

NIEHS Climate Change & Justice40:

The Value and Relevance of DSEJ Training Programs

May 17, 2022

NIEHS Awardee Meeting

Climate Change and Environmental Justice
Stakeholder Engagement Event

Beverly L. Wright, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice



ECWTP

The Perfect Pilot Program for Justice40

May 17, 2022

NIEHS Awardee Meeting

Climate Change and Environmental Justice
Stakeholder Engagement Event

Beverly L. Wright, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Deep South Center for Environmental Justice



Environmental Career Worker Training Program

ECWTP

DSCEJ has been helping the residents in Greater New Orleans obtain gainful employment since 1994 through this FREE program.





DSCEJ has a 28 year history of successfully training minority, disadvantaged, and environmentally impacted community residents in hazardous waste remediation and responding to training needs of communities after disasters.

The program offers job placement upon completion of training.

100%

of our graduates are placed in jobs within the environmental industry.



Our Beginnings:

Originally known as the *Minority Worker Training Program*, it began as a partnership between:

- Clark Atlanta University and Xavier University of Louisiana
- Under the leadership of Dr. Beverly Wright at Xavier University and Dr. Robert Bullard at Clark Atlanta

Total Number of Sites: **8**

Total Trained: **30 disadvantaged youth**

Number of persons at each site: **15**

Our Growth:

The program grew each year due to:

- quality instruction
- innovative program methodology and
- the culturally sensitive adult learning techniques employed

Why were our Training Programs selected for the Justice 40 Pilot?

The guiding principles that are the framework of Justice40 mirror the work, accomplishments, and mission of our institution.

Our training programs are time-tested, highly effective, resilient, trusted, and have met and exceeded expectations.

Shared Values

COMMUNITY POWERED

Our “Communiversality” model is the mode of operation that guarantees our partnership approach produces empowerment strategies & solutions.

COMMITMENT to ACCOUNTABLE CHANGE

DSCEJ’s presence and influence, since its inception, has been to institutionalized equity & justice into government agency practices and government systems.

DSCEJ Training Programs: ECWTP, HWWTP, and CARE

ENVIRONMENTAL CAREER WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM (ECWTP) delivers comprehensive training to those in disadvantaged & underserved communities for occupations in areas of environmental remediation. These areas include among others, environmental restoration, OSHA, construction, weatherization, hazardous materials / waste handling and emergency response. Our ECWTP has been in existence for 27 years.

DSCEJ Training Programs: ECWTP, HWWTP, and CARE

HAZARDOUS WASTE WORKER TRAINING PROGRAM (HWWTP) works in partnership with unions, first responders, city governments, and small and minority business among others, to ensure that workers become and remain certified – so that workers are active participants in improving work site safety conditions.

CARE Training

New Orleans, LA

Workforce training and placement program focused on mold remediation in response to Hurricane Ida.

- We trained 10 underemployed, and unemployed, women.
- We placed the trainees with an ECWTP alumnae business owner.
- 24-hour Mold Remediation training.
- We subsidized wages for 4-weeks.

Jonesboro, AR

Workforce training and placement program focused on muck and gut in response to the tornado devastation in western Kentucky and northeast Arkansas.

- The project trained 15 underemployed, and unemployed, women. Our next training will train 20.
- 40-hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWPOER) certification.
- We subsidize wages for 10-weeks.



ECWTP Principal & Affiliated Training Sites and their Locations

- Deep South Center for Environmental Justice – New Orleans, Louisiana
- Unity and the Family Ministries – Pensacola, Florida
- Texas South University – Houston, Texas
- Green Door Initiative – Detroit, Michigan
- Savannah, Georgia
- Mobile, Alabama

16 Years of Disaster Responses

- Hurricane Katrina-2005
- BP Oil Spill- 2010
- Hurricane Sandy- 2012
- Baton Rouge Flood-2016
- Hurricane Harvey- 2017
- Hurricane Laura - 2018
- Hurricane Barry - 2019
- Hurricane Ida - 2021



Emergency Responses in New Orleans & the River Parishes

DSCEJ's Disaster Preparedness Training Responses and Emergency Support in New Orleans and Regional Up-River Parishes came into a new focus due to the impacts & devastation caused by Hurricane Ida in last year.

Emergency Responses in New Orleans & the River Parishes

These are the River Parishes we are working in through their community-based organizations, churches, & local governments:

- St. Charles Parish,
- St. James Parish
- St. John the Baptist Parish.



Current Model:

- Students receive six weeks of basic skills training which includes job readiness and life skills training to ensure success in their educational and vocational goals.
- Students also receive six weeks of technical training with certification in the following:
 - Hazardous Waste Clean-Up
 - Asbestos Abatement
 - Lead Abatement
 - 10-Hour OSHA
 - Mold Remediation
 - Construction / Weatherization

By the Numbers 2021 -22

4 Worker Training Programs Sites

The Center is conducting its Environmental Career Worker Training Program (ECWTP) in:

- New Orleans, LA
- Houston, TX
- Detroit, MI
- Pensacola, FL.

By the Numbers 2021 -22

4 Worker Training Programs Sites

All program sites had completed program operations under its ECWTP by April 30, 2022 having made changes in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It also conducted the Hazardous Waste Worker Training Program (HWWTP) with New Orleans, LA; Houston, TX; and Savannah, GA as well as training sites responsible for delivering training in additional communities in Pensacola, FL; Atlanta, GA; Mobile, AL; Gulfport, MS; Detroit, MI; Boston MA; and Jacksonville, FL.

By the Numbers 2021 -22

5,509 Training Hours

1,198 Individuals Trained in 7 states

44 Classes Delivered



By the Numbers 2021 -22

86

program graduates were placed in construction and environmental remediation jobs locally and in other states where workers are needed.