

ABSTRACT

Allan Hancock College (AHC) is an accredited public two-year institution of higher education and a federally designated Hispanic-Serving Institution. AHC educates 13,859 credit students annually, 63.4% are Hispanic, and 48% are first generation college students, and 21% of AHC students live at or below poverty. AHC supports secondary students with a mission to provide a quality education, grow potential income levels, and deliver the only public postsecondary education opportunity within a 40-mile radius.

The objectives of the project include efforts to (1) utilize and enhance alternatives to gang involvement through education, (2) utilize and enhance alternatives to the justice system through court ordered diversion education, (3) address criminal behavior through restorative justice approach, (4) increase partnerships with the juvenile justice system and local employers willing to hire and train AHC students, (5) address criminogenic factors that may lead to gang affiliation, basic needs insecurities, and mental health distress, and (6) ensure equitable access to higher education pathways.

This proposal addresses the Absolute Priority to propose partnerships to leverage services to support students in acquiring the knowledge, skills, and abilities to transition into an education beyond high school. Additionally, this project addresses Competitive Preference Priority — Creating a Positive, Inclusive, and Identity-safe Climate by (1) fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion for students who are gang-involved, (2) implementing evidence-based practices for advancing student success for students who are gang involved, and (3) providing high-quality professional development opportunities to reduce bias and build asset based mindsets.