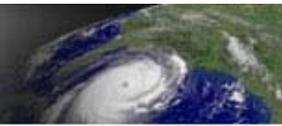


# **HURRICANE RECOVERY SERVICES**



## *Pathways to Employment and Community Revitalization*

Building on a partnership that exists between the Department of Labor and Manpower Inc., the State of Mississippi is initiating an effort to encourage its Katrina-affected residents to return home for employment. The state's partnership venture will serve as a potential model for other hurricane-affected states as well as for future collaboration between the public workforce system and staffing firms.

The partnership will target areas within the state and in host states with high concentrations of Mississippi evacuees. In these communities, the Department of Labor will broker relationships between the workforce system and Manpower to reach out to evacuees, conduct assessments of their employability, and jointly work to provide evacuees with additional skills development where needed.

Where appropriate, Manpower will issue a "Career Passport" to those individuals who qualify as "Manpower-certified for employment." The cards will enable hurricane-affected Mississippians to access employment opportunities through Manpower offices or One-Stop Career Centers in host communities and when they return home to Mississippi.

Additionally, the Mississippi public workforce system will develop "Working Your Way Back Home Portfolios" of available resources and services designed to promote re-employment in high-growth, high-demand careers. The portfolios may include resources such as training opportunities, relocation reimbursement, and supportive services. Finally, the public workforce system and Manpower partnership will support the creation of "Corporate Sponsorships" that also would encourage Mississippians to come home to work in Mississippi. These private sector sponsorships could supplement the "Coming Home Portfolios" and include such assistance as training, child care, and relocation expenses. Both Manpower and the public workforce system will partner to ensure that Mississippi residents dislocated by the hurricane will have access to both of these resources.

There are many benefits to this partnership. Evacuees will receive personal assistance from trained career counselors, from both Manpower and the public workforce system, who will assess their skills, evaluate their skills development needs, and refer them to employment. The State of Mississippi is connected to an array of employers and will have help in bringing its citizens home to work in ways that meet evacuees' needs for long-lasting employment.