



Workers Defense Project

Proyecto Defensa Laboral



STATEMENT OF VALUES

Through the Better Builder Program, Workers Defense Project honors real estate developers, public institutions, and companies who commit to investing in good and safe working conditions for construction workers. These developers – known as Better Builders – acknowledge that safeguarding the livelihood of the local construction workforce is critical to a sustainable and prosperous construction industry.

Better Builders seek to set a higher standard on their projects beyond minimum legal requirements, which often go unenforced. Better Builders commit to:

- **A living wage** that allows construction workers to provide for themselves and their families.
- **Safety training necessary to keep themselves and their coworkers safe.** Given the variety of activities performed on a jobs site, construction workers need more than job-specific safety training. All construction workers should be equipped with OSHA-10 safety training to identify and report common safety hazards that may be present on a worksite. Safety supervisors should have OSHA-30 safety training.
- **Workers' compensation insurance** to protect workers and their families in case of an accident.
- **Access to a rewarding career in the construction industry.** The demand for skilled construction workers in Texas is at an all-time high and is only expected to increase. Craft training creates a pathway out of poverty for construction workers and is an investment in the industry's future. Better Builders agree to setting a goal of recruiting a percentage of its work force from local, DOL-registered apprenticeship programs and bilingual craft training programs that offer instruction at no cost to the worker.
- **Investing financial resources into independent, on-site monitoring** to ensure these standards are upheld throughout the contracting chain. When subcontractors do not uphold these standards, Better Builders work with Workers Defense Project approved on-site monitors to resolve wage and safety issues as soon as possible. Compensation for on-site monitoring by a Workers Defense Project approved monitor depends on the size and scope of each individual project. Spotting wage and safety issues through independent on-site monitoring can help reduce project delays, liens, and legal costs associated with poor working conditions.