

CASE STUDY

## Florida National Emergency Grant: Harnessing the Resources of Manpower and the Public Workforce System

**Challenge:**

Four major hurricanes tore through Florida during the season of 2004. Two, Frances and Jeanne, struck within three weeks of each other at almost the same spot on the Treasure Coast, just north of Palm Beach County. Both hurricanes were a Category 3, which resulted in major devastation and millions of dollars in property losses. More than 28,000 individuals on the Treasure Coast filed unemployment claims, 20,843 of which were for Emergency Disaster Unemployment.

Florida received a National Emergency Grant to provide temporary jobs to assist local communities that suffered substantial damage caused by these storms. Reconstruction worksites were limited to public and private, non-profit facilities and properties. The Workforce Development Board of the Treasure Coast and the Palm Beach Alliance determined that the clean-up efforts required services of more than 1,000 temporary participants, who were eligible to work for up to six months.

Among the services and jobs needed were demolition, cleaning, repair, renovation, construction and distribution of food, clothing and other humanitarian services. Additional workers were provided as office personnel, laborers, drivers and humanitarian and social services aides. Both Workforce Boards had limited resources available to handle the large scale nature of the project which included workforce coordination, worksite job duties and the payroll processing required for the added temporary participants.

**Solution:**

Since the U.S. Department of Labor and Manpower National Partnership Rollout in 2003, Manpower and the Treasure Coast Workforce Development Board have established a strong relationship. Therefore, the Board was familiar with Manpower's ability to manage large and complex workforce projects and to service all four counties in the region. As a result, Manpower was engaged as the National Emergency Grant (NEG) partner of choice and the Employer of Record. Similarly, when the Palm Beach Alliance needed the resources of an employer that could manage the complexities of a program of this magnitude, they turned to Manpower as the Employer of Record. Manpower engaged all of its offices on the Treasure Coast and Palm Beach County to register NEG participants to work and receive pay in the temporary jobs created under the grant. The Workforce Development Board and its One-Stop Career Center collaborated with Manpower to streamline this process.

