Impact to Opportunities
Houston’s Workforce Story
From Response to Recovery to Resilience
Within 30 days following Harvey, Houston’s Gulf Coast Workforce Board - Workforce Solutions received an allocation of $10,531,000 in Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act dollars to provide temporary jobs for Harvey clean-up and repair of public facilities or humanitarian assistance to persons impacted by Hurricane Harvey.
The City of Houston identified more than 400 jobs within five City Departments needed to aid in the recovery across several areas:

- Administrative
- Project Managers
- Skilled Laborers: Plumbers, Carpenters, Painters, CDL Drivers
- Human Services
The City of Houston and Workforce Solutions launched a partnership to hire impacted individuals in October 2017.

Hiring Fairs were held in five under resourced communities impacted by the storm.

Several hundred individuals attended the hiring events – and more than 1,000 people went into the Workforce Solutions Centers.

The grant was recently extended until September 2019.
▪ So far, we’ve placed 250+ individuals impacted by Harvey in City positions.
▪ More than a year after the program started, nearly 100 people still working - some have transitioned into fulltime positions with City or other organizations.
▪ The City and its contractors are currently facing challenges in employing skilled laborers such as plumbers, carpenters, painters, etc. for a substantial amount of Harvey-related work that still exists.
Targeted Job Skills Training

- City of Houston leveraged grant from Norbord to launch the Home Builders Institute (HBI) Acres Homes Program.
- The City worked with a famously known Rap Artist from Acres Homes to recruit youth into program. Outpour of support from community and industry.
- The curriculum is 14-weeks and free.
- Students gain carpentry, safety, and soft skills.
HBI Graduate (Cohort 1):

Dahleah Moore
Ubuntu Developments

Dahleah, 24, participated in the inaugural HBI Acres Homes program. She is an Acres Homes resident whose family’s home was directly impacted by Harvey. After graduating from HBI Acres Homes, Dahleah took the skills she learned to start her own business.
Currently in third cohort – looking to expand later this year in other impacted communities – leveraging Disaster Relief Funds from HUD, Workforce, and Grant funding.

Over 70% of students placed into positions.

Community support to participants – mentorship, transportation and food services.

Wraparound enrichment: Entrepreneurship

Connect graduates with contractors facilitating the repair/build of more than 100,000 homes throughout Houston.
QUESTIONS?