

HURRICANE REINTEGRATION COUNSELOR



Grant Amount: \$15,000,000

Grantees: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia

Challenge: Hurricanes Katrina and Rita have displaced hundreds of thousands of individuals from Gulf Coast states and temporarily relocated them across the nation. Many of these Americans are without jobs, separated from family members, and without personal or professional networks to connect them with employment and other services. Many remain in evacuee centers across the country. Most of these individuals need immediate and ongoing assistance from across the spectrum of services, as well as the guidance of experienced professionals providing career and employment direction.

Addressing the Challenge: The goal of this initiative is to enhance the capacity of the nation's One-Stop delivery system to provide intensive career and life counseling directly to individuals displaced due to the hurricanes, either in evacuee centers or in communities with high concentrations of individuals displaced due to the hurricanes. Such one-on-one guidance will expedite a return to the labor force in a person's temporary community or home state, thereby promoting opportunity and economic stability.

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has committed \$15,000,000 to fund approximately 150 highly skilled reintegration counselors in 12 states (for up to six months.) The funds will be used to secure the counselors and support their service delivery efforts with equipment, space, communications support, and mobility.

The counselors' connection to the One-Stop system in these locations will be critical to ensuring that individuals displaced due to the hurricanes have access to the full array of employment, training, education, and human services available in their communities. Local One-Stop Career Centers receiving one or more reintegration counselors will be given a support package to help expedite the provision of tools and resources that counselors need to do their jobs. The overall goal is to get counselors quickly in place to offer services, as well as support the successful re-employment and reintegration of individuals displaced due to the hurricanes.

Announced on September 28, 2005