Southern University
Baton Rouge

Universities Rebuilding America Partnerships

Overcoming Obstacles
Overcoming Obstacles

- **Target Area and population**
  - Disaster designated parishes from East Baton Rouge Parish to St. Bernard Parish (14 parishes)
  - More than 310,000 Louisiana residents filed jobless claims after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (largest percentage in New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas)
Overcoming Obstacles

• Target Area and population (cont)
  – 42% minority unemployment rate for evacuees (October 2005)
  – Almost 73,000 small businesses (less than 50 employees) impacted by Katrina/Rita with only few able to resume business operations
  – Residents with no/minimal access to computers/internet
Overcoming Obstacles

• Job Training and Placement
  – Provide basic training, technical training and certification in environmental remediation and construction trades to low-to-moderate income residents
  – Partners
    • Americorps VISTA
    • Greater King David Baptist Church
    • KDC Environmental Services
Overcoming Obstacles

• Small Businesses
  – Provide technical assistance to small and minority owned business applicants
  – Partners
    • Louisiana Office of Economic Development
    • Baton Rouge Black Chamber of Commerce
Overcoming Obstacles

- **Computer/Internet Access**
  - Provide technical assistance to community-based organizations to establish neighborhood network/technology centers
  - Provide computer literacy and other education classes
  - Computer graphic design apprentice program
  - Youth activities
Overcoming Obstacles

- **Computer/Internet Access** (cont)
  - **Partners**
    - New Family Home Worship Center International
      - 2 locations – Baton Rouge and New Orleans
    - Vision Media Training Institute
    - AE Technologies
Overcoming Obstacles

• Will successfully overcome obstacles by providing low-to-moderate income persons
  – Basic and technical skills, certifications and placement to increase employment and self-sufficiency
  – Technical skills’ assistance for starting or restarting own business and connectivity to the small business development centers in the area
Overcoming Obstacles

• Will successfully overcome obstacles by providing low-to-moderate income persons (cont)
  – Technical assistance to community-based organizations to establish two neighborhood network centers