

Project Abstract

SER-Jobs for Progress, Inc., San Joaquin Valley (SER), a non-profit organization located in Fresno, California, is submitting this application to operate a commuter High School Equivalency Program (HEP) to serve farmworkers, from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2029. SER-HEP will operated this project, as it has for the past 24.5 years, in Fresno and Madera Counties, which are located in the agricultural heartland of the Central San Joaquin Valley.

The management plan will prioritize a recruitment effort that ensures equitable access for all potential participants. To achieve a greater level of participation and achievement, High School Equivalency (HSE) instruction will be provided at suitable times, and at seven convenient locations. These classroom locations include one in the city of Parlier, two locations in the city of Kerman, two in the city of Madera, and two in Fresno. Each student will receive approximately 12 hours of instruction weekly for 16 weeks or longer, if necessary. Effective HSE instruction, along with a tutoring, placement services, stipends, and supportive services offered through collaborative partners, will ultimately lead to a successful outcome for each student.

To meet Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) measures 1 and 2, SER plans to enroll a minimum of 100 students and graduate at least 69% (n=69), each program year. A minimum of 80% (n=55) of the GED recipients will either enter postsecondary education, or skills training, or upgrade employment, or the military.

For evaluation purposes, SER uses a database that documents the level of service in both quantitative and qualitative ways. An external evaluator will the database and other methods to assist HEP staff in indentifying program weaknesses and provide insight on how program goals, outcomes, and performance measures can be achieved, while adhering to federal regulations and policies. The goal of the evaluation plan is to produce promising evidence that shows the program is effective in achieving GPRA performance measures and ensures each student will reach their educational and career goals.