

Capacity Building 1 Final Report

GULF RESEARCH PROGRAM

Project Title: Strengthening Gulf Coast Resilience by Engaging, Educating and Empowering Vulnerable

Populations

Award Amount: \$377,455

Awardee: Franklin's Promise Coalition, Inc

Award Start Date: 05/01/17 **Award End Date:** 10/31/19 **NAS Grant ID:** 2000008152

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Project Key Personnel:

• Betty Webb, Franklin's Promise Coalition

- Angela Lindsey, University of Florida/IFAS, Center for Public Issues
- Brian Mayer, University of Arizona, College of Social and Behavioral Science
- Andrew Kane, University of Florida, College of Health and Health Professions/Environment al and Global Health, UF Emerging Pathogens Institute
- John Hosey, The Corps Network

I. PROJECT SUMMARY (from proposal)

Vulnerable subpopulations within Gulf coastal communities can be a burden on environmental management and disaster recovery processes. Further, community, technical and other capital assets from these subpopulations are typically not bridled during times of change or disaster. Engaging vulnerable populations in environmental stewardship and disaster readiness will strengthen Gulf coast resilience by engaging leaders from two vulnerable sectors, seafood industries and underserved youth ages 18-25. Over the course of the project, academic partners will provide science literacy and leadership support to empower participants to serve as catalysts for improved resilience in their communities.

The overarching goal of this community-based research and education project is to build capacity in vulnerable Gulf coast population sectors relative to disasters and the changing environment. Three specific objectives have been developed to achieve this goal within two community sectors in northeast Gulf communities, Seafood Stakeholders and Youth Disaster Corps programs:

Objective 1. Provide culturally-relevant, scientific support and environmental literacy to targeted vulnerable Gulf coastal populations through cross-boundary community networking.

Objective 2. Enhance regional conservation corps capacity, develop Gulf Disaster Corps and provide Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) certification and training opportunities for disaster response and sustainable coastal restoration.

Objective 3. Conduct social network analyses, at individual and community levels, to identify changes in perceptions and behaviors associated with environmental stewardship, and capacity-building efforts with Seafood Stakeholders and Youth Disaster Corps trainees.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY (from final report)

Here on the Gulf Coast, it became apparent after the BP oil spill that community capacity to respond to and recover from disasters needed to be strengthened, particularly among the most vulnerable of the population. Through studying the oil spill response, two of the community's most vulnerable populations were identified as not engaged in the disaster preparation, response, or recovery processes; opportunity youth (ages 16-25 who are not engaged in school or a career path) and the stakeholders of the seafood industry. Together they have skills and resources valuable to community's ability to endure and recover from disasters, but they were not involved in the response or involved in the recovery The project engaged over 80 participants to establish 6 Community Emergency Response Teams. They responded to four disasters with Hurricane Michael being the most devastating. For the hurricane, the teams came together to clear trees, "muck and gut" homes, distribute food, and repair roofs. They impacted over 60 households and distributed food to over 6,000 people. Now, at the end of the project, Youth Disaster Corps are serving as Community Emergency Response Teams from Mississippi to Florida and the plan is to incorporate another six teams over the next year. These teams will train together, will speak a common language, and will greatly improve disaster recovery capabilities in the Southeast, especially along the Gulf Coast.

III. PROJECT RESULTS

Accomplishments

The overall goal was to build capacity in two of the community's most vulnerable populations, which are typically not engaged in the disaster preparation, response, or recovery processes. Opportunity Youth (ages 16-25 who are not engaged in school or a career path) and the stakeholders of the seafood industry who all have skills and resources valuable to community's ability to endure and recover from disasters, but are seldomly cultivated as community resources/assets. This project invested in engagement, training, network building and hands-on experiences to establish and support 6 Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT). These teams have participated in over 40 environmental mitigation projects, responded to four local and regional disasters, and supported over 60 community outreach and education activities. The outcomes are over 80 CERT trained community members, relationships with over 20 regional and national disaster response partners, and validated model to be grown for future implementation.

Implications

Outcomes indicate a strong potential for success when young adults, particularly "opportunity youth" are engaged in structured programs, such as conservation corps, which include disaster training and engagement as an integral element of the experience. Supporting the continuation of the program model is a priority for the Coalition, the Corps Network and the Nature Conservancy. Disaster training and the flexibility to respond to disasters are being planned into future conservation corps programs such as GulfCorps and the OYSI Americorps opportunities provided through the Corps Network. In collaboration with the Corps Network, efforts are underway to expand the disaster corps model to 6

new crews within the membership. Communities will greatly benefit, in both the short and long term, from instilling these skills in young adults. They will be able to respond effectively in disasters in their household, neighborhoods, and regions. They will be assets, bringing their skills to contribute to solving problems, verses (in the worst cases) being a burden on disaster response and recovery systems/resources.

Unexpected Results

The unexpected result has been the difficulty of engaging members of the established seafood industry. As the industry has evolved, "old time" seafood workers have diversified their ability to earn a livelihood, moving away from working on the water. While they continue to be supportive of the efforts, the support tends to be for the efforts to involve the youth, most often their children/grandchildren. In support of the displaced workers which the project originated with, efforts now include support of a local civic organization to address community concerns and future problems, including disasters. The developing aquaculture industry (the new seafood workers) have been focused on developing their businesses, but in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, are opening to the idea of disaster preparations and training. There is still a divide between the old and new within this population.

On the other hand, the engagement of the youth disaster corps has exceeded expectations. Community support, particularly in the response to Hurricane Michael, enabled additional crews to be established with a specific focus on response and recovery. The support and commitment by partners to continue and expand the youth disaster corps is encouraging.

Project Relevance

The following audiences would be most interested in the results of this project:

- Researchers
- Educators
- Community Leaders
- Local Government Officials
- State Government Officials
- Federal Government Officials
- Non-Profit Private Sector
- For-Profit Private Sector

Researchers, examining the value (and how to increase the engagement) of young adults under 25 in disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

Educators, incorporating disaster mitigation, response, and recovery skill building and experiences into educational curriculums.

Community Leaders, engaging and providing resources to include young adults under 25 in disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

Local Government Officials, providing resources and committing to include young adults under 25 in disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

State Government Officials, providing resources and developing policies to include young adults under 25 in disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

Federal Government Officials, providing resources to and institutionalizing the inclusion of young adults under 25 in disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

Non-Profit Private Sector, collaborate and create pathways/opportunities providing to include young adults under 25 in disaster mitigation, response, and recovery.

Education and Training

Number of students, postdoctoral scholars, or educational components involved in the project:

- Undergraduate students: 2
- Graduate students: 0
- Postdoctoral scholars: 0
- Other educational components: 81

Other educational components involved: Conservation Corps Crew Members (to include ED Corps) and Displaced Seafood Workers.

IV. DATA AND INFORMATION PRODUCTS

This project produced data and information products of the following types:

- Data
- Information Products
- Websites or data portals

DATA

Data Management Report:

See attached Data Management Report.

Relationships Between Data Sets:

N/A, only one data set.

Additional Documentation Produced to Describe Data:

N/A

Other Activities to Make Data Discoverable:

N/A

Sensitive, Confidential, or Proprietary Data:

N/A

INFORMATION PRODUCTS

Information Products Report:

See attached Information Products Report.

Citations for Project Publications, Reports and Monographs, and Workshop and Conference Proceedings:

N/A

Websites and Data Portals:

Franklin's Promise Coalition, www.franklinspromise.org

Website will be active throughout the organizational lifetime, should any changes occur, information will be made available to the University of Florida.

Additional Documentation Produced to Describe Information Products:

N/A

Other Activities to Make Information Products Accessible and Discoverable:

We will continue to work with project partners to develop youth disaster corps models and share successes.

Confidential, Proprietary, Specially Licensed Information Products:

N/A"

V. PUBLIC INTEREST AND COMMUNICATIONS

Most Unique or Innovative Aspect of the Project

The most innovative element was the engagement of vulnerable populations in the comprehensive disaster mitigation, response and recovery processes. While typically the traditional disaster agencies focus on the larger, broad population, this project identified two micro populations. While the engagement of the displaced seafood worker population was difficult, they did support the effort, more so for the young people in their communities, notably their children and grandchildren. The engagement of opportunity youth through a network of local conservation corps was highly successful and worthy of investment to continue and expand the model.

Most Exciting or Surprising Thing Learned During the Project

The most surprising aspect of the project was the evolution of the seafood industry and the paradox of support, but yet disengagement, from the seafood workers. As the industry changed, most were distracted by reinventing their careers/"ways to make a living", and simply had little time to invest in the project.

The exciting outcomes were the engagement of the opportunity youth to create and participate in the disaster corps as CERT members. The community embraced and acknowledged their accomplishments,

both as groups and as individuals. The involvement in the project (the Disaster Corps) built pride and self-worth for the participants. Individual and corporation sponsored and funded their work.

Most Important Outcome or Benefit of Project

The value of opportunity youth as engaged and trained CERT members in disaster mitigation, response, and recovery process has tremendous impact, both short and long term.

Communications, Outreach, and Dissemination Activities of Project

Facebook:

- Franklin's Promise Coalition, https://www.facebook.com/franklinspromisecoalition/
- Conservation Corps of the Forgotten Coast, https://www.facebook.com/Conservationcorpsforgottencoast/
- Conservation Corps of the Emerald Coast, https://www.facebook.com/Conservationcorpsemeraldcoast/?modal=admin_todo_tour

NOAA:

 $\underline{https://videos.fisheries.noaa.gov/detail/videos/banner-videos/video/6150799131001/restoring-the-gulf:-10-years-after-deepwater-\\$

 $\frac{horizon?autoStart=true\&fbclid=IwAR1fY8H56TXUKTrv3FcxQZi09X1oUecpnfeHsdUO3r2hxY4i6yzkF1pCi0}{4}$

Data Report

DataType	DigitalResourceType	Title	FileName	Creators	PointofContact	PublicationYear	RepositoryName	DOIorPersistentURL	Keywords	Publications
Social/Cultural	Tabular/Spreadsheet	Social Networks	tbd	Mayer, Brian	Brian Mayer, brianmayer@email.arizon a.edu. 520-626-2190	tbd	tbd	tbd	youth corps, social networks	na

Information Products Report

InfoProductType	DigitalResourceType	Title	FileName	Creators	PublicationYear	Publisher	RepositoryName	DOIorPersistentURL	DatasetReference
			https://franklinspromisecoalition.wildapricot.						
Website or Data Portals	Web Based Resource	Conservation Corps & ED Corps.	org/Conservation-Corps-of-the-Forgotten-	Taylor, J		Franklin's Promise			
Digital Tools or Other Interactive		Facebook for Forgotten Coast	https://www.facebook.com/Conservationcorp						
Media	Web Based Resource	Conservation Corps	sforgottencoast/	Taylor, J		Facebook			
			Franklin-98 Habitat Suitability Analysis and	Apalachee Regional Planning					
		Franklin-98: Habitat Suitability Analysis	Materials	Council & Ecology &					
Report or Monograph	Text	& Materials Evaluation	Evaluation_Summary_March19_2020[1]	Enviroment, Inc.	2020				
Workshop or Conference									
Proceeding	Video	Operation Fundstorm Documentary	https://vimeo.com/393154556/14ec891aae	Mark Branigan	2020	Mark Branigan	Vimeo		