

Disaster Preparedness for Post Disaster Economic Recovery

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IEDC

- Non-profit professional association with over 4,500 members

IEDC's Economic Recovery Work

- Gulf Coast Economic Recovery Volunteer Program
- Workshops / Forums
- Partnered with BCLC on providing Economic Recovery Technical Assistance:
 - Cedar Rapids, IA; San Diego Wildfires; Galveston, TX
- Capacity Building Support for Long-term Economic Recovery in New Orleans and region



Small Business Recovery Workshop:

Edward Lowe Foundation Leadership Center

Dec 15-17, 2009

- IEDC, NADO and BCLC convened a group of 27 economic recovery stakeholders to discuss the subject of post-disaster economic recovery
- Focused on small business recovery from catastrophic events occurring during the last 10 to 15 years.
- Discussed what chambers, EDO, and civic organizations do well and where there is room for improvement
- Discussed appropriate roles for the private and nonprofit sectors as well as all levels of government
- Identified a framework for pre-disaster economic recovery planning



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Pre-Disaster Planning Activities For Economic Recovery

- Business Community Engagement
- Capacity Building in Economic Recovery
- Financing
- Workforce Planning
- Redevelopment



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Background Issues

- Post-disaster, small businesses face limited: access to capital, workforce options, technical assistance resources, insurance options, customer base
- Assumption that there are significant federal resources to help with business recovery
- Burden on local level for different types of disasters (non-Presidential disaster declaration)
- Timely access to capital is extremely important for small business recovery
- Multiple benefits for performing pre-disaster planning efforts



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Business Community Engagement

Issue: Need to engage the business community in emergency management issues and disaster preparation activities

1. Build your economic recovery response team
2. Deliver education in disaster preparedness for local businesses
4. Identify issues for post-disaster business re-entry and develop tiered system for business re-entry
5. Identify contracting & procurement opportunities for economic recovery services for local businesses



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Capacity Building in Economic Recovery

Issue: Need to build capacity across the economic development support system

1. Focus on EDO/Chamber's organizational issues
 - Backup office locations & strategy for Business Recovery Center
2. Develop a Communication Strategy
 - Backup database of files, emails and cells; communication plan
3. Involve Business Community in EM Support function
 - Establish ED rep as community level EOC for business com. prep
7. Develop metrics for monitoring post-disaster impacts
9. Economic Recovery Plan for local community



Financing

Issue: Need to identify and organize financial resources to assist in both short and long-term economic recovery

1. Organize capital availability for businesses
 - Identify all financial resources that can be brought to table
3. Identify local resources for technical assistance to businesses
4. Identify other sources of economic recovery resources & funds for operational financing
5. Advocate for preparations for reserve fund or insurance for local government
6. Develop strategy for economic recovery incentives



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Workforce Planning

Issue: Need to deal with major issues around the availability and retention of local workforce for businesses

1. Involve private sector in solution for workforce housing
2. Work with Workforce Investment Board (WIB) to develop disaster contingency plan with business needs in mind
3. Develop transportation strategy for workforce



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Redevelopment

Issue: Need to redevelop community in a way that is more resilient while considering business needs and interests

1. Considerations for redevelopment that should be discussed prior to the disaster
 - Land use and rebuilding in environmentally sensitive areas
 - Building codes, building materials for building more resilient communities
 - Availability and sources of capital for redevelopment



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Conclusion

- Engaging the business community means expanding the resources for emergency management & mitigation
- Each stakeholder's involvement in this effort will be different
 - business leaders have limited time - need to understand what they want to get out of their engagement to maintain commitment and motivation
- This preparation both helps better prepare your community for a disaster and strengthen your community's economic development efforts



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Thank You

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