Economic Recovery Support Function Overview
IEDC Disaster Recovery Workshop
August 28, 2012
• **NDRF Background:**
  • Base document finalized in September 2011
  • Describes and institutionalizes agency-wide approaches to prepare for, plan for, and manage disaster recoveries.
  • Seeks to provide a structure for all Federal agencies to participate in on-going disaster planning and recovery that would facilitate problem solving, improved access to resources, and foster coordination among state and Federal agencies and nongovernmental partners and stakeholders.

• **Commerce/EDA Role:**
  • The Department of Commerce (DOC), through the Economic Development Administration (EDA), leads the Economic Recovery Support Function (RSF) of the NDRF.
Fundamental economic recovery concepts:

- Investment of time, energy, and resources pre-disaster is key.
- Integrating resiliency planning into economic, workforce, and community development could yield benefits pre- and post-disaster.
- Primacy of private sector, as well as state/local government, in defining and implementing economic recovery.
- Importance of perception and expectations.
- Interdependency on other RSFs’ post-disaster performance (notably, infrastructure, HSS, housing).
- Post-disaster economic recovery initiatives should consider and address the unique needs of the community. Some could include, but are not limited to:
  - Community Planning
  - Cash Flow
  - Business Resumption
  - Finance and Insurance
  - Workforce Development
  - Economic Development
  - Small Business
  - Marketing and Communications
  - Assessment and Evaluation
• Pre-disaster economic resiliency measures should include:
  – Mitigate the potential for future economic injury;
  – Promote a faster “up-time” for economic anchors (e.g. key businesses and/or industries); and,
  – Enable a stronger capacity to troubleshoot vulnerabilities within the regional economy

• Economic RSF agencies work to integrate with the Mitigation Framework, within the context of economic recovery, to promote economic resiliency.

• Examples of pre- and post- disaster economic resiliency, in practice:
  – Diversify the industrial base (both geographically and across industries)
  – Enhance business retention and expansion programs
  – Focus efforts on strengthening existing high-growth businesses
  – Increasing the availability of “baseline” business information
  – Increasing the communications connections between local government, emergency management, utilities, and the business community
• Preparedness and resiliency efforts should be \textit{long-term} and yield benefits pre- and post-disaster.
ECONOMIC RSF BASICS
WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC RSF?

- The mission of the Economic RSF is to integrate the expertise of the Federal government to help local, state, and tribal governments and the private sector sustain and/or rebuild businesses and employment, and develop economic opportunities that result in sustainable and economically resilient communities, after significant natural and man-made disasters.

- Key role for Economic RSF is to facilitate economic recovery, not drive it.
WHO IS THE ECONOMIC RSF?

• **Federal Partners:**
  – **Coordinating Agency**
    • Department of Commerce/Economic Development Administration (DOC/EDA)
  – **Primary Agencies:**
    • Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency (DHS/FEMA)
    • Department of Labor (DOL)
    • Small Business Administration (SBA)
    • Department of the Treasury (TREAS)
    • U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
  – **Supporting Organizations:**
    • Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)
    • Department of Interior (DOI)
    • Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
    • Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
    • Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
WHO IS THE ECONOMIC RSF? (CONT.)

• Federal Partners:
  – Additional Agencies with ad hoc engagement:
    • Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
    • Appalachian Regional Commission
    • Delta Regional Authority

• Common State/Regional/Private Sector Partners:
  – Economic development organizations
  – Workforce development organizations
  – Chambers of commerce
  – Development authorities
  – Utilities
  – Institutions of higher education
  – Regional planning commissions
  – Councils of government
  – Economic Development Districts
  – Financial institutions
  – State insurance agencies
  – State taxation and revenue agencies
  – Elected officials
  – Planning organizations
  – Community development organizations
  – Critical infrastructure owners/operators
  – Other?
WHAT ARE SOME OF THE RSF ACTIVITIES POST-DISASTER?

• **Short-term**
  – Conducting assessments of economic recovery issues and preparing demographic and economic baseline data;
  – Considering the impacts on critical supply chains and local industries;
  – Identifying cash flow issues for businesses and individuals;
  – Facilitating/supporting insurance claim processing through information sharing and technical assistance;
  – Facilitating/supporting businesses reopening;
  – Providing technical assistance to promote economic recovery, financial literacy and strategic planning;
  – Encouraging local procurement;
  – Providing technical assistance to help communities develop plans and policies that coordinate land use and infrastructure investments in support of sustainable economic recovery;
• **Short-term (cont.)**
  - Promoting information sharing with the economic development, workforce development and business communities;
  - Facilitating/supporting local decision-making;
  - Addressing local employment issues (e.g., workers available to work);
  - Mitigating “false economies” resulting from post-disaster construction/response;
  - Addressing supply chain and physical infrastructure interdependency issues (e.g., vendor and distributor is impacted by physical damage);
  - Supporting community efforts to identify short-term, intermediate and long term strategies for maintaining and restoring the tax base;
  - Promoting information sharing to highlight existing sources of financial assistance;
  - Providing regulatory relief, if applicable and available; and
  - Addressing local market issues (e.g., facilitating customers and suppliers engaging in commerce).
• Intermediate
  – Reviewing/monitoring economic impact assessments;
  – Reviewing tax and regulatory relief opportunities;
  – Implementing recovery initiatives identified in the short-term, including initiatives to restore critical supply chains and local industries;
  – Continuing recovery investments initiated in the short-term;
  – Restoring private sector capacity (e.g., supporting investment in restoring infrastructure development and redevelopment, encouraging business retention and expansion);
  – Furthering diversification initiatives;
  – Facilitating, promoting and encouraging outside investment;
  – Facilitating the leveraging of public and private sector resources to further catalytic projects that encourage job replacement/growth in the community; and
  – Facilitating the timely disbursement of direct financial assistance (e.g., claims, loans, grants).
• **Long-term**
  - Providing economic impact assessments once damage assessments are completed, as appropriate;
  - Continuing recovery investments initiated in the short and intermediate terms;
  - Supporting community efforts to define and pursue the establishment of a “new normal” in the local economy;
  - Continued facilitation and investment in economic diversification initiatives;
  - Phasing-in tax and regulatory requirements;
  - Capturing disaster-related opportunities (e.g., chance to innovate, bring in new industries, create green spaces, revise economic development strategy based upon lessons learned); and
  - Transitioning from post-disaster to disaster readiness.
• EDA’s role is to serve as an aggregator and coordinator of interagency economic recovery activities
• Activities are enabled through FEMA mission assignment and collaborative relationships with other agencies to improve information-sharing, leverage resources, and more efficiently deliver services.
**RSF COORDINATION MODEL**

**Key Activities**

- Information Sharing – Issues/Impact
- Information Sharing – Agency Activities
- Execution of Program Authorities for Recovery
- Establish Common Objectives

**Support for Community-Driven Recovery**

**Fundamental Core Elements**

- Economic RSF
- DOC-Lead

**Support Orgs**

- USDA
- FEMA
- DOL
- DOC
- SBA

**State**

**Community**

**Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator**

Shared Information, Coordinated Activities, Shared Strategy, Execution of Steady-State Programs for Recovery
PAST ECONOMIC RSF ENGAGEMENTS
FIELD TESTING/DEPLOYMENT OF THE RSF

- Tennessee – 2010 - Flooding
- Gulf Coast – 2010 – BP Oil Spill
- Alabama -2011 – Tornadoes
- New York – 2011 – Hurricane/TS
- Vermont – 2011 – Hurricane/TS
- Joplin, MO – 2011 – EF5 Tornado

Ocean City, NJ
Vermont
• **What happened?**
  – Economic RSF was mission assigned and engaged on-site in Alabama for 3 months (+4 months virtually and episodically)
  – RSF convened regularly to focus on supporting five primary deliverables:
    • Information Sharing - All RSF agencies provided input into the initial impact assessment process to identify community-by-community capabilities and issues (issues that have been identified by the agency or articulated by agency stakeholders).
    • Partners Meetings- Economic RSF partner agencies will integrate their efforts with state/local/regional task force initiatives.
    • Business Assistance Infrastructure - Identified need of providing a case management approach for facilitating individual business recovery.
    • Economic Impact Assessment
    • Supported Appalachian Regional Development Initiative workshop to highlight available RSF agency resources for recovery
• **What happened?**
  – EDA was mission assigned, on-site for 2+ months (+5 months episodically and virtually)
  – RSF was engaged locally to coordinate economic recovery issues
  – Provided technical assistance for economic development challenges (business retention and access to capital)
  – Deliverables included
    • Economic impact assessment
    • Support for state meetings
• What happened?
  – Economic RSF was NOT mission assigned
  – EDA convened regular conference calls with community, FEMA, SBA, and HUD to focus on coordinating a Joplin Area Recovery Forum.
  – Recovery Forum was focused on supporting Joplin LTCR planning activities with potential funding sources for executing recovery projects (with a mix of Federal, state, and private sector participants).
  – Partnered with Business Civic Leadership Center to include representatives from non-profit foundations.
  – EDA continued to coordinate with FEMA, HUD, and other agencies on supporting Joplin recovery efforts (approx. 1 year+ from incident)
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