Housing and Economic Development Efforts
OBJECTIVES

- How our organization has been a change agent in Puerto Rico.
- How Collaboration & Strategic Alliances were essential for Housing and Community Rehabilitation after Hurricane Maria.
- How does it contribute to the economic development of Puerto Rico.
OUR PURPOSE AND BELIEFS

MISSION To promote the integral development and self-sufficiency of individuals, families and communities of low economic resources through our services in alliances with other entities.

VISION To serve our participants with love, and achieve in each of them a success story.

Our Essence
RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT, COMMITMENT AND INTEGRITY

WHAT DO WE DO?
We offer services addressed for reducing poverty and changing the lives of individuals, families and communities in a positive way.

HOW DO WE DO IT?
With Enthusiasm, Dedication, Excellence, Leadership, Collaboration and Participation

WHY DO WE DO IT?
We are committed with disadvantages and vulnerable groups.
ASPRI was created to be the successor agency to Puerto Rico Community Services Administration (PRCSA), a State agency that had been serving as a Community Action Agency (CAA). ASPRI was established as PRCSA’s successor because State officials believed that a private, non-profit Community Action Agency was a better vehicle to carry out the purposes of the CSBG Act.

ASPRI has more than 500 employees assigned to carry out services to over 45,000 participants.

For the delivery of direct services, the agency administers Multiple Services Centers for elders, provides emergency assistance, health and social services, nutrition, employment, education, trainings, and community development as well as many others innovative services and programs to increase community capacity building and promote personal responsibility to insure that self-sufficiency and self-sustenance is achieved.
Our strength also lies in our numerous collaborations with government, education institutions, foundations, voluntaries and leaders who provide a precious expertise that complements our own knowledge.

After Hurricane Maria, new collaborative alliances were made with the private sector and foundations in and outside of Puerto Rico.

- MCS Foundation
- MCS
- Hispanic Federation
- AFYA Foundation
- Save the Children
- Community Foundation of Greater New Britain
- Afc+A
Highighted in yellow are the projects we will be addressing today.
EMPLOYMENT - ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

- Provide job opportunities to assist disadvantaged and unemployed individuals to become self-sufficient in coordination with other entities or enterprises.
  - For example, job opportunities as caregivers for seniors.
- Provide assistance in job search, placement and retention for employment to low-income individuals in their transition to self-sufficiency.
- Provide opportunities to improve participants education completion rates.
EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

- In the past three years 407 participants were enrolled in the program.
- Employment Activities
  - Provide skills training
    ✓ Elderly Care
  - Job placement services
    ✓ Job Interview and Resume Preparation
- Job Fair in Communities
  - 28 held in the last year
- Referral to Employers
  - Consorcio del Suroeste
  - Muebleria Novoa
  - Life Family
  - Pathstone
  - Hogar la Victoria
  - Hotel Gran Melia
  - Departamento del Trabajo
  - Walgreens
  - Municipio de Peñuelas
  - CDT de Adjuntas
  - Job center
  - KCS Enterprises
  - Municipio de Rio Grande
  - Departamento del Trabajo
Puerto Rico is still struggling to recover after Hurricane Maria. Many homes lost everything including: walls, roofs and household goods.

ASPRI made an assessment of the hurricane damages in the communities that we served. Many homes are still experienced severe property damages.

The Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repair (VALOR) program, in partnership with our agency, joined efforts to provide essential repairs for participant who have damages in their homes after hurricane hit the Island. VALOR Program provide the materials and ASPRI identify the participants and hires the personnel needed to make the temporary repairs.

The Community Foundation of Greater New Britain provided funds for furniture and household items.
HOUSING (cont.)

Población Proyecto Valor

- 70 años o más: 25%
- 0-54 años: 36%
- 55-69 años: 39%

N=217
189 houses were repaired.

1,376 hours worked by carpenters (community residents).

$341,695.80 were invested for the purchase of materials.
TRADITIONAL AND MODERN AGRICULTURE PROJECT

Purpose
This project will focus on increasing the number of participants educated and trained on how to use traditional and agriculture methods and hydroponic farming. Thereby, establishing and sustaining a home or community food system that can meet their nutrition and/or economics needs.

Objectives
- Promotes the creation of projects targeting the development of small businesses, cooperatives, self-employment, in coordination with other public or private agencies.
- Offers individual and collective follow-up to the participants who receive the training and who desire to develop their own projects.
- Develops projects in the day care centers for the elderly in order to encourage them to participate in agricultural activities.
Since 2002, approximately 2,229 participants have been enrolled in the agriculture workshops.
Hacienda Doña Nena

Ensaládate
Agreements and Collaboration

Through HISPANIC FEDERATION we developed the initiative “Amanece / Camino a la Recuperación”, which granted us the amount of $ 49,107 to rebuild the infrastructure of our Traditional and Modern Agriculture Program in Río Grande. This farm was destroyed after the pass of Hurricane Maria, significantly affecting the area.
# Community Development Program

## Initiatives for Strengthening the Community and Family's Economy
- Leadership Workshop
- Vocational Workshops
- Cooperatives
- Community Garden
- GED Preparation
- Literacy

## Initiatives to Improve Housing and Community
- Road Repairs
- Labeling Communities
- Street Lights Installations
- Recreation Facilities Repair
- Cleaning Campaigns
- Housing Rehabilitation

## Other Initiatives
- Summer Camps
- Senior Club
- Kids Club
- Community Meetings
- Job and Services Fair
- Young Sport Team
- Donation and Distribution
- Direct Assistance: Driver License, Professional License, Lifeline, Energy Coupons
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM - Pueblito de Carmen

Economic Opportunities Empowerment Workshop

Sewing Cooperative

Residents set up a Community Collection and Distribution Center (food bank and supplies)

Agricultural Project
Taína Meléndez
Started a Hydroponic Lettuce Project
NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Government Initiative to Rent Underutilized Schools

- Relocating services offices to places that are accessible to the participants, population and public.
- Training Spaces - on-the-job trainings
- Lowering facility rent expenses

Cooperative Homecare Enterprises

- Provide homecare services for seniors so they can live healthier life at home.
- More caregivers will be needed to care for an ever-increasing elderly population. Based on the Annual Estimates of the Resident Population 2017 Census the population of Puerto Rico is 3,337,177; 26% consist of people 55 years of age and older (859,304 population).

Coalitions and Partnerships

- Important partnership were created to aid with Puerto Rico disaster and pave the way for more resilient communities.
- These partners have become social investors in ASPRI and continue to expand and strengthen our program activities with new initiatives.
- These initiatives are focus in elderly population in our communities.