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Disaster Recovery Coalition of America

Utilizing Resources and Expertise during COVID-19 Pandemic

The dramatic spread of COVID-19 has disrupted lives, livelihoods, communities, and businesses worldwide. Members of the Disaster Recovery Coalition of America (DRCA) have come together to innovatively address the urgent, unprecedented public health and economic crisis, putting purpose-driven leadership and stakeholder capitalism into practice. DRCA members have stepped up to support workers, customers, and local communities, with the pandemic showing us the importance of being prepared when crises hit. It has also shown us that postponing bold decisions can have huge costs. As an association, we have learned that we must be vigilant in our preparation for future consequences and challenges of the disease.

Here are just some of the ways 16 DRCA members have joined the battle using their services, infrastructure, products, equipment, and expertise to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and help their employees and customers get through this crisis.



APR Energy: With a mission to deliver reliable electricity fast and safely, when and where it's needed, APR Energy (APR) was established in 2004 in Jacksonville, Florida and quickly emerged as a leader in temporary power services, developing power projects across the world. Case in point is APR's recent deployment in Mexico when in early 2020, Baja California reached out to APR for the rapid turnkey deployment of mobile power generation plants to deal with summer peak demands. During the second quarter 2020, APR implemented comprehensive measures to manage the impacts of COVID-19 to safely mobilize teams and equipment to ensure that the critical fast-track power generation solutions were delivered on time. The challenging COVID-19 environment led APR to closely coordinate movements closely with local and national authorities on both sides of the border and consult with medical specialists to implement strict safety measures to protect the local population and APR's logistics and installation teams mobilized from the U.S.

ATKINS

Member of the SNC-Lavalin Group

Atkins: At the initial onset of COVID-19, Atkins worked closely with their clients to navigate innovative ways to provide support during the pandemic. Atkins was contacted by one of their partners requesting support for a staff augmentation task serving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Jacksonville District. The request was to support constructing a COVID-19 ACS located at the Miami Beach Convention Center (MBCC) in Miami, Florida. The scope of services included on-site inspection/observation, reporting and overall quality control reviews of the construction contractor drawings, submittals and construction provided. Atkins is also providing support to Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). Within 12 hours of receiving a request, Atkins provided traffic management plans, scripts for traveler interviews, and a process to manage traveler information. Within 48 hours, Atkins provided FDOT an on-line data collection form to improve the ability to intake traveler information without physical contact. In the northeast, Atkins is supporting the State of Maine on an After-Action evaluation of their COVID-19 response through a state response contract. Atkins continues to support their existing clients by providing FEMA COVID-19 Public Assistance support to State partners and working directly with FEMA on a Housing Inspection Services (HIS) contract where Atkins is using a new, contact-less remote inspection process. Atkins has also innovated tools like their City Simulator software to run scenarios of the possible spread of COVID-19 by lessening community restrictions.



Atlas Container: Atlas provides corrugated boxes to meat, produce and dairy companies that contribute to the COVID-19 jobless and homeless families in Maryland and the Mid-Atlantic. Lancaster Farm Fresh in Pennsylvania uses Atlas boxes to donate thousands of pounds of vegetables and fruit to Feeding America. Cuisine Solutions, who is the largest sous vide food company organization in the US, has committed to ship truckloads of its chicken in to assist USDA's box program to feed American families waiting in food lines. Atlas has donated truckloads of boxes and thousands of dollars to the Anne Arundel (AAFB) and Baltimore Food Banks. Atlas set up an USDA arrangement to deliver 5,000 gallons of Borden milk to the AAFB every other week.



CDR MAGUIRE

CDR Maguire Emergency Management: In Florida, the CDR Maguire team is supporting the testing mission for vulnerable populations and assisting the state EOC with logistics and acute center management processes. In Kentucky, the CDR Maguire team is supporting the Commonwealth in COVID-19 specific crisis plans and disaster recovery. Overall, the CDR Maguire team is assisting communities across the country with ways to navigate the CARES stimulus package and other federal funders, following guidance on the reimbursement and administrative processes.



CohnReznick: CohnReznick's emergency management team is dedicated to helping citizens affected by disasters by providing a full suite of preparedness, recovery, mitigation, and financial services to ensure faster, more robust, and more compliant disaster recovery programs. Since the onset of COVID-19, CohnReznick's team has assisted many jurisdictions to include supporting the Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM) with COVID-19 planning efforts by holding 300+ meetings with Texas subrecipients and performing compliance testing for \$360M+ in subrecipient COVID-19 costs claimed under FEMA Public Assistance. In North Carolina, our team is supporting North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) by providing staff augmentation for COVID-19 recovery and assisting NCEM and its applicants navigate the COVID-19 Public Assistance program. In Massachusetts, CohnReznick supports the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) with local COVID-19 recovery efforts by providing staff augmentation for its Public Assistance program.



DebrisTech: DebrisTech tracked millions of dollars in personal protective equipment (PPE) needed by the Mississippi healthcare and first responder heroes in the fight against the deadly coronavirus. COVID-19 PPE, in many respects, is similar to debris monitoring so Debris Tech's natural instinct was to monitor it, but with a new platform. In 2 weeks, the DebrisTech team stood up an electronic tracking bar code system to ensure the life saving PPE is properly logged and tracked so that the federal government will properly reimburse MEMA for the thousands of masks, gloves, face shields and more. DebrisTech understands the inextricable connection between inventory and knowing where it comes from, how the same item can have different costs depending on the day, and most importantly that the item landed in the right hands of those ordering and needing it most. DebrisTech will make sure MEMA has a bullet proof PPE digital record from start to finish.



Excel: Excel was honored to be selected by the State of Louisiana to assist in the construction and operation of the Memorial Convention Center Medical Monitoring Station (MCC-MMS) in New Orleans, Louisiana. The MCC-MMS was built to decrease the strain on traditional medical and hospital infrastructure as the COVID-19 pandemic surged in New Orleans, Louisiana. The MCC-MMS went from contract to operational in 13 days and began receiving patients on April 6, 2020. At full scale, the MSS has a patient capacity of 2,000 patients, a staff of roughly 500 positions inside the MSS in PPE, and roughly 80 administrative and professional staff working outside the hospital supporting its operation.



IBM: As the world confronts the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, IBM is providing support to clients, government agencies and partners for their mission-critical operations. IBM's initiatives to confront the coronavirus form three broad areas: Science and Research, Trusted Information, and Resiliency and Adaptation. We are marshaling our resources and bringing together the right communities of experts — clients, governments, scientists, developers, partners, academic institutions, health agencies and IBMers — to work together, and manage through the COVID-19 outbreak with what we do best — applying data, knowledge, computing power and insights to solve difficult problems. IBM has offered numerous products and services to FEMA and other agencies. These products and services have been offered in ways such as in-kind donations, free access, reduced costs, and surge capacity support. Some of these items were Watson Chat-Bot Assistant for Citizens, Access to Weather.com and Weather Channel messaging that reaches over 300M users, access to a vast array of Fortune 100 commercial partners, IBM Sterling Supply Chain Insights, Access to Red Hat Open Shift for COVID Application Development and many others. Our longstanding support to FEMA has been proven resilient over two decades and we continue to be ready to respond in a time of need.



Lemoine Disaster Recovery: Lemoine Disaster Recovery (LDR), headquartered in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, provided critical and rapid responses to COVID-19, including the establishment of temporary testing sites, temporary housing, and hospital recommissioning. LDR worked tirelessly to fulfill the needs of the public health profession, assist hospitals with testing and increased patient flow, and ensure the safety of their clients and community. LDR's skills and expertise were called on to establish several temporary testing operations for COVID-19 throughout Baton Rouge, LA. These facilities were customizable and included complete wrap-around services. LDR also offered temporary housing units with full wrap-around service capabilities for quarantine and isolation patients. As part of their emergency response to COVID-19, LDR provided full assessment, analysis, and facility modification services for hospital and healthcare settings. LDR provided an onsite assessment of a former VA Hospital in New Orleans and developed a proposal to create med-surge beds for COVID-19 overflow. In Shreveport, LA, LDR planned, designed, and executed critical renovations spanning two campuses enabling the Ochsner Health and LSU Shreveport staff to relocate and provide fully functional maternity and neonatal care to existing patients in order to free up much needed additional space for COVID-19 patients. In just over three weeks, LDR converted patient rooms into isolation rooms, replaced over 13,000 LF of med-gas piping, upgraded mechanical infrastructure, renovated labs and the C-Section Suite, created a nurse call and paging system, and created a pharmacy, warming kitchen, and admitting space.



Lowe's: Lowe's understands the important role its stores play in providing essential products and services to customers, government officials and first responders, especially in times of crisis. Whether it is a hurricane, flood, tornado or global health crisis, Lowe's associates are committed to being there for the more than 1,700 store communities across the U.S. The company has invested nearly \$660 million to support associates and communities during the pandemic, including \$560 million in incremental financial support for associates. The health and safety of Lowe's associates and communities will always be the company's highest priority, and Lowe's has implemented operational changes to facilitate social distancing and create a safe store environment and shopping experience. Lowe's recognizes that helping people make their homes better extends into its neighborhoods and communities. The company has dedicated more than \$100 million in assistance to those who need it most, including healthcare workers, minority-owned small businesses, and rural small business owners. This investment includes \$55 million to support local small businesses in partnership with Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), in addition to a \$10 million donation of essential protective products to help keep medical professionals on the frontlines safe and healthy. Lowe's has empowered all stores to donate products to local hospitals and first responders, and is proud to stand by all local, state, and federal partners to continue to help communities in this time of need.



Metric Engineering: Metric Engineering (Metric), headquartered in Miami, Florida was contacted by the several counties in Kansas to provide comprehensive grant management services including completion of a needs assessment of the pandemic's impact on homeowners, small business, nonprofits, and cities, counties and others. As a result of the needs assessment which leveraged input from community businesses and stakeholders and extensive conversations with Kansas locals, Metric recommended and is implementing four COVID-19 programs as part of the counties' COVID-19 response action plans: a) Individuals and Household Financial Assistance designed to help residents pay rent and mortgages, broadband and utility payments and other expenses necessary for daily living; b) Operational Relief Grant Program for small businesses, nonprofits, government agencies and institutes of higher education to help these organizations recover from the pandemic's disruption with functions such as purchasing equipment and vehicles, recovery of lost revenue due to COVID-19 disruption, and working capital; c) Corona Virus Impact Fund intended to leverage existing intellectual capital in communities that will propose and implement ideas ranging from workforce training programs to standing up food pantries. This fund is designed to "put recovery in the hands of those recovering"; d) Reimbursement Program which is the state's reimbursement mechanism with a prioritization system based on the immediate needs of each county. There are over 100 Kansas counties and these programs will serve as a model across the state to promote a return to quality of life for Kansas citizens.



SLS: SLS has been very active in COVID-19 response and is proud to have led multiple nationwide efforts. In New York, SLS provided construction and operation services for three emergency COVID-19 field hospitals totaling over 2,250 beds. The hospitals, located in Queens (Billie Jean King Tennis Center), Brooklyn (Brooklyn Cruise Terminal) and Westbury (SUNY Westbury), were constructed simultaneously in less than three weeks and provided acute/non-acute patient care, as well as complete wrap-around services. In Miami, Florida, two emergency hospitals totaling over 450 beds, were constructed, and an additional 100+ bed hospital was constructed in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, with complete construction, operations, patient care and wrap-around services provided at all sites. In addition, SLS has provided on-going COVID-19 testing services at multiple sites in New York City, as well as testing, feeding and logistics services at over 20 locations throughout Florida. The comprehensive services provided throughout the nation has positively impacted thousands of residents and provided much needed relief and support during a very critical time.



Stantec: As the impacts of COVID-19 continue to transcend throughout our nation, Stantec is working with communities to adapt to a new landscape. Our disaster recovery experts are working in FEMA’s Public Assistance Consolidated Resource Centers (CRCs) to provide communities with reimbursement for COVID-19 Category B expenditures, and our financial modeling experts are working with communities to make real-time adjustments to capital improvement programs and provide forecasts to optimize changing resources. Our disaster funding experts are working to navigate the CARES Act and identify additional funding opportunities to further bolster local reserves. In the healthcare sector, we worked with the USACE to convert Chicago’s McCormick Place Convention Center into a 3,000-bed Alternative Care Facility, with the first 500 beds operational in just a week. We are also bringing people together through an array of platforms to maintain the vital public and stakeholder engagement process. From virtual site visits and geospatial solutions to drones and dynamic websites, Stantec is working with FEMA, HHS, and USGS, among others, to continue to propel projects forward.



Synergy Disaster Recovery: The Synergy team is playing an active role in the formulation of a successful COVID-19 FEMA Public Assistance strategy for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. They have been working with universities and schools, counties and cities, hospitals, PNPs and Fire/EMS to identify specific funding sources by applicant type. In addition, the team has contributed to state level plans in response to COVID-19, specifically as it relates to non-congregate sheltering, acute-care facilities and establishing a virtual EOC. Synergy DR is also assisting local communities in Colorado document their unmet needs, establishing the data necessary, to formulate a strategic plan to navigate the myriad of federal funding sources identified in the CARES stimulus package.



Tetra Tech: Many of Tetra Tech’s existing customers have not only endured an economic shutdown and stay at home orders, but the Middle Tennessee tornadoes presented new challenges that Tetra Tech met head on without missing a beat. Enduring COVID-19 and a natural disaster simultaneously meant many client community’s employees were performing double duty and Tetra Tech ensured these individuals were able to meet their commitments to their residents. Tetra Tech’s goal has been to keep the pace with their existing clientele’s project work no matter the COVID-19 challenges, following the various federal funding streams to help state and local governments manage their COVID-19 expenditure reimbursements.



Tidal Basin: Tidal Basin team has been a leader across the country in providing talent and resources to six states, multiple local governments, universities, and healthcare systems with COVID-19 recovery needs. Tidal Basin’s services include strategic planning, targeting grants and funding resources, staff training and augmentation, and management of federal funding streams. Because training and education are pivotal to COVID-19 recovery, Tidal Basin developed and delivered free webinars and training for multiple hospital associations and their members in several states. Tidal Basin continues to excel in PPE logistics support and are providing this expertise to Colorado’s EOC Operations unit. Tidal Basin’s compassionate professionals recognize that it is a privilege to serve in whatever capacity is needed to restore, relieve, and recapture a sense normalcy in these uncertain times.



United Rentals: United Rentals is considered an essential business providing support for essential infrastructure. By way of example, United Rentals provides equipment and services to public works contractors and subcontractors (including for the construction of critical or strategic infrastructure, road work, and transportation). Additionally, United Rentals help to support public health, energy, the defense industrial base, electricians, construction crews, and other essential businesses. During the crisis, we have helped by, among other things, providing equipment and services to customers setting up COVID-19 testing centers and expanding their hospital operations and by supporting first responders throughout North America. United Rentals estimates that to date, they have supported their customers in the construction and operation of approximately 25 alternative care facilities throughout the U.S., as well as numerous testing centers.



WSP: WSP is a national proven industry leader in disaster response and recovery and has provided extensive logistical and emergency power support to federal government agencies, states, and counties during the COVID-19 response. We have continued our ongoing support to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and are known for rapid response and the ability to mobilize and deploy resources quickly. Since the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus, WSP's disaster response subject matter experts have been supporting state and local municipalities with services such as wrap-around (turnkey) setup and provisioning of mobile hospitals, COVID-19 testing sites, base camps, warehouse operations providing the following typical resources. These resources include generators, pumps, HVAC, cooling/heating, material handling equipment (MHE) – forklifts, fuel tanks and trucks, rollbacks/tow trucks, flat bed trailers and semi-tractors, ADA portalets and restroom trailers, asset tracking devices, laundry and shower trailers, emergency staging area operations, Points of Distribution Operations (PODs), satellite communication phones, Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT), GPS tracking devices (Cellular, Satellite), Bottled water, 24/7 on-site meals /heated meals, and medical materials for mobile hospitals as wrap around support: cavi-wipes, bio bags, booties, gowns, hand sanitizer, gloves). WSP's quick and scalable COVID-19 response efforts are being accomplished through their regional and globally based vendor alliance network (VAN) of more than 350 subcontractors. Support to their current COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 disaster contracts and activities include Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Delaware, New York City Department of Administrative Services, Commonwealth of Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana, and the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) Contract. WSP is also actively supporting the United States Postal Service (USPS) in responding to the coronavirus ("COVID-19") outbreak. Under the nationwide USPS Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Services (EPRRS) contract, WSP has completed several facility disinfections/cleanings across the country.