



PROG Development Center Research Design Student Proposal

Contacts:

Shawn Teigen, Executive Director of The Utah Foundation
shawn@utahfoundation.org; www.utahfoundation.org

office: 801.355.1400 ex3

Franque Bains, Program Manager PROG Development Center

Franque.bains@progleasing.com www.progfoundation.org

Cell: 801-584-9297

PROG Foundation and PROG Development Center & West Valley

The PROG Foundation is dedicated to supporting and improving lives through partnerships, employee volunteerism, and giving that supports the community. We aim to continually uplift those in need of help wherever, whenever, and however we can. Each foundation activity develops the people and resources necessary to level the playing field for those in poverty and historically disadvantaged groups by exposing them to giving them greater proximity and access to technology, education and other tools for economic development that will enhance these individuals' socio-economic opportunity.

A major new initiative of the PROG Foundation will be a center fostering community development, especially by enhancing educational and employment opportunity for students and youth residing in the Greater West Valley. We know that youth are facing barriers, and through the PROG Development Center, we are committed to supporting youth to excel socio-economically through technology, education, and development based programs while welcoming organizations and individuals, including individuals connected with PROG Holdings, to participate in forming connections and providing support that will open new doors and opportunities for the youth in the Greater West Valley City, Utah community—a historically less affluent community with median per capital income more than 20% below Utah's median per capita income; and a community of great ethnic diversity.

More specifically, the PROG Development Center will provide support for high school graduation, access to higher education, linkages for workplace preparation and enriching employment opportunities, and connections to community resources. It will help youth and young adults explore options and provide academic guidance post-high school graduation; help individuals acquire the knowledge, skills, and experience necessary to identify professional options and succeed in society, including by aiding in the process for individual entrepreneurs to be able to form startup companies or other businesses. It will connect youth with a full-scale range of services, and provide the space and resources to uplift the Greater West Valley City community and foster a sense of well-being and belonging in that community.

The PROG Foundation expects to always work closely with community stakeholders to identify those activities and resources that will be most beneficial in breaking through barriers to opportunity in its community.

The Data

Utah's reputation as a monolithic culture might seem at odds with design justice work. Yet, the Greater West Valley City is a microcosm of Utah's future – diverse in race, immigration, faith, and economic and educational attainment. And it is ripe with income and educational inequities needing solutions. By partnering with PROG, government, educational, and community-based organizations, we will work together to catalyze systemic change for the Greater West Valley City.

Income: West Valley City median household income (\$62,120) lags behind Utah's (\$73,580). Earning for marginalized groups are disproportionately low: average earning for Black and Latinx residents are \$53,750 and \$56,456. Latinx residents comprise 39.5% of the West Valley City population, yet a disproportionate share (59.7%) of those living below poverty level (12.4% for the city/9.8% for Utah as a whole).

Education: Less than 15% of the West Valley City population holds a bachelor's degree or greater (Utah's rate is 35%); 19% hold less than a high school diploma (Utah's rate is 8%).

Importance of the Work

Currently, through a community-based participatory process, a youth advisory council and steering council, we have been planning, researching and co-designing a process in which we aim to serve an urban center of Utah to bring together technology, education, and government partnerships that will provide the youth the ability to enhance socio-economic opportunity. The Greater West Valley City youth and local leaders are working across sectors to consider innovative solutions that will catalyze systemic change for the community. The PROG Development Center is at the service of the community. To actualize our service, we have engaged the community and stakeholders in numerous listening sessions to understand how we can create a center, structure, and programming that will be meaningful to for the youth, families, and stakeholders invested in the Great West Valley community.

With your data analysis support, we would like to understand the findings, perspective, and opinions of youth and stakeholder that will continue to guide the PROG Development Center innovation and design. In the future, we aim to mobilize and measure, activate and evaluate, the success of cross-sector partnerships that provide capacity building for existing organizations and opportunities for youth to excel.

Timeline

- Jan-Feb: Meet with PROG Development Center team for kick-off meeting and transfer of data
- Feb-Mar: Explore data and analyze that may include coding strategy, sorting for patterns and themes
- April: Draw conclusion
- May: Share findings with PROG Development Center stakeholders and West Valley community

Internship or Data Analysis Opportunity

We are seeking a student to lead out on the analysis of the listening session recordings that we have held so far. We have nine 90-minute listening sessions that need analysis to help us identify common themes, ideas and best practices for our center. We would like to co-develop this analysis and are open to suggestions and ideas the student may have for the analysis as well.

We will hold listening sessions annually. In the future, at a smaller scale. We would also like to explore what it would look like to have student support for this analysis annually.