



Human Capital Development Corp., Inc. (HCDC)

First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship Training

ITA ID 479-001, 001: Southeast Wisconsin

Lead Safe Company Certification # DHS-629540

February 3, 2015

From the desk of the Executive Director

July 2015 marks 10 years that First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship Training program began offering services to individuals interested in careers in the building trades. Since 2005 we have had over 1500 interested candidates with 616 students enrolled and 482 graduates. To date, there have been 416 placements with over 200 of those placements in the construction skilled trades. Of those committed to this career there are 25 Journey workers, with 25 others on track to become journey workers.

Our mission is to provide individuals the opportunity to achieve personal goals of employment and independence at a family sustaining wage in the building and construction trades. Some of our students have achieved this mission: representative samples are Daniel and Melissa. Daniel faced a number of barriers when he came to First Choice: no job, child support collections and a felony record. Upon completion of the training, our team worked with him to secure employment. Now, Daniel is a Cement Tester with a company that provides steady hours and training opportunities; he recently completed a certificate course at UW-Platteville in Highway Technologies. Melissa was a single mother with a minimum wage job when she enrolled in our program. In an attempt to secure a sustainable wage, she came to First Choice to improve her skills. Melissa has been an apprentice for 3 years and now makes \$54,000 and hopes to continue on the path to be a journey worker.

The First Choice Program has been dependent on grants from local foundations and city government. We are reaching out to you to assist current and future students attain apprenticeship opportunities in the various crafts of skilled trades. The cost to train each student is \$1100 to enable them to become successful in the career of their choice. Since 2009, we have provided each student personal protective equipment and tools needed to start their careers. With your investment we can continue to provide these resources to bridge the skills gap in construction and manufacturing. Please consider investing in this workforce initiative which is tax-deductible, by clicking on the DONATE NOW button on the website.

There is another AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer: Shebria Small is in her 2nd year with us. She works in increasing recruitment and on our database for credible reporting to the public and our investors. This database accepts queries for enrollment, class completion, certifications and placements. This allows for transparencies in fact checking.

Thank you for your support to improve the economic conditions of the disadvantaged.


Sincerely,
Ola Baiyewu
Executive Director