



DR-4734-FL ECONOMIC RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION

May 2024

End-of-Mission Report

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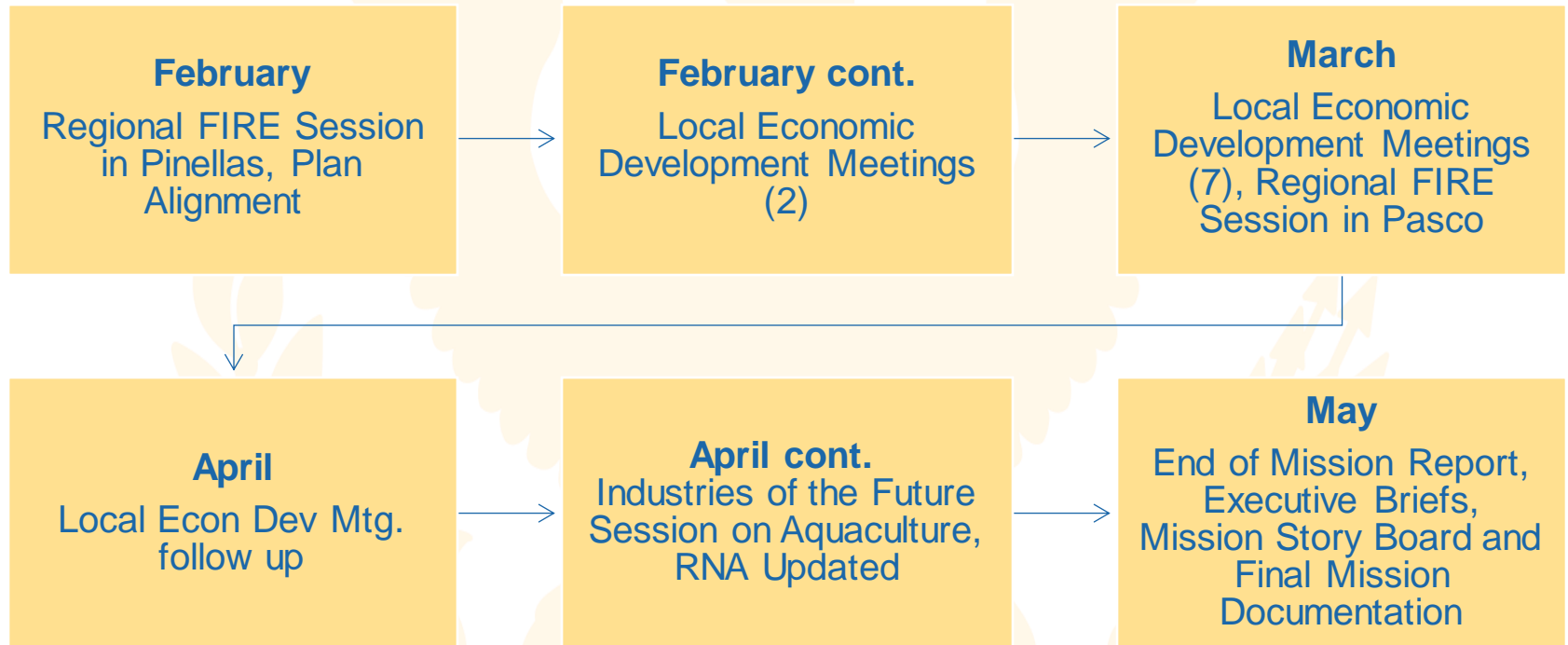
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Timeline of Hurricane Idalia & Recovery



Timeline of Hurricane Idalia & Recovery cont.



Engagement & Outreach

Federal Interagency Resource Exchange (FIRE) Listening Sessions * Site Visits * Focus Groups * Local Economic Development Meetings * Industries of the Future Session

Over 500 stakeholders participated in mission engagements

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FIRE Listening Sessions

- Facilitated 5 sessions
- Hosted by Regional Planning Councils (RPCs), the EDA-designated Economic Development Districts
- Attended by 300+ federal, state, regional & local stakeholders



Top: Field Coordinator Milton Cochran in Pasco County
Bottom: Florida Rep. Greg Vaday in Taylor County

Site Visits



12 site visits
to some of
the most
severely
impacted
communities

Big Bend
Technical
College
provided
support for
several visits

Emergency
management
personnel
guided some
visits

Photos taken during site visits from left: Steinhatchee, Perry and Horseshoe Beach



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Focus Groups

Three Industry-Focused Focus Groups of Regional and State Leaders



Agriculture & Aquaculture



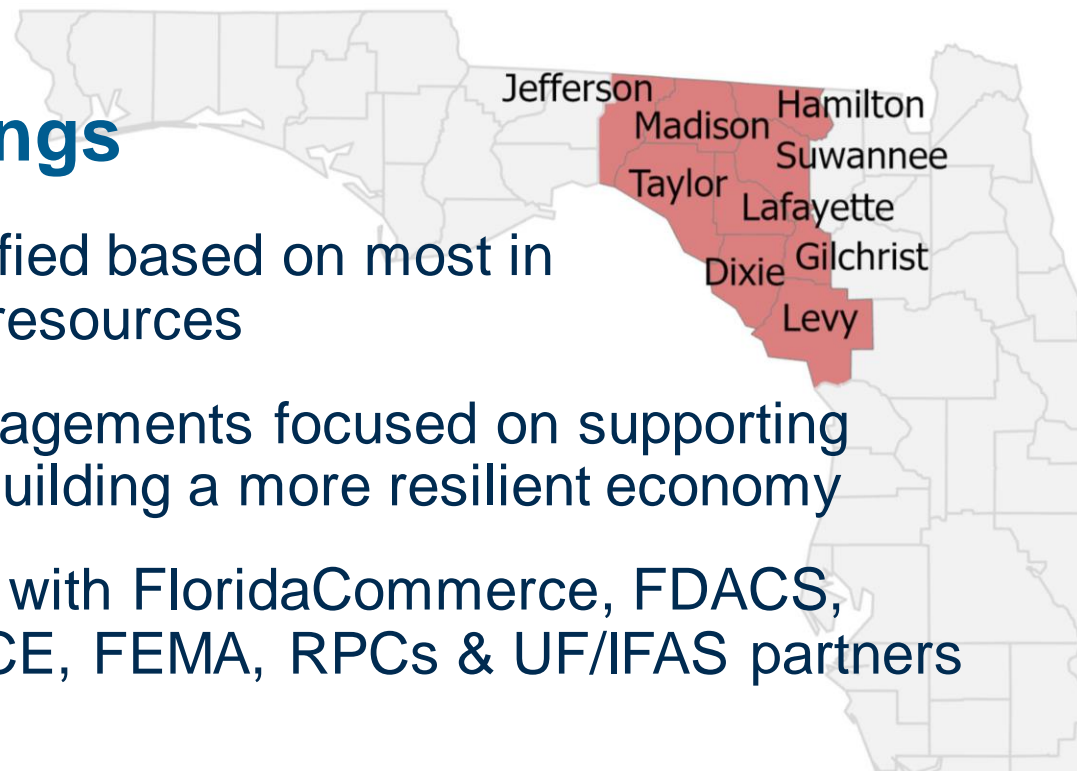
Timber/Forestry



Tourism

Photos taken during site visits from top: Cedar Key, Taylor County and Steinhatchee

Local Economic Development Meetings



- Big Bend counties identified based on most in need of federal or state resources
- Intentionally smaller engagements focused on supporting business recovery and building a more resilient economy
- Unmet needs discussed with FloridaCommerce, FDACS, SBA, USDA, FSA, USACE, FEMA, RPCs & UF/IFAS partners in attendance



Photos from left: Disaster Recovery & Resilience Coordinator Naomi Friedman in Dixie County; Field Coordinator Milton Cochran and contract support team members in Hamilton County; Florida Rep Greg Vaday in Taylor County; and Cochran in Suwannee County

Industries of the Future Series Launched During Ian/Nicole Mission



<https://industriesofthefuture.live/>



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Industries of the Future Series Continued Through Idalia Mission



Industries of the Future

**EXPANDING FLORIDA'S
AQUACULTURE:
INSIGHTS & INNOVATIONS**

SPEAKERS:

 **LADON SWANN, Ph.D.**
Director, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant
and Sea Grant Aquaculture Liaison

 **PORTIA SAPP**
Aquaculture Director, Florida Department
of Agriculture & Consumer Services

 **DAMIEN CLAIRE**
Chief Sales & Marketing Officer, Atlantic
Sapphire, sustainable, ocean-safe seafood

 **ED CHILES**
Founder, Chiles Hospitality and
Sustainable Tourism Advocate

MODERATED BY:

 **SHERRY LARKIN, Ph.D.**
Director, Florida Sea
Grant, University of Florida

APRIL 10, 2024
2:00PM TO 4:00 PM EST
ZOOM LINK TO BE SENT AFTER
REGISTRATION RECEIVED

REGISTER:
industriesofthefuture.live

For 6th virtual session on Aquaculture, Econ RSF joined live by over 150 individuals

Participants included 20 individuals who were hosts, speakers or subject matter experts on the aquaculture industry



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Recovery Needs Assessment

Initial assessment completed in January
Update completed near end of mission



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Identified Needs



Agriculture Restoration



Timber Restoration and
Diversification



Aquaculture Restoration

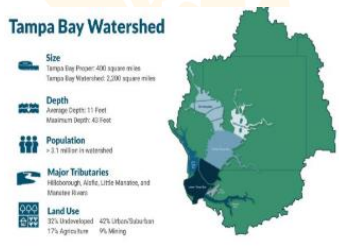
Identified Needs



Tourism and Hospitality
Restoration



Manufacturing and
Economic Diversification



Building for the Future in the
Face of Climate Change



Best Practices

Elements of a Successful Mission

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Economic RSF Leadership & Coordination

- Cochran and Vaday set tone for delivering with excellence
- Continuity of Field Coordinator and key contract support team members from Ian/Nicole to Idalia
- Elevated role of Econ RSF due to being one of the two RSFs mobilized

“

I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the efforts you put into these meetings. Our team gathered a lot of useful information that continues to inform how we provide services to various storm-affected stakeholders.

”

Isabelle Potts, J.D., Workforce Administrator/Statewide Programs
FloridaCommerce, Workforce Services

Community Outreach and Engagement

- Brought capacity, program awareness and disaster experience to Big Bend area
- Connected communities to conversations they would not have had otherwise
- Created environments for economic development leaders to be open and candid about their experiences and needs
- Worked with federal, state and regional partners to plan engagements and raise awareness of programs

Background photo: Field Coordinator Milton Cochran in Jefferson County



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Technical Assistance



Big Bend

Arranged meetings with most impacted communities and federal, state and regional resource partners. Received positive feedback from communities and the state on the sessions and how Econ RSF followed up with communities afterward.



Tampa Bay

Focused Tampa Bay region assistance on engaging stakeholders in a review and crosswalk of multiple plans/studies for alignment and implementation.

Photo from top: Big Bend, Pasco County



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Technical Assistance

Timeline of Support for Disaster DWG Opportunities



Technical Assistance

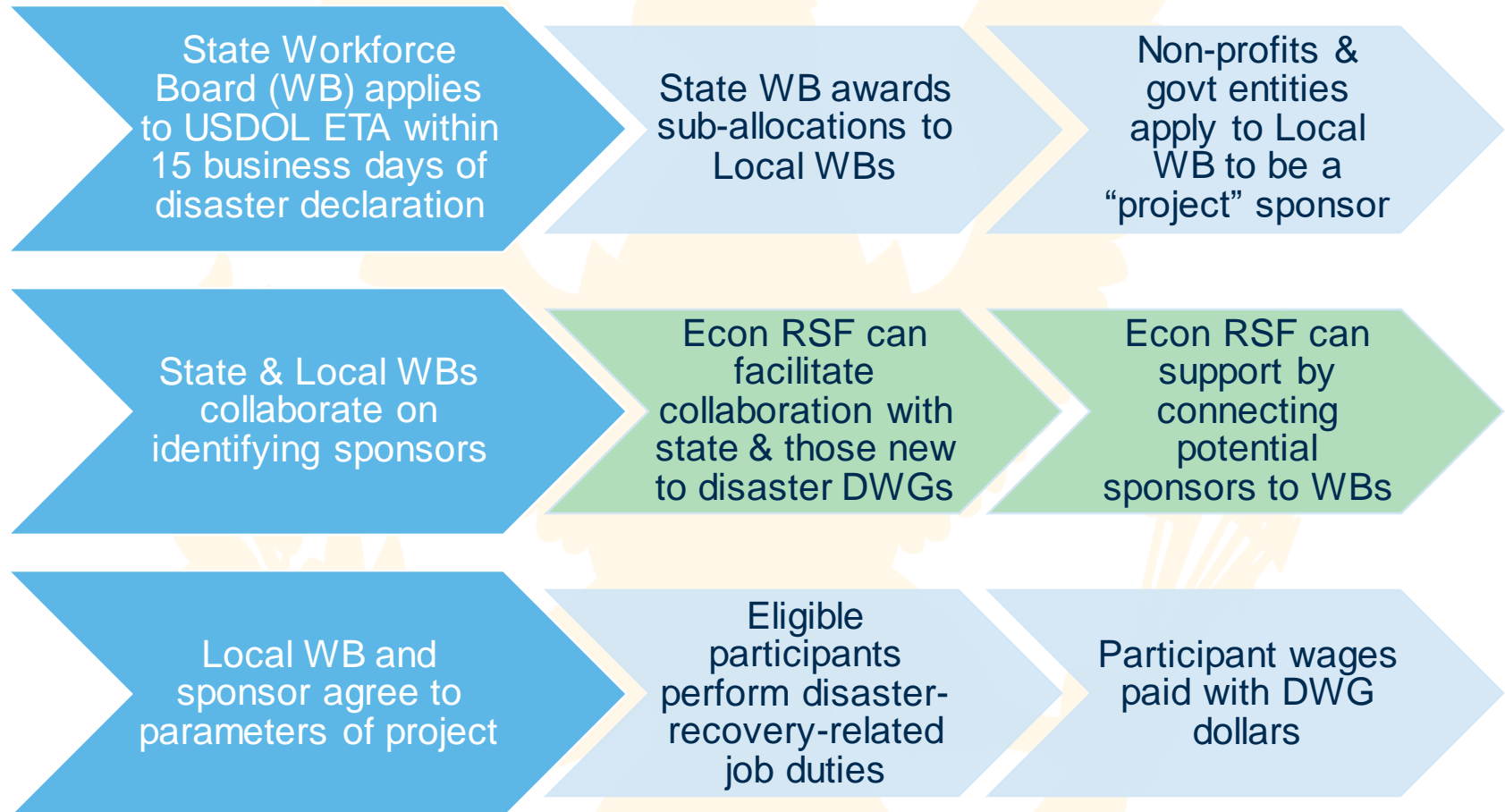
DWG Implementation Results as of May 2, 2024

- Over 180 persons employed in aquaculture restoration operations in Levy (Cedar Key) and Dixie (Horseshoe Beach) counties



Technical Assistance

Model for Role in Raising Disaster DWG Awareness



Bi-Weekly Partner Meetings and Mission Documentation

Bi-Weekly Partner Meetings

Federal agencies

State agencies

Regional organizations

Colleges and universities

Mission Documentation

Engagement meeting notes

Project idea or concept tracker

Big Bend action item tracker

Master contact list

Industries of the Future

Aquaculture Added to the Series Hosted for Ian/Nicole

- Built a powerful brand with "Industries of the Future" during Ian/Nicole mission
- Helped Florida Sea Grant see Econ RSF as a trusted, credible partner to collaborate on aquaculture session



This is an excellent example of how our collaboration is complementary and more impactful than what each of us can do alone. I appreciate your trust in us...and would embrace any future opportunities.



Dr. Sherry Larkin, Director
Florida Sea Grant

<https://industriesofthefuture.live>



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Lessons Learned

What Econ RSF team members will bring to their next mission and offer for peer-to-peer learning

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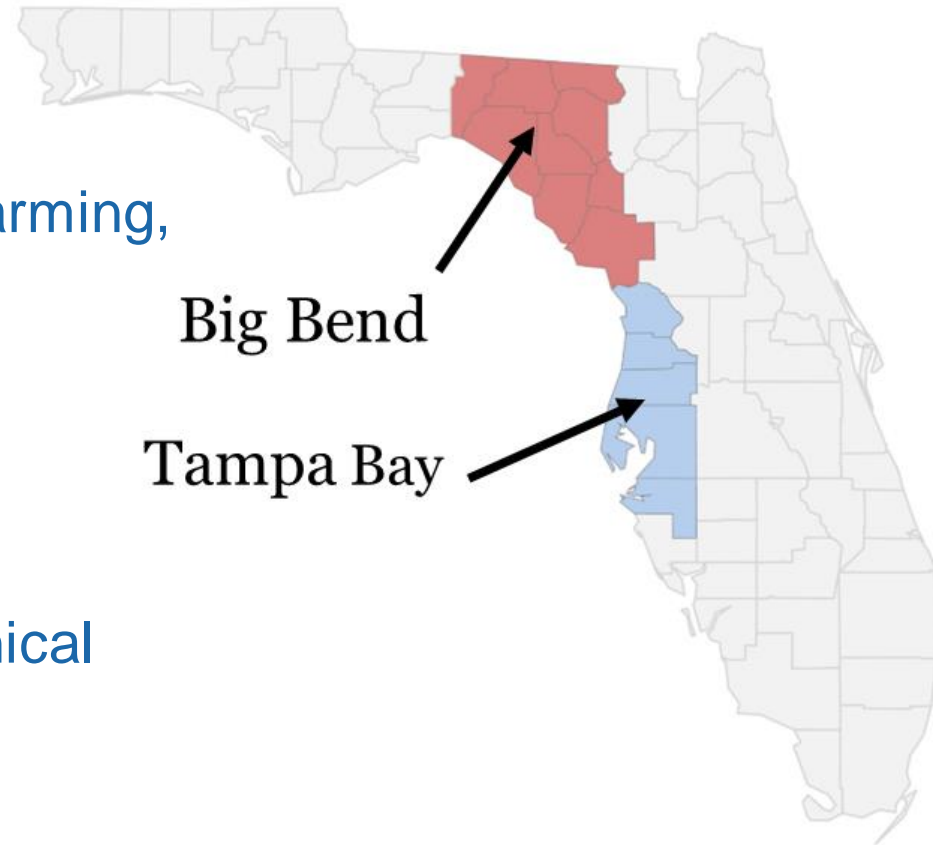
Tailor Efforts to Needs; Story of Idalia is Two Stories

Big Bend

- Predominantly rural area
- Largest employment sector: farming, timber/forestry & aquaculture
- Last cat 3 or higher: 1950 Hurricane Easy

Tampa Bay

- Urban and suburban areas
- Largest employment sector: professional, scientific & technical services
- Last cat 3 or higher: 2022 Hurricanes Ian



Sourcer: BEA



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Information Overload

Later-stage Economic RSF engagement well-timed for less information-overload for local economic development leaders

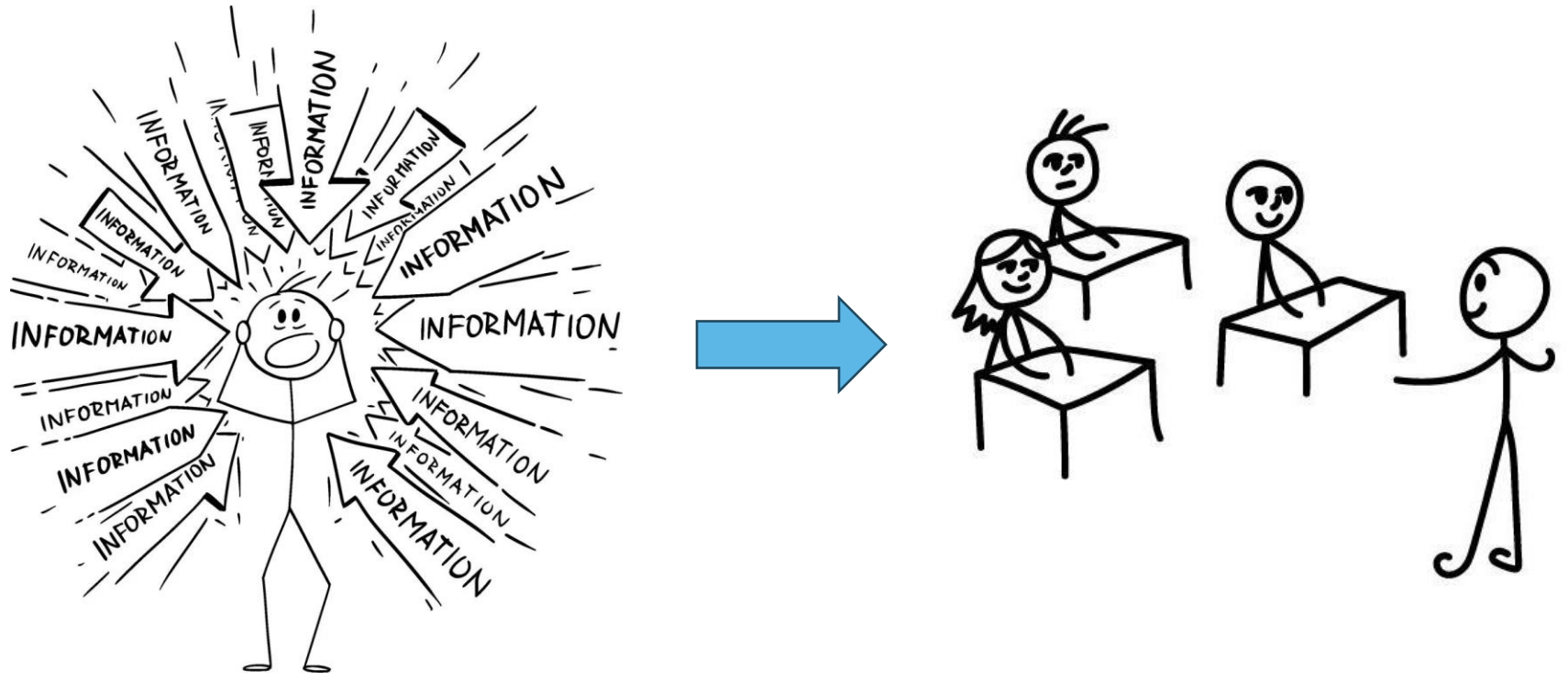


Image sources: Getty image published by *Forbes*, Creative Fabrica

Facilitated Connections to Key Resources



The severe damage Hurricane Idalia made to the Big Bend's agriculture, timber and aquaculture sectors meant the USDA's role was particularly critical for this mission.



The DWG program is a stand-out amongst federal disaster relief programs in how DOL ETA can quickly deploy funding in the aftermath of a disaster.



SBA is an important connector to its partner network of financial programs, technical assistance and government procurement.



Recommendations

Next Steps for consideration by
EDA's Disaster Recovery Team

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For EDA's Consideration

Capacity Building for Grant Writing

Potential model for EDA: USDA certifies Loan Application Packagers who help community organizations assemble USDA application packages



Understanding Business Impacts

Potential model for EDA to share with states: Florida's Business Damage Assessment is a tool for monitoring impacts from hurricanes and other major disruptions to businesses.

For EDA's Consideration

INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE:
A Pathway Towards
Economic Resiliency



A LOOK AT INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE

Florida is home to several “industries of the future” -- all of which help to diversify the State’s economic base and factor into the State’s ability to build a more resilient future. Examples of such industries include Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace and Aviation, Clean Energy, and the Ocean (Blue) Economy sectors. Florida is ripely positioned to leverage and build upon these industries as it seeks to expand its economic base.

Fostering Economic Diversification

Encourage the Industries of the Future initiative as a core deliverable for future Economic RSF missions

<https://industriesofthefuture.live/>



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For EDA's Consideration

Communications

Explore options for:

- Shared drive within EDA for the Field Coordinator, EDR, and contract support team
- Access to the Econ RSF Field Coordinator's calendar for streamlined scheduling by contract support
- An eda.gov email for when contract support emails partners on behalf of Field Coordinator

Community of Practice

- Foster peer-to-peer support among Field Coordinators and others within the agency engaged in disaster recovery work



EDA Contacts for the Idalia Mission



Milton Cochran, Sr.
DR-4734-FL Field Coordinator
Economic Development Integrator Atlanta
Regional Office
(404) 884-5107
mcochran@eda.gov



Greg Vaday
Florida Economic Development Representative
Atlanta Regional Office
(772) 521-4371
gvaday@eda.gov



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