

**Documenting the Experiences, Needs and Recommendations of  
Service Providers in the Wake of Disaster**

There are countless individuals and organizations working to provide relief, recovery and redevelopment assistance in the wake of recent hurricanes in the Gulf South region. Resulting from their direct experiences, these service providers have valuable insights to help inform how organizations and policymakers respond to the current disasters and future crisis events.

However, given the demands on their time, energy and other resources, these service providers seldom have the opportunity to speak with decision makers. As a way to assist in “amplifying” their voices, a group of community-based researchers is documenting the experiences, needs and recommendations of those who are working on the frontlines in response to disasters.

This research is being conducted in three regions: the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Mississippi Delta and Southeastern Louisiana. Professors and graduate students with the Institute for Community-Based Research at Delta State University, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice at Southeastern Louisiana University, and the School of Public Health at the University of Michigan are working together on this effort.

An aggregate report from this multi-community initiative will be disseminated to organizations providing disaster response, and it will be made available to the general public. Information will also be directed toward policymakers, agency personnel and foundations.

If you are interested in participating in this very important project or have any questions about it, please feel free to contact John J. Green.

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