Lessons Learned Working with Displaced Residents

National Institute of Environmental Health Science
2006 Spring Awardee Meeting
Birmingham, Alabama

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
Dillard University
Dr. Beverly Wright
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The Problem
Katrina Displaced
Thousands
Katrina Left Behind Debris & Hazardous Wastes

• Katrina left behind an estimated 22 million tons of debris, with more than half, 12 million tons, left in Orleans Parish.

• Flooded homes containing over one million pieces of "white goods," such as refrigerators, stoves, and freezers require disposal.

• An additional 350,000 automobiles must be drained of oil and gasoline and then recycled; 60,000 boats may need to be destroyed; and 300,000 underground fuel tanks and 42,000 tons of hazardous waste must be collected and properly disposed at licensed facilities.

• Government officials peg the numbers of cars lost in New Orleans alone at 145,000.
It Completely Destroyed Thousands of Homes
Many Others Were in Need of Repair
I AM COMING HOME!
I WILL REBUILD!
I AM NEW ORLEANS!
Shortages of Workers
Inadequate Housing for Immigrant Workers
Affected Training Sites

• New Orleans, LA
• Baton Rouge, LA
• Biloxi/Gulfport, MS
Baton Rouge

• October Target Start Date
• Outreach and Recruitment
  – FEMA Centers
  – Shelters
  – Red Cross Centers
  – Salvation Army Centers
• Modified Counseling Component
New Orleans, La

• Outreach and Recruitment
  – Trailer Park
  – Job 1
    • Baton Rouge
    • New Orleans
  – Churches
  – Unemployment Offices
  – FEMA Centers
New Orleans, La

- Basic Skills Modifications
  - Altered training hours
  - Development of counseling component “Coping with Loss”
  - Increase in the number of counselors
  - Increased connections with service organizations
Biloxi/Gulfport

Modified Basic Skills

– Truncated to 4 weeks
– Additional Construction Skills taught during Basic Skills
Job Placement

• Continuous Day to Day Interactions with Contractors
• Development of a system for identifying new contractors as they move into the area
• Thursday’s Job 1 Job Fairs
• Contact with the Mayor’s Office of Economic Development and Office of Environmental Affairs
Contact Information

Dillard University
Deep South Center for Environmental Justice
440 North Foster
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
225-201-1604
225-201-1699 (fax)
dscej@aol.com

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