



Qualifications

Unemployed with family responsibilities & registered with WFS, **or** underemployed (\$8.50hr or less) with family responsibilities **or** on public assistance (SNAP/TANF), **or** meets federal poverty guidelines.



What's Included?

Tuition, Books, Transportation,
Childcare, Testing Fees,
Tools and Uniforms.
(Based on need)

*"Connecting Valley residents to
employers and high wage jobs..."*

One VIDA at a Time."

www.vidacareers.org
or call: 1.800.478.1770



Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement



History

The Valley Initiative for Development and Advancement (VIDA) is a community-based 501(c) 3 non-profit organization located in Mercedes, Texas. VIDA has a 20 year history of supporting unemployed, underemployed, and low-income individuals in their pursuit of certificate and degree programs that will connect them to high-skilled, high-wage jobs in the region, thus moving them to self-sufficiency.

Mission

To formulate new institutional relationships in the Rio Grande Valley that simultaneously address employers' needs for skilled workers and link the area's unemployed and underemployed with high skills, high wage jobs identified in the region. The program provides job-training services to economically disadvantaged, unemployed, and underemployed adults with family responsibilities.

A Model for Success

VIDA's successful model is made possible by collaborating with key partners that include STC, UTRGV, TSC and TSTC. Local cities, counties, and economic development corporations support VIDA's efforts by investing in their residents. These entities provide funding to VIDA to support eligible residents. A recent economic impact study conducted by UTRGV demonstrates that for every \$1 in assistance to local residents, local communities receive back \$12.12. This translates to a return on the community's investment of \$29.6 million dollars in additional jobs, income, taxes and output in the local economy.

Services

VIDA provides extensive wraparound support services in the form of counseling and case management to address academic progress and challenges and financial assistance in the form of tuition, books, child care, tools and transportation. VIDA's intensive case management component is credited with helping participants avoid the inevitable barriers this hard-to-serve population faces daily.

Bright Spot Recognition

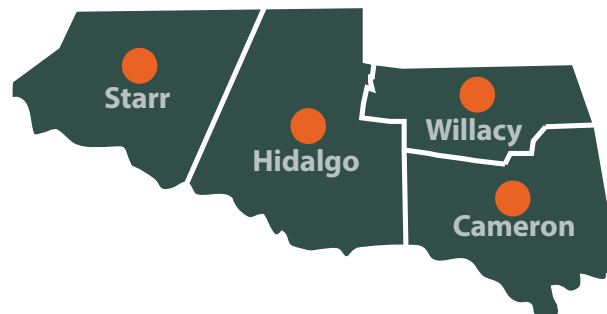
VIDA was recently recognized by The White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics' as one of over 230 Bright Spots in Hispanic Education across the country due to VIDA's strong commitment to improving the educational attainment of Hispanics.



WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE
on EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE for HISPANICS
25 Years of Fulfilling America's Future

Region

Currently VIDA serves a four-county region, Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Starr.



Requirements

**U.S. Citizen or
Permanent Resident,
H.S. Diploma or GED and
18 years old & over.**

