Conversations Between Non-Profit Organizations and Government Agencies Begin

Next week the Working Groups, who are experts in health, environment, education and infrastructure, will meet.

(San Juan, P.R.)—Foundation for Puerto Rico (FPR) will conduct meetings of its focus areas with the Working Group of the Whole Community Resilience Planning program (WCRP), to define the basis of data and the necessary indicators to evaluate the vulnerability of the communities.

These collaborative sessions will help examine the necessities of all the communities in Puerto Rico, demonstrating a comprehensive perspective of the resilience in each one of six sectors: health, environment, education, infrastructure, living, and economic development. The Working Groups will be made up of non-profit organizations and government agencies that have experience and knowledge in the six areas that the program will encompass. Due to the complexity and scope of the themes of vulnerability and resilience, the meetings will be divided by area of focus.

“The processes with the multisector Working Group are open and transparent so that they document all of the links in the same way. This along with the vision to democratize the process of planification, place the communities as the protagonists of the process and create alliances between the government agencies and the non-profit organizations, will form that together they will elaborate these plans and provide support to the communities,” stated Luis Monterrubio, director of Community Planning for FPR.

In this first session, the issue of community economic development was addressed and the pieces of information necessary to identify the most at-risk communities about their economic standing were numbered. The Working Group was made up of the Board of Planification, the Youth Development Institute of Puerto Rico, the Center for Puerto Rican Studies of Hunter College, the Puerto Rican Society of Planning, the Housing Department, and the Escrow of Science, Technology and Investigation of Puerto Rico.

“We will be replicating this exercise with the Working Groups in each area. They can become the process of liberation of the most important information of our island, creating a change of culture through the disclosure of data in the government agencies. We recognize that there will be setbacks, but the Foundation has committed itself along with the agencies to manage and interpret the information in a responsible manner; in addition to attending any point of confidentiality that has been validated,” emphasized Arnaldo Cruz, director of Research and Analytics for FPR.
FPR will continue the process with the Working Groups with experts in health, environment, education, living and infrastructure next week. Once the process of determining indicators is over, FPR will start the recompilation and dissemination of data phase, so that the communities will have the tools necessary to create their resilience plan.

Other organizations that have united themselves to the efforts as members of the Working Group are the Puerto Rico Community Foundation, the San Juan Bay Estuary, Save the Children, Puerto Rico Home Builders Association, and the University of Puerto Rico’s Graduate School of Planning and School of Law.

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**About Foundation for Puerto Rico**
Foundation for Puerto Rico is a non-profit organization founded in 2011, that impulses opportunities for the social and economic development of Puerto Rico, focusing on promoting the Visitor Economy and transforming the island into a global destination. For more information, visit [www.foundationforpuertorico.org](http://www.foundationforpuertorico.org).

**About the Whole Community Resilience Planning (WCRP) program**
The Whole Community Resilience Planning program looks for the development of integral plans for the recovery of communities, with the goal of reducing their vulnerability and protecting lives and property in future dangers. With this, the communities will be more resilient in the future and they will impulse the economic development of Puerto Rico. For more information, visit [www.foundationforpuertorico.org/wcrp](http://www.foundationforpuertorico.org/wcrp).