DEEP SOUTH CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE/Texas Southern University
GULF COAST COVID-19 RECOVERY CENTER

Presented by:
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Founding Director

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Gulf Coast COVID-19 Recovery Center

- The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice has established a unique *Communiversity* Model (NIEHS, 2012) for advancing its work that has over the last 25 years enhanced the success of its worker training program.
- At its core, the Recovery Center involves a process for the development of trusting relationships based on respect of the worth of knowledge each partner brings to the table to solve problems.
- The Gulf Coast Covid-19 Recovery Center embodies this approach in its efforts to move high risk Covid-19 communities in the Gulf Coast into the “Recovery Phase” utilizing collaborations that can:
  1. increase capacities for cross-sectional understanding between communities and collaborative members; and
  2. transform how individuals view the technical context of success while using its unique make-up that includes Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Community Based Organizations (CBOs), serving the selected target populations.
**Unique Features of the Recovery Center**

1. Repository of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

2. Online Mobile Metro New Orleans Community Resource App
   a) online searchable guide providing the location, contact and detailed information about any of the resources listed within the guide to be produced in five languages
      i. English, Spanish, Vietnamese, French and Arabic

3. Infographics
   a) designed to provide target communities with information specific to their neighborhoods/communities concerning awareness, severity and impact of COVID-19 on health and the environment
UNIQUE FEATURE: EXAMPLE OF AN INFOGRAPHIC

for St. John the Baptist Parish

COVID-19
St. John the Baptist Parish, LA

St. John the Baptist Parish ranks #19 in deaths and #25 in cases statewide

129 deaths
1.4% of deaths statewide
3462 cases
3% of cases statewide

173 tests conducted per 1000 residents
Testing data for week of 4/22-4/28
2.4% average positivity rate

St. John the Baptist Parish Risk Level
High

Cases and Deaths in St. John the Baptist Parish, 2021

COVID-19 risk is not equal for all people in St. John the Baptist Parish

1.3 TIMES

A Black person in St. John the Baptist Parish is more likely to test positive for COVID-19 than a White person

% of Population % of COVID-19 Deaths % of COVID-19 Cases

St. John the Baptist Parish is home to
12 industrial facilities that release
5.17 million pounds of toxic pollution each year

Exposure to air pollution is linked to increased risk of death from COVID-19

Population data from American Community Survey, 2019
COVID-19 cases, testing and mortality data from the Louisiana Department of Health COVID-19 Dashboard
Pollution data from EPA Toxic Release Inventory, 2019
1. Critical and essential workers and their communities in five Gulf Coast states

2. DSCEJ is partnering with seven Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) currently participating in one or more of the DSCEJ’s collaborative projects

3. Unity in the Family Ministry (UFM) is a training site for the ECWTP and hosts HWWTP training activities

4. Three CBOs have multilingual constituencies and have at their disposal Spanish and Vietnamese language translators
   a. Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS)
   b. Coalition of Community Organizations (C.O.C.O.)
   c. East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC)
5 Black Communities in the Gulf Coast Region Disproportionately Affected by COVID-19

- Africatown Historic District, Mobile, Alabama
- Lower Ninth Ward, New Orleans, Louisiana
- Pleasantville Community, Houston, Texas
- Wedgewood Community, Pensacola, Florida
- Turkey Creek, Gulfport, Mississippi

Pollution of waterways

- More than a decade after Hurricane Katrina:
  - Food deserts
  - Blighted housing
  - Polluting hazards from nearby Port of New Orleans vessels

- Exposure to industrial hazards at the Port of Houston:
  - Idling trucks pollute the air
  - Hazardous rail cars threaten safety
  - 24/7 noise pollution

Inequitable Recovery...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City, County/Parish, State</th>
<th>Community-Based Organization</th>
<th>Community/Neighborhood Served</th>
<th>COVID-19 Impacts (Based on state health department reports as of Dec. 28, 2020)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mobile, Mobile County, AL</td>
<td>Clean, Educated, Safe and Sustainable (CHESS)</td>
<td>Africatown</td>
<td>Mobile County ranks 2nd in the state for the highest number of COVID-19 deaths. Black people die from COVID-19 at a rate that is 1.6 times higher than White people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pensacola, Escambia County, FL</td>
<td>Unity in the Family Ministry (UFM)</td>
<td>Wedgewood, Olive Heights and Rolling Hills</td>
<td>Escambia County ranks 17th in the state for the highest number of COVID-19 deaths. Black people die from COVID-19 at a rate that is 1.5 times higher than White people.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Orleans, Orleans Parish, LA</td>
<td>East New Orleans Neighborhood Advisory Commission (ENONAC)</td>
<td>Forty-eight neighborhood subdivisions</td>
<td>Orleans Parish ranks 2nd in the state for the highest number of COVID-19 deaths. Black people die from COVID-19 at a rate that is 1.7 times higher than White people. Eight census tracts have more than half of the COVID-19 deaths in the parish. Five of the census tracts are located in East New Orleans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gulfport, Harrison County, MS</td>
<td>Education, Economics, Environmental, Climate and Health Organization (EEECHO)</td>
<td>Handsboro/Mississippi City, Magnolia Grove, North Gulfport, The Quarters, Soria City</td>
<td>Harrison County ranks 5th in the state for highest number of COVID-19 deaths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Houston, Harris County, TX</td>
<td>Achieving Community Tasks Successfully (ACTS)</td>
<td>Pleasantville</td>
<td>Harris County ranks 1st in state for highest number of COVID-19 deaths.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Coalition of Community Organizations (COCO)</td>
<td>Fifth Ward, Kashmere Gardens, Trinity Gardens, Denver Harbor, Fontaine-Scenic Woods, and Settegast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Alabama Department of Environmental Management approves Kemira Chemical's application that has blank pages on pollution controls.
ACHIEVING COMMUNITY TASKS SUCCESSFULLY (ACTS)
PLEASANTVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD
HOUSTON, TX

Exposure to industrial hazards at the Port of Houston

- Idling trucks pollute the air
- Hazardous rail cars threaten safety
- 24-7 noise pollution
5 African-American Communities
Gulfport, Mississippi

Pollution of waterways
Unity in the Family Ministry
Wedgewood • Olive Heights • Rolling Hills
Pensacola, FL

Toxic Landfills and Burrow Pits
LOWER 9TH WARD CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT (CSED)
NEW ORLEANS, LA

Lower Ninth Ward
New Orleans, Louisiana
Inequitable Recovery...

More than a decade after Hurricane Katrina:

-- Food deserts
-- Blighted housing
-- Polluting hazards from nearby Port of New Orleans vessels

A Snapshot Of Black New Orleans Post-Hurricane Katrina

Though the African American population continues to be the majority in New Orleans, the number of black families has decreased dramatically since Hurricane Katrina

2005 2015
67% 59%

100,000 fewer African-Americans reside in New Orleans post-Hurricane Katrina

The median income gap between African-Americans and whites grew by
18%

The median income for white families increased by 7%.

60%

A Louisiana State University survey found that 60% of white Louisiana residents said the city as "mostly recovered," while 60 percent of Blacks said the state has not.
COVID-19 Recovery Center Training Plan & Courses

Proposed DSCEJ COVID-19 Workers Training Courses – 2021-2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th># of Courses/Year</th>
<th># of Trainees Per Course</th>
<th>Contact Hrs. Per Course</th>
<th>Total Number of Contact Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 for Construction Workers</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 Disaster Preparedness</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Essential Worker</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health &amp; COVID-19</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science &amp; the COVID-19 Vaccine</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Train the Trainer</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Awareness</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Total (Virtual + In person) Number of Contact Hour/Year: 1800

Four courses will be taught annually, in which 3 courses are virtual and one is in-person; each course will be taught 1 time/quarter.
Course will be taught virtually to community leaders one time per year.
Six courses will be taught annually to community members virtually; the course will be taught one time every other month.
It is proposed that 166 individuals will be taught virtually and 75 individuals will attend in-person training. A total of 1800 training hours (virtual + in-person) will be conducted.

Proposed 12-Month/Year DSCEJ COVID-19 Training Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Week One</th>
<th>Week Two</th>
<th>Week Three</th>
<th>Week Four</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Community Train the Trainer</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>COVID-19 for Construction Workers</td>
<td>Community Awareness</td>
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The above schedule covers 12 months or 1 year of training, thus, two (2) cycles of the proposed training will be conducted over a 2 year period.

Target Audience
- Community members and clergy
- Delivery personnel, maintenance and custodial staff, construction and municipality workers
- Small business owners

Content of Training
- "Making a COVID-19 Disaster Kit"
- "Proper donning and doffing of PPE," chemical safety, and proper cleaning and disinfection techniques, chemical safety
- "Developing a COVID-19 exposure and health and safety plan," "Intro to OSHA," employer responsibilities

Deep South Center for COVID-19 Recovery
Our collaborations with CBOs informed the selection of 3 new training modules:

- Social and emotional wellness during COVID-19 modules respond to trauma that besets essential workers, their families and communities including: (1) fear of catching the virus, dying or transmitting it to family; (2) fear of the vaccine; economic concerns that include: (3) fear of job loss - quitting, layoffs, firings due to COVID; (4) fear of not being able to provide for the family during the pandemic; and (5) fear of homelessness

These modules are:

1. *Expanding the Community’s Capacity to Heal Itself*
2. *Living with COVID-19*
3. *Trusting Science: Should I Take the Vaccine?*