



APPLICATION FORM

All applications must include the following information. Separate applications must be submitted for each eligible program. **Deadline: June 1, 2018.** Please include this application form with electronic entry. If you do not receive an email confirming receipt of your entry within 3 days of submission, please contact [Gage Harter](#).

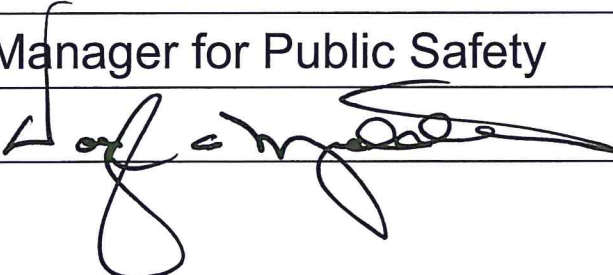
PROGRAM INFORMATION

County: County of Henrico
Program Title: The Work-Van Project: Students Upgrade Skills and County Vehicles
Program Category: Transportation

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SIGNATURE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR DEPUTY/ASSISTANT COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Name: Douglas Middleton
Title: Deputy County Manager for Public Safety
Signature: 

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1. Program Overview

The instructors in the auto body department at the Advanced Career Education (ACE) Center at Highland Springs High School in Henrico County, Virginia made their students' classroom lessons become reality by partnering with Henrico County Public Schools' (HCPS) Department of Construction and Maintenance. During the 2017-18 school year, students in the auto body classroom began painting the fleet of work vans used by the Construction and Maintenance Department. This program allows the vans to be painted at a substantial savings, while the students at the Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs gain practical firsthand experience in vehicle painting. To date, the students have painted four of the HCPS's work vans. Because of the program, auto body students take substantial pride in their school and in their accomplishments.

2. Problem/Challenge/Situation Faced by Locality

The work vans used by HCPS Construction and Maintenance Department are in good mechanical shape with operational power trains and internal components. However, the exteriors of the vans show the wear and tear of constant use and exposure to the weather. The outward condition of equipment is a representation of the professionalism and quality of the services offered by Henrico County to its residents. Because the external condition of the vans was not acceptable, the HCPS Construction and Maintenance Department formed a partnership with the Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs. The students could gain the experience of working on larger vans – an experience they often don't have – and the HCPS vehicles would look fresh, crisp, and professional for a fraction of what an auto body shop would charge.

3. How Program Fulfilled Awards Criteria

This innovative partnership was a win-win for the parties involved. It can be adapted by other localities with similar challenges, and with technical training programs that seek to provide students with real-world experience.

4. How Program Was Carried Out

The auto body program at the Advanced Career Education Center at Highland Springs was created when the technical center opened in 1971, as a program of Henrico County Public Schools. The program's long history has included many noteworthy projects and programs. However, one program that evolved during the 2017-18 school year is unique. The work-van program encompasses a broader relationship between the ACE Center at Highland Springs and the HCPS department of Construction and Maintenance. The program offers instructional and practical benefits by providing students the opportunity to professionally paint the school division's fleet of work vans and to complete body work on the vans.

The work-van program was conceived in November 2017 and implemented in December 2017. The first step in beginning the project was to identify vans that were in good mechanical condition but were externally in need of repair. Once identified, the vans were taken out of service and delivered to the ACE Center to be painted.

During the first month of the program, four jobs were completed by the students. The program has received numerous compliments for the completed work. Students are gaining a unique skill-set by painting and completing body work on large work vans. While much of this work is similar to the usual projects, students in the auto body program at the Highland Springs ACE Center usually only have the ability to work on cars, trucks, and standard vans. Students typically learn

to complete body work and paint jobs on donated parts such as fenders and hoods. When they work on an actual car, it is usually a donated car or a patron's car that does not require the level of service that the HCPS vans require. Because they rarely have the opportunity to work on vehicles of this scale, the experience gained is valuable. This program allows students the opportunity to learn in an environment similar to a real body shop. They assessed each vehicle, determined the amount of work needed, estimated the project's time and costs, and delivered a product that the satisfied the customer.

5. Financing and Staffing

The total cost of the program was minimal since all labor was provided by the students. This included stripping the vans, sanding, taping, painting, applying clear coat, etc.

The cost of materials to complete each van was approximately \$800. To date, four vans have been completed for a total cost of around \$3,200. The estimated total of this same work at a professional auto body shop would be \$18,000. As this program grows, even greater savings will be realized by HCPS.

6. Program Results

The results of the program have been excellent. Prior to the work-van program's implementation, vans needed an upgrade. While the vans were completely functional and in acceptable shape mechanically, they are out and about in the community and their appearance reflected poorly on HCPS. With the help of HCPS' auto body program, the vans are being transformed.

Another success of the program has been the cultivation of a strong work ethic in the auto body students. With the knowledge that they are helping their community, the students have displayed

an intense commitment to the project. In addition, students were able to enhance their skills by completing projects that reflect an actual workplace. This adds a level of difficulty to their normal class project work.

Finally, an ongoing list of vans to be refurbished for the Construction and Maintenance Department has been developed, and the number of student applications for the 2018-19 auto body program have increased.

7. Brief Summary

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The work-van project showcases the students' commitment and professional work, and the unique partnership formed between departments of a large school system. The students were eager each day to begin the project and took great pride in each van they completed. Their excitement has been evident at having a chance to play a role in Henrico County's professional image and potential economic development.

The Work-Van Project: Students Upgrade Skills and County Vehicles

Before photos of Henrico County work vans:



After photos of Henrico County work vans:



