



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

2403 Holcombe Blvd. Houston, TX 77021

I. Systemic Change Initiative: Getting Ahead Program Goals

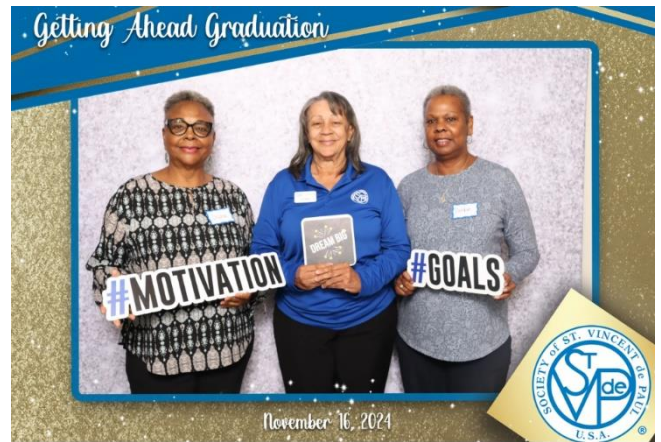
Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin'-By World is a curriculum for motivated individuals to change their life by acquiring the tools and support necessary to "get ahead" despite the obstacles in their life and community. Since inception in the Fall of 2021, **128** people have enrolled in the program.

2022-2025 Society of St. Vincent de Paul Archdiocese of Galveston Houston Strategic Goal outcomes:

- **178** total graduates from Phase I: Getting Ahead Program
- **75%** of Phase I graduates move into Phase II: GAP Graduates
- **50%** of Phase II graduates move into the Phase III: GAP Alumni

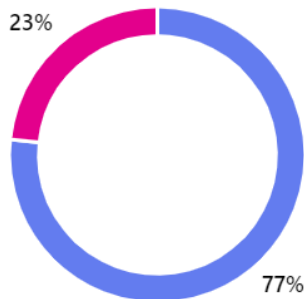
Since Inception until December 31, 2024:

- **109** total graduates from Phase I: Getting Ahead Program
- **50%** of Phase I graduates move into Phase II: GAP Graduates
- **93%** of Phase II graduates move into Phase III: GAP Alumni

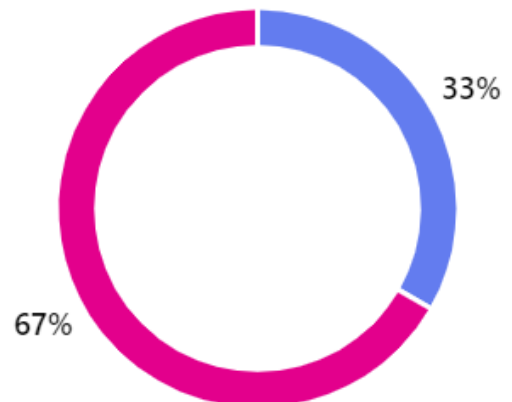


II. Phase 1 - Getting Ahead Program Outcomes in FY25 Q1

More than 75% of the program's participants occupy a household that receives some form of public assistance.



After going through the program despite this challenge, **more than 65%** have not had to seek financial assistance to pay bills in the past 30 days.



31 graduates from **Cohort #7** received their certificates on Saturday, November 16, 2024.

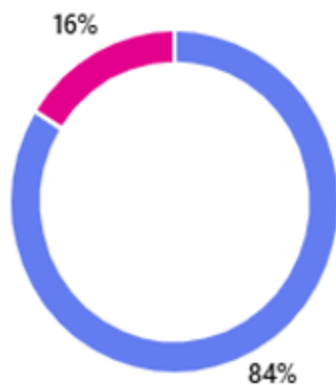
3 sessions offered by a combination of Vincentians and Programs staff.

- Monday morning, Wednesday evening & Thursday evening

An additional Vincentian member completed the certification to conduct class sessions, increasing capacity for program expansion.

The Archdiocesan Council anticipates establishing an in-person program in district 7 and launching a session offered in Spanish in the Fall of 2025.

- **4** sessions are planned for **Cohort #8**
- Anticipate enrolling **50** participants in Q2 of FY25.
 - Monday mornings
 - Tuesday afternoons
 - Wednesday mornings
 - Wednesday evenings



84% demonstrated the behavioral change necessary to climb out of poverty.

94% of the participants rated the program 5/5 stars for quality and value.



III. Phase 2 - Getting Ahead **Graduate** Program Outcomes in FY25 Q1

The six-month program shifted the focal point toward helping participants grow and expand on the resources learned in phase I.

Evaluation results revealed the need to adjust four target areas to increase behavioral change.

1. Financial Literacy - *Human Resources for Workplace Readiness* material was added to the program.
2. Physical Health - condensed into one session.
3. Emotional Intelligence
4. Spiritual Resources

Q1 evaluation revealed a **75% increase in knowledge** towards improving personal finances and **75% increase in self-efficacy** to obtain non-material support to overcome poverty.



IV. Phase 3 - Getting Ahead Alumni Program Outcomes in FY25 Q1

Previous evaluation results revealed time and commute were an ever-present issue for many participants. Monthly events and workshops were designed and conducted to expose alumni participants to other community partners and continue their education process to overcome poverty.

5 activities conducted between October – December 2024

- **“Coffee Conversations” workshops** were conducted to re-engage participants; this provided opportunities for to locally connect and continue building their personal/professional network of support.
 - **11** participants
- **Graduation of Cohort 7** was an open invitation for all alumni to increase support of the new graduates.
 - **3** attended.
- **“Jingle Bingo”** was a Vincentian social event to gather both Vincentians and GAP participants at the Archdiocese of Galveston Houston’s St Dominic Auditorium before the Christmas holiday.
 - **4** attended.
- **Vision Board Event** to plan for their 2025 new year goals.
 - **5** attended.
- **Workforce Solution Presentation** was conducted by a Workforce Solution Manager on site in December to help with the achievement of Vision Board goals.
 - **7** attended.

V. Getting Ahead Program Impact



99% of participants increased their knowledge and skills to acquire additional resources to live a better life and develop a network of support to achieve their future goals.

Resources participants learn to move from crisis to sustainability:



Social Capital Support System:
Friends, family, network.



Relationship/Role model:
Access to people who can help improve your outcomes.



Motivation & Persistence:
Energy, drive and planning



Financial:
How to use money to purchase assets and services.



Emotional:
Ability to control emotional responses, increase integrity, build trust, and maintain safety.



Physical:
Health and mobility



Knowledge of Hidden rules:
Know unspoken cues and behaviors of different social environments.



Spiritual:
Belief in divine purpose.



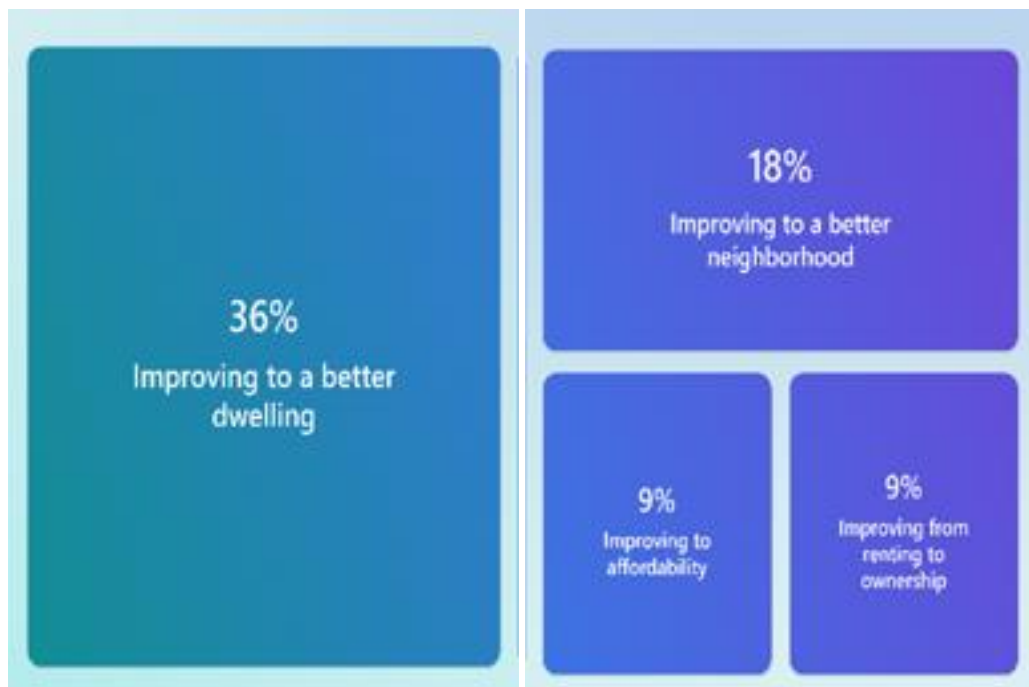
Language:
Ability to use appropriate vocabulary and grammar for different social environments



Mental:
Cognitive capacity to master daily life challenges.

How has your living situation changed since starting the Getting Ahead Program?

Over 60% improved their living situation; **9%** transitioned from renting to owning their own home.



TESTIMONIALS



Participant #1- *Getting Ahead is an extremely **beneficial program**. I have learned many different tips on becoming a better person for myself and my family. Getting Ahead has **helped me with showing up on time** and being present...I love the way Getting Ahead has everything well put together and how everyone is welcome to come as they are. I **feel free to be who I am**. Meeting new people and achieving a bigger network is the key to becoming a **better me**. Thank you, **Getting Ahead program**, for welcoming me and showing me ways to grow and become a better person.*

Participant #4- *After seeing the program, I realized I **needed more than financial assistance**, but a **growth mindset** to have a better future. The program became extremely useful to me, giving me **access to better resources, job opportunities, and financial education**. I knew by signing up for this program I was going to have to apply myself in order to get out of it what it is designed to do, so I did.*



Participant #7- *The Getting Ahead Program was the start of me getting out of my shell. Life has been full of challenges and difficulties, but while in the program I **gained employment**. It made me **start my business** and I have been **extremely successful** with it. I am still not completely out of the woods yet, but I am getting there slowly.*