

**HOPE VI Community & Supportive Services
Best Practices - Adult Basic Education/GED/ESL
San Antonio Housing Authority**

Opportunities Abound for Home Schooled GED Graduates

The San Antonio Housing Authority (SAHA) HOPE VI Program experienced difficulty in encouraging residents out of school for a length of time to attend and complete GED classes. The lack of a high school diploma or GED created barriers to employment and training. HOPE VI Case Managers were faced with identifying occupations not requiring a high school diploma or GED for residents, which typically pay minimum wage and limited opportunity for advancement.

SAHA established a formal relationship with the Marque Learning Center, a State of Texas Registered Home School Organization. The Marque Learning Center provided an opportunity for residents over the age of 17 to register for GED classes, pick-up materials from the Learning Center, take the materials home, study at their own pace and call for tutorial support if needed. Once the residents completed the required workbooks and were comfortable with the curriculum, they were able to take the GED test at the Marque Learning Center. The flexibility of the program encouraged residents to begin and successfully complete the classes. Telephone support provided privacy and the one-on-one contact assisted residents to complete the program. The CSS Case Manager began to refer clients to the Center who had previously struggled with attending on-site GED classes to Marque and the success rate soared.

The graduation rate for residents attending traditional GED classes and programs is 45%; the Marque graduation rate is 78%. CSS Case Managers began referring residents to the Marque Learning Center in 2007. A total of 47 referrals were made for the GED Program. Thirty-seven residents completed the class and earned their GED.

The cost of the Marque GED Program is \$2,000.00 for the class materials and testing. The residents completed course material and testing within a six-month timeframe. The results show once the residents become engaged in home study they aggressively strive to complete the requirements and graduate.

For more information on this Best Practice contact:

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