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## President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

### *Hurricane Katrina Recovery*



**Amount:** \$12,000,000

**Grantee:** Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, Montgomery, AL; Louisiana Department of Labor, Baton Rouge, LA; Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Jackson, MS; Texas Workforce Commission, Austin, TX. (\$3 million to each state)

**Challenge:** One of the challenges facing states and local areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina is the need to ramp up training capacity in high growth, high demand industries that may be very different than pre-Katrina. There will be a critical need for trained workers in industries such as construction, energy, health care, transportation and safety/security.

**Addressing the challenge:** The U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration is providing grants totaling \$12 million to the impacted states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Texas (as a primary host state for evacuees) to enhance their capacity to provide training in these industries that are critical to the economic recovery of the Gulf region.

The majority of the funds will be focused on actual training for hurricane impacted individuals. Some portion of the funding will also be available to support building the capacity of educational institutions, such as community colleges, to be able to provide the training. Because they are well positioned for this purpose, states will be required to make every effort to utilize community and technical colleges as the primary training provider. Capacity building activities may include hiring additional instructors, leasing space for the training, purchasing necessary equipment, developing clinical experiences and so on.

The training is intended to be short term and flexible and use a wide array of training models including virtual or distance learning, apprenticeship models, internships, or other innovative training strategies. The training will be designed to link to opportunities for additional training and/or career pathways in these critical industries. Where feasible, the training will result in industry recognized credentials. As with all DOL funded training investments, states will be required to track the employment outcomes of individuals trained.

These grants, which provide critical workforce education capacity for the Katrina impacted states, will support and leverage overall economic redevelopment efforts. The grant to Texas will enhance its ability to position many Louisiana hurricane victims to eventually return home to good jobs and careers.

