

## **FOUNDATION FOR PUERTO RICO ACHIEVES A MULTISECTORIAL ALLIANCE FOR DEVELOPING INITIATIVES ON SMALL COMMUNITIES**

(San Juan, P.R.) – With the signature of the agreement, the Department of Housing (DV, for its acronym in Spanish) is to lead the administration of the Whole Community Resilience Planning (WCRP) program. Subsequently, Foundation for Puerto Rico (FPR) has begun the design stage of the project, which includes the development of the five key components.

For the first stage, FPR has developed a collaborative work group, strategies for community diffusion, the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), the Request for Qualification (RFQ) and a website for WCRP.

“We’ve started communicating with several nonprofit organizations in order to integrate them in this recuperation effort. We’re designing a comprehensive and inclusive process, where all the sectors will have an active participation and will contribute their knowledge pro the development of projects that will lead to building a *resilient* Puerto Rican community,” expressed Annie Mayol, FPR President.

A number of organizations have already joined the effort as members of the collaborate group of work mentioned above. Some examples are: *Fundación Comunitaria de Puerto Rico, Estuario de la Bahía de San Juan, Sociedad Puertorriqueña de Planificación, Save the Children, Instituto para el Desarrollo de la Juventud, Center for Puerto Rican Studies from Hunter College of New York, Asociación de Constructores de Puerto Rico, and the school of Planification, of Architecture and of Law of the University of Puerto Rico (UPR)*. All of these entities have the required knowledge and experience when referring to subjects related to housing, health, environment, education, infrastructure and economic development.

“This agreement has put in motion the community resilience program. This program is also part of the initiatives aimed directly for the aid and recovery of the Island after the passing of hurricanes Irma and María. On this first stage, we will work with government agents, nonprofit organizations, and field experts in order to accurately design the program, guide the communities and publish the NOFA. The NOFA will detail the parameters for community eligibility and participation, as well as the criteria that will be taken into consideration for the development and approval of subsequent proposals”, explained the official.

At its core, WCRP’s primary objective is to fully understand the risks and vulnerabilities communities throughout the Island face, with respect to collaboratively design resilience plans that, backed by data, will meet their strongest needs. This way, community initiatives for emergency preparation, prevention and management will be developed and established.



The program's priority are high risk communities; the ones located in areas prone to floods, landslides, and/or high levels of damage. Subsequently, throughout this initiative, the eligible communities will have the opportunity to develop planification policies that would accelerate the economic and infrastructure recovery process in case of emergency.

FPR has and will continue to serve its path of reconstructing the Island. Moreover, FPR will focus on providing communities access to reliable and up-to-date data and information. This way, communities will be able to adequately prepare for emergencies by crafting their own resiliency plans supported—and *guided*—by the necessary tools and financing.

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***About Foundation for Puerto Rico***

Foundation for Puerto Rico, a 501c3 non-profit organization founded in 2011, creates opportunities that drive social and economic development in Puerto Rico, with a focus on the visitor economy and transforming the island into a global destination. For more information please visit [www.foundationforpuertorico.org](http://www.foundationforpuertorico.org).

***About the Whole Community Resilience Planning (WCRP) Program***

The WCRP program seeks the development of integral recuperation plans for communities, with in order to reduce their vulnerability and protect life and prosperity. Thereby, communities will be more resilient in the future and economic development in Puerto Rico will be bolstered.

