



Economic Development and Workers' Rights Segment of the E&I Policy Series  
Thursday, April 22, 2010  
University of South Alabama  
Mobile, Alabama

The Equity and Inclusion Campaign calls on our elected and appointed officials to support regional transit and transit-based development; environmentally friendly development; promotion of small business development and entrepreneurship; nondiscrimination policy toward English proficiency; youth workforce training and job placement; emphasis on training and contracting of local employees; right to a living wage; and fair technology access.

**Overarching Themes:**

- Re-make infrastructure
- Create green jobs, green building emergency efficient, weatherizing
- Public education for resources and contractors
- Coastal restoration
- Youth training and jobs
- Training and qualified; workforce development, collaboration in placement (internships and practicum)
- Transit
- Evaluation of existing programs
- Affordable housing to accommodate all classes
- Chamber of Commerce, employment projections
- Local contracts and workers
- Local coordination
- Capacity/disaster support and relief/ post disaster for local non profits
- Labor unions and wages

**Advocacy:** The group discussed some advocacy strategies to advance our work

- Updated OMB/GAO report on Katrina funds spent (always 1 year behind)
- Recovery.gov to track stimulus dollars in community
- FL hazard mitigation money=portion directly to non-profits/faith based organizations. Research for E&I to do
- Small educational workshops in communities

### Team 1:

- Revitalization of East Biloxi
  - Oak St. Corridor/Oak St. Task Force)
- Paid training, job placement
- Job readiness program-jobs had to be working age (18)
- City officials ensure local people hired and trained
- Trained for life skills: banking, money management, time management
- Rebuilding piers, water clean-up since Katrina. Biloxi Zoning, Fishing industry
- Money into seafood industry, subsidies
- Mobile-Biloxi-No Transit (bus, train)
- Felony conviction and bond from companies
- Tax credits for hiring

### Team 2:

- Public Transit in LA
- Training programs in LA
- Working Family ties Center-Integrated
- Skills training, placement, financial literacy, counseling, asset building program (IDA program, savings and match)
- Can use TANF money, intensive case management and supportive services (assist with child care, etc.)
- No monitoring and evaluation of programs. Include goal: increase job retention rate; wage again/advancement
- How does monitoring impact?- Asset building don't negatively impact programs

### Team 3:

- Affordable housing
- Self assess needs in our own communities
- Get stories/narratives out
- Invite representatives to visit in area
- Define affordable housing
  - Geographic definition and implement
- Inclusionary enforcement

### Team 4:

- Workforce Development
- Health

- Regional Transit based development
- Aerospace
- Energy Efficiency
- Jobs (boards)/Minority business taking advantage
- Existing programs: contractors college, good works network
- Specific code on local and resident hiring
- Evaluation and tracking of existing programs
- Case management