Developing the Best Tool to Record Workers’ Experiences

**Construction Working Conditions in Texas: Survey Instrument Development and Pilot Project**


**Key Findings**

- Numerous employment violations occurred regularly on Texas construction sites. One in five workers statewide had experienced wage theft.
- 41% of the workforce was estimated to be misclassified as independent contractors or paid in cash with no taxes deducted.
- One in five construction workers surveyed had been seriously injured on the job.
- Nearly every construction site that surveyors visited had multiple safety violations, as documented on the Site Observation Checklists they completed at each worksite.
- Interviews with industry leaders revealed that the poor working conditions experienced by workers also negatively impact honest businesses, which are unable to compete in the current environment of lax enforcement of employment laws.

**OUTCOMES:**

- The survey instrument collected best practice recommendations from industry leaders and policy recommendations to improve working conditions and reward honest business practices. These recommendations are included in the report, “Build a Better Texas.”

- The “Build a Better Texas” report is available at http://www.workersdefense.org/build-a-better-texas-report/

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