing education program and every major healthcare provider in a 5000 square mile region. Our coalition includes Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA), Lamar State College Orange (LSCO), Lamar University (LU), the Deep East Texas College & Career Academy (DETCCA), the Baptist Hospitals of Southeast Texas (Baptist), The CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System (CHRISTUS), the Riceland Healthcare System (Riceland), and the Medical Center of Southeast Texas (Medical Cntr.).

Our projects are closely knit, extremely simple, and perfectly aligned to one clear purpose – ‘we re-lay the foundation of healthcare and nursing education for our region’. Our proposal is separated into foundational projects and advancement projects. We propose infrastructure changes which create a new foundation for nursing education that is open to all. From that platform, we create plans for reaching into underserved communities, advance a strategy to level the playing field for nursing admissions, address tuition assistance, and propose a system of nursing entrepreneurship. Specifically -

- Our construction component projects 1) improve infrastructure for nursing education at three institutions of higher education, 2) create the only rural Licensed Vocational Nursing (LVN) program for Jasper and Newton counties in partnership with DETCCA, and 3) improve infrastructure at two not-for-profit hospital systems to allow more nurses to attend clinical placements. Our for-profit partners will make student placements available at four facilities which have been unopen for placement in the past.
- Our nursing programs are highly rated and consistently meet or exceed the NCLEX national pass rates. The strength of these programs draws numerous student applications, but space limitations force us to reject 28%-64% of qualified applicants, and those rejected are approximately 70% students of color. We address this critical issue by allowing more students into training, and we attack the root of this problem by partnering with Region Five Educational Service Center (Region Five) to offer tutoring for students in nursing prerequisites and pre-nursing certificate programs. We correct historic inequities by deliberately seeking out potential students from underserved communities, and go further to offer these students tuition assistance; an area where poorer students have always been unequally burdened. Finally, we clear a pathway for nurses to be drawn forward from employment into business ownership, an end point often denied those without critical access.

But for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, a plan of this breadth and depth could not hope to succeed.

While our emphasis in this application is on supplying nurses to our local hospitals, it is important to understand that our graduates will have immediate job potential anywhere they go. U.S. Dept. of Labor documents annual job openings for nurses in Texas at 290,510 positions in 2020, with a projection for 334,670 annual openings by 2028. The data show that Texas is driving growth for the nation, accounting for 9% of growth in this career field by 2030.

Addressing the Nursing Shortage in Southeast and Deep East Texas

Our projects are closely aligned with the 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) of the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) and the 2020-2025 CEDS of the Deep East Texas Council of Governments (DETCOG). SETRPC and DETCOG have each given a letter of support for this application. The letter of support from the SETRPC states that it “...*would be difficult to imagine a project more closely aligned*”. Both of these CEDS identify the Lamar System of Colleges as an asset and as partners for change. Both identify the Lamar Colleges and University as strengths in their SWOT analysis, and both identify the need for more, and more diverse, healthcare as an area weakness.

We ask for \$73,607,436.80 in Federal funds and our coalition brings 20% matching cash assets of \$18,401,861.20. Our matching funds are available, unencumbered, and are committed to the projects we describe. Our coalition brings more than \$120,000,000 in additional public/private investments and our members and partners pledge to hire 725 nurses and 20 new faculty members for an annual payroll investment of more than \$50,000,000.

Our metrics of success are 1) capacity for 293 additional nursing and pre-nursing students at our institutions, 2) capacity for 400 additional nursing students in our healthcare facilities, 3) increased recruitment from underserved communities, 4) 120 new nurses per year exposed to the concept of nursing entrepreneurship with at least ten nurses per year referred into the local small business development system, and 5) the creation of a new tutoring program in pre-nursing classes to level the playing field for rural and urban underserved students.

Each of the construction projects described in our application are at near final planning stage and are ready to proceed to design phase. All of the projects proposed in our application will be completed and/or implemented within the 4-year timeline ending in the fourth quarter of 2026.

Description of Geographical Region(s) Served - Our region covers more than 5000 square miles of urban and rural Southeast and Deep East Texas including: Jefferson (FIPS: 48245), Chambers (FIPS: 48071), Jasper (FIPS: 48241), Newton (FIPS: 48351) Hardin (FIPS: 48199), and Orange (FIPS: 48361) counties. Included in this area are the primary communities of Winnie, Beaumont, Nederland, Port Neches, Groves, Port Arthur, Orange, Silsbee, Kountze, Lumberton, Newton, Kirbyville, Deweyville, Buna, and Jasper.

*As you score our application on **Distress**, please keep the following paragraph in mind. Our region is among the worst effected by COVID and the slowest to recover as measured by loss of employment, and corresponding loss of productivity, and regional GDP.*

From January to June 2020, only counties above the 90th percentile for unemployment experienced a rise in unemployment of greater than 10.6 percentage points. Half of the counties in our region were in this unfortunate group, with Jefferson County rising to 19% unemployment to be tied as the 4th most impacted county in the State of Texas. As the pandemic wanes, most Texas counties see unemployment falling. Again, our region is not among the fortunate. While mean unemployment in Texas fell to 5.3% for August 2021, five of the six counties in our region continue to show unemployment above the 90th percentile (Chambers 8.2%, Jasper 9.5%, Jefferson 9.3%, Newton 9%, and Orange 8.3%). Data from Dec. 2021 (the most current release) show the problem worsening rather than improving with the Southeast Texas Workforce

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Development area showing the second highest unemployment in the State and the Deep East Texas area ranking 6th. highest.

In addition, COVID has placed an untenable burden on our healthcare systems. In 2018, Texas Dept. of State Health Services found that the population of nurses in the Gulf Coast region needed to grow by 11% to meet demand. The same report found that the population of nurses in Deep East Texas needed to grow by 33%. Now, our hospitals report more than 700 vacant nursing positions; urban hospitals are 30% below staffing and rural hospitals struggle to open their doors.

Overwhelming problems often create extraordinary opportunities. Our plan harnesses the power of a large, unemployed labor force and matches it with an industry cluster experiencing the need for rapid growth. *As you score our application on **Regional Impact**, please see that our plan takes the harm of unemployment and turns it against itself to address our area's nursing shortage. Our efforts are directly responsive to needs caused by the COVID pandemic.*

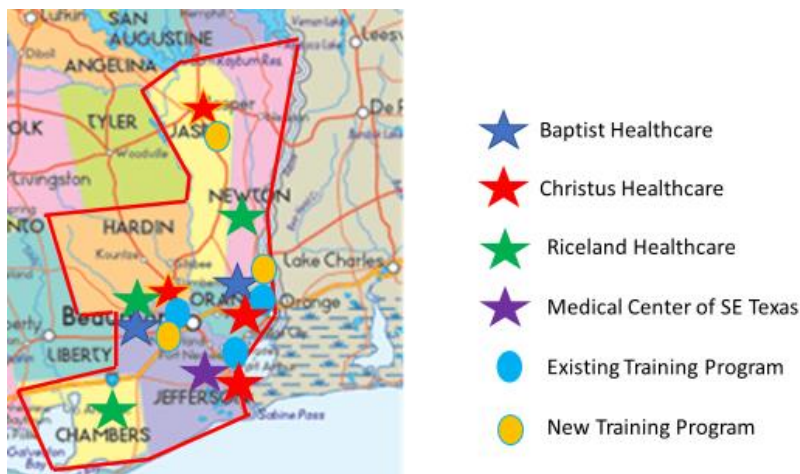


Figure 1 – Regional Assets

Our target participants and stakeholders in these areas are the major providers of healthcare. These are Baptist Hospitals in Beaumont and Orange; CHRISTUS hospitals in Beaumont, Orange and Jasper; The Medical Center of Southeast Texas in Port Arthur; and the Riceland facilities in Winnie, Beaumont and Deweyville, and Vidor. Figure 1 illustrates that this project brings every major healthcare provider and every nursing

educator within this 6-county region to the table. *As you score our application on **Regional Assets**, please see that we involve every major employer and educator of nurses in our region to address the crippling effects COVID on our economy.*

Detailed Overview of Private-Sector Engagement - Two not-for-profit hospital systems have become coalition members and two for-profit hospital systems have become partners to the application for a total of ten treatment facilities. These healthcare systems contribute three quarters of a billion dollars to our economy annually.

In spite of the strength of these regional players, there are more than 700 vacant nursing positions in our region. This shortage causes enormous financial consequence. Baptist Healthcare shared that they are paying more than \$1,000,000 per month in traveling nursing fees. The Christus system bears this out and cites spending of \$1,462,420 per month for agency nursing personnel. In an effort to address these problems, our hospital and educational partners make the following commitments.

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	Totals	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Sustainability funds to hire nurses and new faculty	Additional Investment
LSCPA	\$ 16,380,000.00	\$ 13,104,000.00	\$ 3,276,000.00	\$ 585,000.00	\$ 37,400,000.00
LSCO	\$ 10,800,000.00	\$ 8,640,000.00	\$ 2,160,000.00	\$ 195,000.00	
LU	\$ 20,575,000.00	\$ 16,460,000.00	\$ 4,115,000.00	\$ 720,000.00	
Baptist	\$ 22,500,000.00	\$ 18,000,000.00	\$ 4,500,000.00	\$ 22,000,000.00	
DETTCA	\$ 1,881,870.00	\$ 1,505,496.00	\$ 376,376.00		
Christus	\$ 18,200,000.00	\$ 14,560,000.00	\$ 3,640,000.00	\$ 7,700,000.00	\$ 85,767,124.00
Riceland	\$ -			\$ 3,752,736.00	
Medical Cntr	\$ -			\$ 15,600,000.00	
Stark Foundation					\$ 350,000.00
LSCPA Nonconstruction	\$ 959,000.00	\$ 767,200.00	\$ 191,800.00		
LU Nonconstruction	\$ 713,426.00	\$ 570,740.80	\$ 142,685.20		
Totals	\$ 92,009,296.00	\$ 73,607,436.80	\$ 18,401,861.20	\$ 50,552,736.00	\$ 123,517,124.00

Figure 2 – Regional Investment

*As you score our application on **Regional Investment and Job Creation and Economic Growth**, please keep the jobs and funds detailed in this section in mind.*

Baptist reports that it requires 949 nurses to meet minimum staffing for its facilities and currently has 276 open positions for nurses. They request \$18,000,000 in federal funding to create a nursing education building which will contain our area's only cancer treatment training unit. They pledge \$4,500,000 in matching assets. In addition, they pledge \$22,000,000 to hire 276 nurses.

CHRISTUS reports that it requires 908 nurses to meet its minimum staffing requirements and currently has 156 vacancies. CHRISTUS requests \$14,560,000 in federal funding to incorporate nursing education throughout its new construction. They pledge cash assets of \$3,640,000 in matching funds. In addition, they will spend \$85,767,124 in private funds to create a new 4-story medical tower, and they pledge \$7,700,000 in salaries to hire 156 nurses.

Medical Center of Southeast Texas requires 907 nurses for minimal staffing and reports 250 nursing vacancies. The medical center commits \$15,600,000 in salaries to hire 250 nurses.

The Riceland Healthcare System requires 146 nurses for minimal staffing and has 43 nursing vacancies. Riceland commits \$3,752,736 in private capital to hire the needed nurses.

The Stark Foundation has made a donation of \$350,000 in the form of a reduced sales price to Lamar State College Orange for the facility described in this application.

*As you score our application on **Industry Leadership**, please realize that all of our leaders are committed, and the growth plans described were proposed by our partners, not by the colleges. Baptist and Christus had prepared plans to increase size and competitiveness and shelved them due to COVID, but for the Build Back Better funds, they would still be on the shelf.*

*Since **healthcare** plays a major part in recovery to any disaster, please remember our efforts to stabilize this vital industry as you score our application on **EDA Priorities**.*

Detailed Plan for Regional Growth Cluster Sustainability - Our plan calls for physical plant expansion at four educational institutions and two major hospitals systems. Physical plant enhancement will give us space to train more students but this is meaningless without the faculty and nurses to run the new facilities. Our coalition's educational members make the following commitments to the sustainability of our project. (*illustrated in Figure 2 above*)

LSCPA requests \$13,104,000 in federal funds to create a new Allied Health & Sciences building. Overall nursing capacity will be increased by 80 students. LSCPA commits matching cash assets of \$3,276,000. This expansion will require nine new faculty positions. LSCPA commits to annual salary totaling \$585,000 and commits a total of \$37,400,000 in additional State funding to this project.

LSCO requests \$8,640,000 in federal funds to renovate an existing building into a new nursing education center and to create new medication aid and new Associate Degree in nursing programs. They pledge \$2,160,000 in matching cash assets. Overall capacity increases by 60 students. LSCO commits \$195,000 in annual salaries for the new positions.

Lamar University will renovate and expand their nursing education building to increase the size of their BSN and MSN programs and create a new Doctor of Nursing Practice program for a total capacity increase of 93 students. They request \$16,460,000 in federal funds and commit \$4,115,000 in matching cash assets. LU commits \$720,000 to this project annually for eight new faculty positions.

DETCCA and LSCPA will partner to create a new, rural LVN program. DETCCA requests \$1,505,496 in federal funds to modify an existing building and commits to \$376,376 in matching cash assets. Faculty salary is covered in the LSCPA commitment of funds discussed above.

At the end of grant, the activities of the regional recruiters will be absorbed into the multiple college's recruiting departments and the activities of the entrepreneur counselor will be absorbed into each college's small business development center.

As you score our application on sustainability, please keep this data in mind. Please remember this section on workforce development as you score our application on EDA Priorities.

Detailed Plan for Engaging Specific Organizations – Our projects are supported and bolstered by area, state and national organizations as demonstrated throughout our letters of support.

Our rural partners comment on the desperate need for nurses in rural areas. Beverly Holly of the Jasper Lake Sam Rayburn Chamber of Commerce documents the need for healthcare workers in Jasper and Newton counties. Jasper County Judge Mark Allen emphasizes this same need and pledges the support of his office as intermediary to all county agencies and pledges to make space available for program services as needed. The leaders of our cities, especially those cities with strong communities of color, comment on the trials brought on by COVID and the need for healthcare professionals. Mayor Bartie of Port Arthur, has led a personal and public battle against COVID and pledges the support of his office. Erica Banda Meza of the Hispanic Business Council in Port Arthur writes in support of our proposal and comments on the strong support the colleges have provided their members. Fernando Ramirez, owner of OTRA Hispanic

Media, tells of his close work with the college over the years and pledges the support of his newspapers and radio services.

Some partners pledge the support of State and Local agencies. Brenda Schofield, Director of the Adult Education & Literacy program at Region Five Education Services Center pledges to use Adult Education & Literacy funding to create tutoring classes for nursing pre-requisite courses and pre-nursing certificate programs. This will increase the GPA of underserved students and level the playing field as they apply for entrance into nursing programs. Steve Lawrence, Director of the Texas Gulf Coast SBDC Network, commits the funds and strength of his organization to enhance our efforts to create nursing entrepreneurs and provides a path for further training within his system.

Many professional associations have reached out to us in support. Dr. Alexander Okwonna, President of the Texas Association of College Technical Educators, has created a venue to disseminate information from the project across Texas for replication. Dr. Cindy Zolnierok of the Texas Nurses Association pledges support and comments on the financial stability a career in nursing can provide. Dr. Debbie Hatmaker of the American Nurses Association echo's this sentiment on the national level, citing the extensive nursing shortage and documenting the number of students turned away from training annually. Similarly, Dr. Sandra Krebsbach, of the American Technical Education Association, has asked our project leaders to present at their annual conference and to prepare outcome data for submission to the peer reviewed ATEA Journal. This journal will act as a vehicle to disseminate best practices across the nation.

Many national foundations have asked for information on our project and ultimately pledged support. Yelena Nemoy of the Aspen Institute is supportive of the effect this project may have on underserved students and opportunity youth in rural areas. Dr Wynn Rosser, of the TLL Temple Foundation, pledges support to the program and cites the transformational effect it will have on students, their family and communities. Francie Genz, Co-Principal of the Institute for Networked Communities, pledges to leverage and support the efforts of this application while also inviting leaders from this project into the Rural East Texas Healthcare Partnership her Institute is striving to build.

Many of our State representatives are especially supportive. Speaker of the House, Dade Phelan, has a long history of supporting higher education in Texas and promises the support of his office. Senator Brandon Creighton, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Higher Education, promises to work with his colleagues to build on the success these projects create, and Representative Jim Murphy, who convened the 2021 Texas meeting on nursing faculty and staff shortages and who chairs the House Higher Education Committee, talks about the incredible impact this project has the potential to make.

*As you score our application on **engagement of community-based organizations**, please remember the commitments you will find throughout our letters of support testifying to the quality and quantity of partnerships this project has created.*

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Detailed Plan on Engaging Equitably - Our region includes rural and urban communities, vibrant communities of color, and areas of high poverty. These areas offer the potential for recruitment of new students who have not previously seen healthcare as an achievable career.

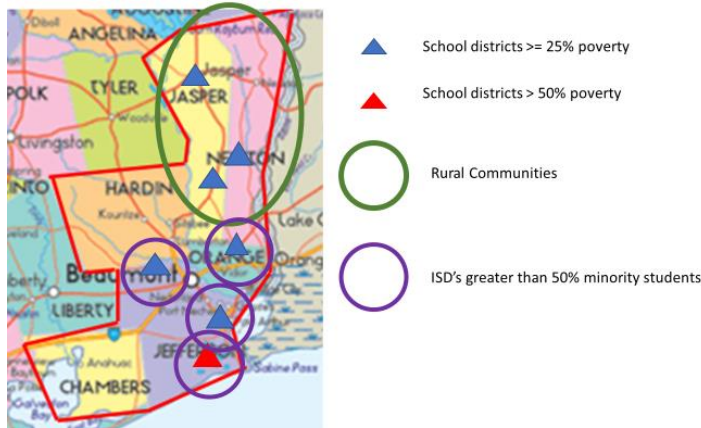


Figure 3 – Rural areas, areas of poverty & communities of color

Historically, a high percentage of persons of color have been omitted by the double-blind admission process mandated by the Board of Nursing. Data from eight admission cohorts at LSCPA show a mean of 28% of qualified students are routinely turned away for lack of space. The racial makeup of those turned away based on ten cohorts of data is Asian 4.11%, African American 50%, Hispanic 19.18%, White 22.60%, and Other 4.11%. Data from Lamar University for six admission cohorts show that

64.87% of qualified applicants were rejected by the BSN program due to lack of space. More than 550 were rejected in the 3-year study period alone with a racial makeup of Asian 8.36%, African American 42.49%, Hispanic 14.02%, and White 30.59%.

In addition to addressing this problem by increasing capacity, we propose 1) a new program of outreach that will work closely with underserved communities to recruit from these areas and to invite leaders of these communities onto existing advisory boards, 2) a new nursing entrepreneurship program that will speak to classes of incoming nurses and be available to counsel existing nursing personnel about starting their own business, this new program will offer an additional path from employment to prosperity for those drawn to business ownership, 3) a student tuition assistance program sponsored by each of our four hospital systems, and 4) a new system of tutoring for pre-nursing students.

These programs will offer entre into nursing as a profession or as a business to students from areas where access has historically been unavailable or actively denied. It is important to understand that the nursing programs described in this application provide a pathway not only to stability, but a pathway that leads to independence and to prosperity, while the entrepreneurship element of our program may take these students even further into business ownership. *As you score our application on Equity and on the EDA priority Equity, please remember these statistics and see our effort to correct these historic problems. As you score our application on Labor Standards please see that our efforts bring our students to stability and prosperity.*

Detailed Overview on Expected Outcomes - Infrastructure related Outputs and Outcomes

Component Projects Goals	Output	Outcome
LSCPA Allied Health & Sciences Building	80 new nursing students annually	Increase in nursing graduates
LSCO Nursing Education Complex	93 new nursing students annually	Increase in nursing graduates

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Lamar University Updated & Enlarge Nursing Facility	60 new nursing students annually	Increase in nursing graduates
DETCCA New Rural LVN Program	New program in rural area, 10-30 new nurses * annually,	Increase in nursing graduated, Increase in graduates from rural communities
Baptist Hospital Nursing Education Building	Space for 300 new nursing students	Increase in nursing graduates, 276 jobs for graduates
CHRISTUS new medical tower with Nursing Education focus	Space for 200 new nursing students	Increase in nursing graduates, 156 jobs for graduates
Overarching goal	A high percentage of new admissions from underserved communities.	Graduate representatives from multiple underserved communities.

**This program is in application phase with the Texas Board of Nursing. The first cohort of students will be capped at ten, but, future cohorts will rise to 30 or more.*

As you score our application on Feasibility, please remember the data about students not admitted due to lack of space. Please note the pledge by our employer partners to hire 700 local nurses and the size of our capacity increase. Data show that the increased capacity we propose is achievable and will be immediately filled.

Non-Infrastructure Programs & Partners	Outputs	Outcome
Riceland Healthcare		43 jobs for graduates
Medical Center SE Texas		250 jobs for graduates
LSCPA New student recruiting through the region		A high percentage of intakes from underserved communities
LU Nursing Entrepreneur training	One training per month of at least 10 students per training	Ten potential entrepreneurs per year proceed to SBDC.
Tutors for entry level pre-requisite and nursing classes	Creation of a new pre-nursing tutoring program	Benchmark class GPA before and after new program.

Overview of Work conducted in Phase 1 – Our strongest accomplishment has been the ongoing strengthening in the governance and leadership of our coalition. The unity we’ve developed is best illustrated by the fact that each component project has signed a contract with LSCPA, the project lead, to create a clear and evident pathway for all reporting and documentation. While this places great responsibility on LSCPA, it illustrates the level of cooperation that our coalition has achieved. LSCPA has managed multiple EDA funded construction projects and has a system in place to ensure smooth management and reporting. A grant manager will be employed to ensure day to day compliance on all projects.

We’ve further developed our ideas for recruitment and added a second recruiter. These positions will be housed in Port Arthur in the Department of Workforce. One recruiter will work in Orange, Newton, and Jasper counties and will engage with and invite participation from rural and poor populations. The second recruiter will work Jefferson, Hardin and Chambers counties and focus on the many different communities of color in these areas. Each worker will invite

community leaders to participate in advisory groups, host tours at LSCPA, LSCO, DETCCA and LU, and create community/college partnerships.

Our nursing entrepreneurship program blossomed when we added the University of Houston Texas Gulf Coast Small Business Development Center Network as a partner. This network provides business advising, access to training, tools, and resources to help small businesses start, grow, expand and succeed. The SBDC has 3 centers in our region. Our nursing entrepreneur counselor will make presentations in all levels of nursing classes throughout our consortium and conduct business seminars for practicing nurses. They will arrange counseling sessions with interested nurses and go further into the knowledge of business ownership. As nurses are prepared, this professional will refer them to the SBDC to continue their work in business plan creation, taking advantage of Economic Development funding, and achieving SBA financing.

Our goal to begin entrepreneur training in entry level classes is designed to give and reinforce the message that “you can succeed in business ownership” throughout each nurse’s training career. Many of our students have never had this “voice of success” spoken over them, and but for this chance, many never would. A student from an underserved community who begins their education as a Nurse’s Aide, becomes an LVN, earns an RN, proceeds to a BSN, and ultimately graduates as an MSN, will have encountered the concept of success as a nursing entrepreneur on at least five occasions. This repetition of a vision of success is designed to mimic the repetitive instilling of self-efficacy experienced by children of affluent families.

Detailed list of changes to the vision/proposal to Phase 1 Concept Proposal - We’ve strengthened our plan of having a “significant percentage” of new students recruited from underserved communities and we believe our efforts will insure that half or more of our new students will come from these areas. While offering a quota would be inappropriate, we feel our efforts will ensure a strong rate of recruitment.

One significant advancement has been adding the Region Five Educational Service Center as a partner to address student’s grades in pre- and early nursing classes. Discussion in our 1:1 technical advising session led us to review the data showing that students of color make up a strong majority of students not accepted into training due to space limitations. Since admission committee members are not aware of an applicant’s race or gender, but they do have student’s grades in prerequisites and in early courses, students of color may be performing less well in these areas than their peers. By partnering with Region Five, we will utilize funding under their Adult Education and Literacy Grant to provide tutors in entry level courses. We believe we will see an improvement in overall grades in pre-nursing classes and a leveling of the playing field by the time these students apply for entrance into an LVN or RN program. As we are able to analyze the efficacy of this new plan, we will decide whether to provide tutoring in more advanced classes.

A three-tiered system of overall group governance developed informally throughout our process and has transformed into a functional structure that we feel will last over time.

- Our hospital, college, and university leaders are the signature authority for these projects but rarely need to meet. We’ve found that most friction exists at this level, because these men and women are tasked with the overall competitiveness of their facilities. They all

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agree on the need for these projects, and all work together towards that goal. This team has coalesced to the point that members of this committee agreed to join a larger project directed by the Institute for Networked Communities to create a partnership of healthcare providers throughout Southeast and Deep East Texas.

- A second tier of leaders are the physical plant directors at each project site. These men and women are crucial for our infrastructure projects. These leaders have created the paperwork we need for engineering, environmental and construction reports. These professionals work independently and/or meet as needed. They will continue to interact through the term of construction, and then this group will dissolve.
- The work of our project is conducted at the nursing level, and this level operates on a system of camaraderie. An existing nursing committee comprised of nurse educators and nurse managers meets quarterly. They discuss how many nursing positions are available and which students can be best served by which locations. This committee will serve an ongoing purpose.

We've fleshed out our plan for each of our four hospitals to support a student tuition assistance program with their own monies. Two of our partners have existing programs, and these are under review at our for-profit partners. CHRISTUS hospitals reimburses tuition \$2500 per year for full-time personnel. Baptist hospitals reimburse undergraduate studies by full-time employees at \$6000 per year. If each of the 700 nurses enroll in the plan at CHRISTUS, the economic impact is an additional \$3,500,000. If the 700 enrolled in the Baptist plan, the benefit would be \$8,400,000. These self-funded programs provide a significant financial benefit directly to our students, but for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, this benefit could not exist.

While our application is tightly focused on meeting a crippling need for our identified industry cluster, we have developed multiple complimentary initiatives to address elements of the problem that lie outside the purview of this grant application. Specifically - Our colleges and university have made application for funding under the State of Texas Skills Development Fund to provide tuition assistance for entry level patient assistance personnel, who will then become a new source of students for the programs discussed here. We've made application for funding under the Texas Self Sufficiency funds for tuition assistance for the unemployed, as well as the under-employed. Lamar University has been awarded monies from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating board to develop virtually implemented nursing goals, and a second grant from the Dept. of Agriculture to explore rural telemedicine. The Governor of Texas recently made \$93.7 million available from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief funds, with \$25 million dollars allotted to aid in nursing tuition. We have prepared a tentative application for these funds and will proceed to a full application as soon as a notice of funding opportunity is announced.

Our coalition will continue to review any potential to bring complimentary assets into the projects we describe. **As you score our application on Feasibility, please keep these efforts in mind.**