NIEHS

National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences

Breakout Session: Job Training for Residents

Goal: This breakout focused on disaster specific curricula development and job training strategies for working with returning and displaced residents.

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Assumptions

- **There is adequate curricula and training to address hurricane disaster response training through the use existing material, etc.**
  - Adapt curricula to existing response effort
- **New partnerships have been developed in this disaster training support effort.**
  - Within NIEHS grantee community
  - Community and faith based organizations
  - Contractors
  - One stop and local support services agencies

Assumptions

- **Disaster specific curricula can be utilized in future disaster response training**
  - NIEHS JFO focused and developed training by awardees and other Feds, local and state organizations
  - Harwood Grantees
  - Mass casualties activities and training

Thought Stimulators Discussions

- What challenges have been faced in the development and training programs for returning and displaced workers and residents? How has the training target audience been determined?
  - **Jobs for locals, returning and displaced residents**
  - **Recruitment (Targeted)**
    - **Barriers**
      - **Transition**
      - **Willingness to return**
      - **Effective communication**

Thought Stimulators Discussions

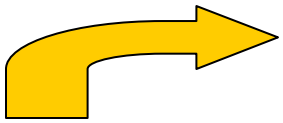
- What barriers have arisen in the development and delivery of such training and how have these been addressed? How do we deal with & what are we doing now?
  - **Housing for workers/returning residents (Short-term/long-term)**
    - **FEMA**
    - **Churches**
    - **Social Networking/Homeowners or Neighborhood Associations - ACORN**
    - **Salvation Army or Red Cross**
    - **Unions, apprenticeship and building trade organizations**
    - **Employers/Contractors**

Thought Stimulators Discussions

- Other barriers
  - **Must provide essential services**
    - Basic needs
    - Schools
    - Necessity for incentives to prevent barriers to participate

Will help with the willingness to return!

- Effective Communications



Thought Stimulators
Housing Recommendations

- Leadership to discuss and address "real" solutions is needed
- Develop demonstration project that provides a model approach to provide housing
  - Green groups (Mississippi Green Group-Bill Walsh)
  - Go after brownfields redevelopment funding
  - Obtain or develop modular/tent housing
  - Partnering with neighborhood social networks
  - Utilizing public housing, group housing, etc. for workers
- Employers should provide housing for their workers

Thought Stimulators:
Recruitment Recommendations

- **Utilize universities and churches to reach evacuees for initial contact**
- **Utilize existing relationships with organizations and individuals (neighborhood associations/social networks)**
- **Work with Job fairs and temporary housing units/trailer cities**
- **National non-profit organizations that have geared their resources toward helping Katrina evacuees**
- **Offer initial free training to residents as tool to recruit**
- **Engage workforce development groups**
  - WIA boards or One Stops such as Private Industry Councils

Thought Stimulators

- **Use Employers/Contractor/Business Relationships**
  - Provide them with free training as long as they do the recruiting of employees
  - Create business development opportunities
  - Create demonstration projects that incorporates existing and new resources to address barriers
  - Create a team among awardees to develop ‘demonstration project’
  - Program coordinators working together in cooperative initiative
  - Partner with banks and other lending institutions