

Executive Summary

Disaster Preparedness and Response: Serving Farmworkers

Part I - National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) Grantee Experiences

05/18/2018

Moderator: Lianna Shannon

Speakers: *Gerald Williams*, *Paul Castro*, *Norma Garcia*, *Stacey Taylor*, *Albert Rivera*, *Brenda Lee Soto Colón*

In 2017, various natural disasters struck NFJP organizations in many parts of the United States: drought, floods, and wildfires in California; hurricane-related flooding in Texas; Hurricane Irma in Florida; and Hurricanes Irma and Maria in Puerto Rico.

In Part I of this **two-part series**, "Disaster Preparedness and Response: Serving Farmworkers" NFJP grantees shared their stories on the impact of natural disasters on their respective organizations, on farmworkers, and on agriculture. They shared how they responded to each disaster and what they learned. Specifically:

Gerald Williams of the Immokalee Technical College in Florida's Collier District School System, explained how the public school system served as a practical, efficient hub to keep people safe and cared-for, before and after Hurricane Irma.

Paul Castro and *Norma Garcia* of California Human Development (CHD) discussed the area's recent history with droughts, floods, and wildfires. They described the challenges farmworkers had in obtaining services. Lastly, they shared how robust partnerships are critical in getting people the resources they need.

Stacey Taylor of Motivation, Education, & Training (MET) shared how MET's central offices were inaccessible due to Hurricane Harvey and what this meant for MET in devising an emergency response plan to care for its staff as well as its customers.

Brenda Colón and *Albert Rivera* of PathStone, Puerto Rico shared their experiences after Hurricane Maria. They discussed relief efforts, including the delivery of food boxes, water filters, solar lights, and gas stoves; rehabilitating houses; and issuing micro loans and grants to small businesses. They also initiated community assessment surveys which were key to understanding the scope of the devastation and the needs on the island.

Run of Show

Objectives	3:05
Immokalee Technical College, Florida	3:40
• Hurricane Irma	4:30
• Impact on SW Florida and farmworkers	6:16
• Recovery period – Collier County Schools	11:11
• Today – Lessons Learned	15:50
California Human Development	20:05
• 5-year drought, flooding, & wildfires	20:40
• Impact on farmworkers	29:30
• Jobs assistance provided by CHD	30:38
• Challenges & Lessons Learned	33:18
Motivation, Education and Training, TX	36:50
• Hurricane Harvey's impact on clients/staff	37:57
• MET Response	51: 57
• Lessons Learned and long-term planning	54:37
PathStone Puerto Rico	59:15
• Impact of Hurricane María in PR	1:00:14
• PathStone's relief effort activities	1:08:36
• Effective partnerships	1:12:59
Lessons Learned: summary	1:15:30
Q & A	1:17:55