

CONNECT Program

Summer 2020 Project Cohort Report

The CONNECT Program aims to increase data, measurement and evaluation capacity within Central Texas organizations. It matches organizations' projects with graduate students at the University of Texas at Austin looking for applied and practical experience in the social and/or public sector.

This cohort rounded out the fifth and final project cohort a part of the pilot implementation of the CONNECT program. To ensure ample time for planning and preparation as the program moves into year two, this cohort was intentionally kept to a small number of organizations and projects, many of which were returning to build off work completed during a previous project cohort. For a closer look at the challenges addressed and deliverables produced by the Summer 2020 project cohort, visit: <https://rgkcenter.org/connect-project-library>.



11 community organizations



34 interested students



11 matches made



11 projects



100% match rate*



17 deliverables produced



\$18,000 student fellowships**



91% match success rate***



4 returning organizations

"Our CONNECT Fellow developed a self-sufficiency matrix that will vastly improve our assessment abilities with new clients, create more integrated programs via a shared assessment process, and increase our ability to write more effective grants as we now have unified, trackable outcomes across our programs for the first time."

Adam Benden, LCSW,
Director of Social Services,
Literacy Coalition of
Central Texas

LITERACY
OF CE
BUILDING

* number of matches made divided by number of match possibilities

** a total of \$18,000 was issued in the form of fellowships to students working on projects

*** number of matches made divided by number of matches with student & organization satisfaction

Project Spotlight: *Impact Austin*

Impact Austin engaged with the CONNECT Program with the goal to improve its ability to track who makes up its membership base and better measure its effectiveness at fulfilling its mission. Through a series of deep-dive interviews conducted by its CONNECT Fellow, with a variety of its members, Impact Austin was able to identify a set of key indicators for assessing its effectiveness (as defined by its mission) as well as develop a new membership survey aligned to those indicators. Impact Austin will work with another CONNECT Fellow during the upcoming Fall 2020 project cohort to administer its new membership survey and analyze its results. Findings from the analysis will be used to inform its strategic planning process during Spring 2021.



"It's really difficult to adequately put to words how impactful it is to have an opportunity to put my learning to use toward a social cause. CONNECT provides an opportunity to get back to helping others and working with people/organizations that are bettering our communities."

Kristen Mosley,
CONNECT Fellow



their CONNECT experience as equaling, exceeding, or far exceeding their expectations



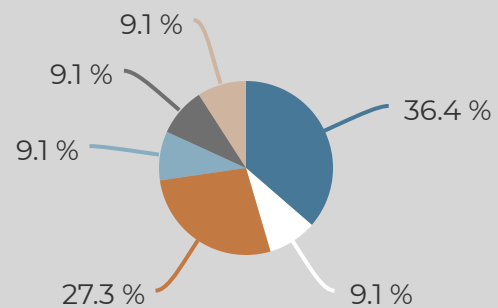
their CONNECT experience as very or extremely useful



the time and resources required of them during their CONNECT experience as about right



Participating Schools & Colleges



- LBJ School of Public Affairs
- College of Liberal Arts
- School of Social Work
- School of Public Health
- College of Education
- McCombs School of Business