



**HART Program**  
**Houston Action Research Team**  
Engaged Research Opportunity  
**Fall 2020**

## **Immigration and Criminal Justice in Harris County**

The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition (TCJC) advances solutions and builds coalitions to reduce mass incarceration and foster safer Texas communities. The current federal immigration policies thrust the intersection between immigration and criminal justice policy into the spotlight. In early 2017 Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzalez ended the county's partnership with federal authorities that involved sheriff deputies performing immigration related duties. Later that year the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 4 requiring cooperation of local criminal justice agencies with federal immigration authorities. This created a conflict between local, state and national policies. Texas' proximity to the border and Harris County's large immigrant communities make these policies especially relevant. This project will support the TCJC by consulting with stakeholders and using relevant data to identify effective policies for Harris County moving forward.

**During Fall of 2020, this HART (Houston Action Research Team) will:**

- Review and analyze existing literature on the intersection between immigration and criminal justice
- Identify stakeholders and relevant data within this intersection
- Collect information from stakeholders to build a holistic understanding of the effects of SB 4 and thoughts moving forward
- Analyze data regarding Harris County on the intersection between criminal justice and immigration
- Based on the data analyzed and information from stakeholders, identify potential policies for Harris County moving forward
- Complete a written report and oral presentation of findings and recommendations for the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition

**This engaged research opportunity is available to Rice undergraduate students for Fall of 2020.** An interdisciplinary team of four students, each of whom will bring different, but equally important, skills, knowledge, and experiences, will undertake this project. Team members will each work approximately 10 hours per week on this project between August 24<sup>th</sup> and December 16<sup>th</sup> under the guidance of Jay Jenkins (TCJC) and Alan Steinberg (CCL) and will receive \$10/hour for their project work. Work time will be flexible, although team members must attend weekly meetings and must coordinate time to work with other team members on the project as needed. Undergraduate students from **all fields of study** with interests and/or skills in at least some of the following areas are encouraged to apply:

Law, criminal justice, immigration, sociology, policy, research design, data analysis, professional writing, presentations, teamwork, community engagement, non-profits

**APPLICATIONS ARE DUE April 5, 2020**

**To inquire or apply contact Dr. Alan Steinberg, [steinberg@rice.edu](mailto:steinberg@rice.edu)**

**For more about Rice's HART Program, visit: <http://ccl.rice.edu>**