

# REGIONAL RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP & DISASTER RISK MITIGATION

**Coastal Bend Council of Governments**

Emily Martinez

Director of Regional Economic Development

**Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies**

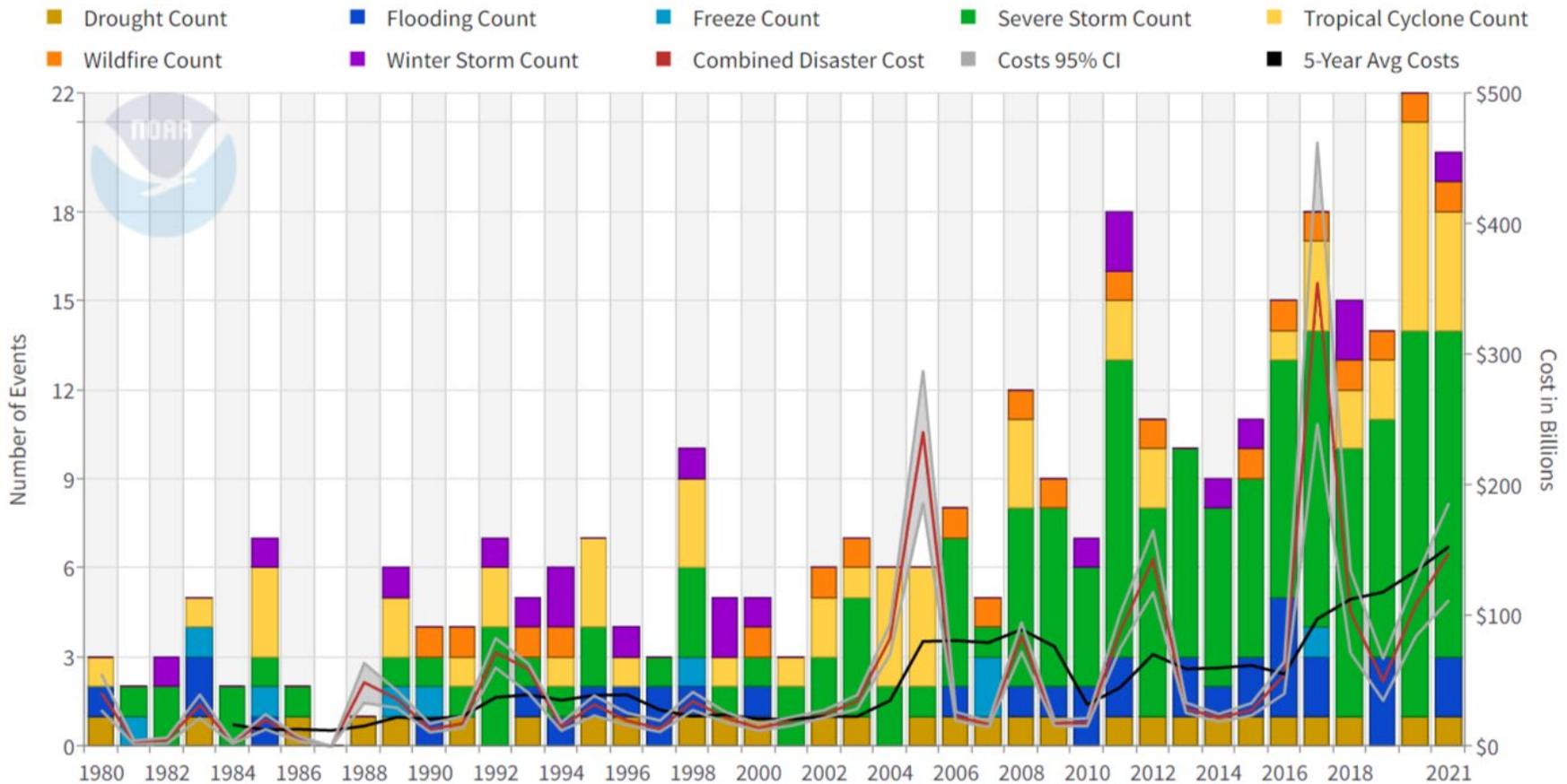
**Texas A&M University Corpus Christi**

Dr. Katya Wowk

Senior Scientist & Director of Texas OneGulf



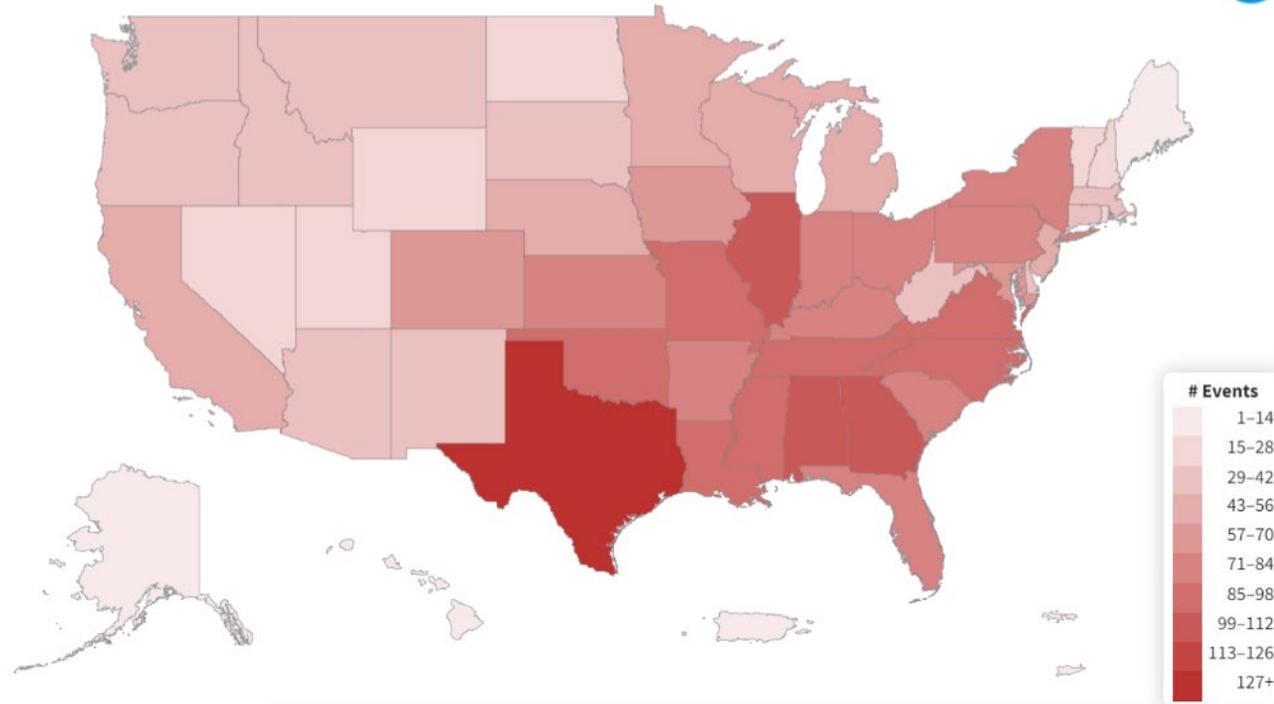
### United States Billion-Dollar Disaster Events 1980-2021 (CPI-Adjusted)



Updated: April 8, 2022

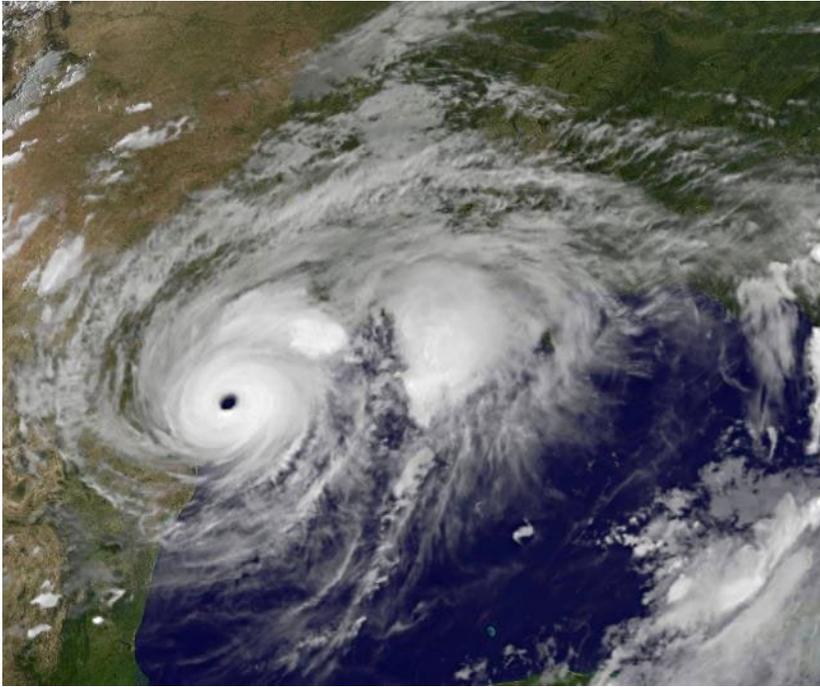
Powered by ZingChart

### 1980-2021 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters (CPI-Adjusted)



#### United States

Drought:	29	Flooding:	36	Freeze:	9	Severe Storm:	152
Tropical Cyclone:	57	Wildfire:	20	Winter Storm:	20	All Disasters:	323



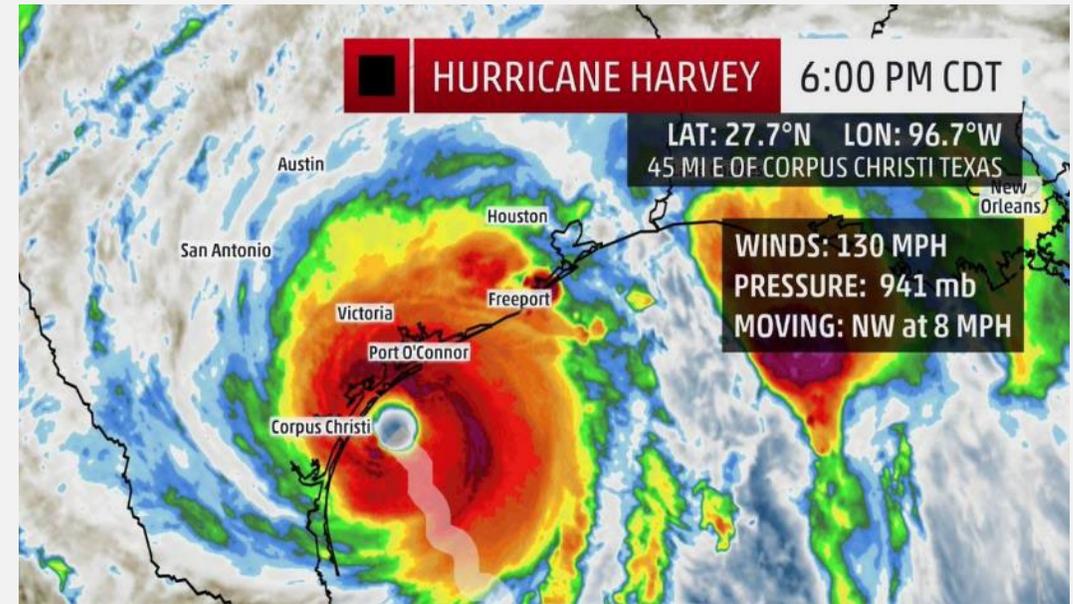
*Following Harvey, Texas OneGulf worked to identify linkages between human, socioeconomic and environmental impacts to develop decision support tools while accelerating disaster recovery*



## DISASTER RECOVERY & RESILIENCE

Analysis one year after the storm showed the Coastal Bend did not have the capacity needed to effectively pursue recovery & mitigation

- HRI, in partnership with FEMA, organized a Grants Training Workshop open to local officials, small businesses and NGOs
- Attended by over 50 local stakeholders, as well as program officials from FEMA, TDEM, SBA, GLO, TWDB, EPA, USDA, EDA and the Rebuild Texas Fund
- Discussion centered on unmet needs and strengthening understanding of available recovery programs and funds





**KEY LESSON: RESILIENCE IS LOCAL**  
*STRENGTHENED CAPACITY IS NEEDED FROM THE LOCAL TO REGIONAL LEVEL!*

# REGIONAL RESILIENCE MODELS

Collaborative	Membership <sup>†</sup>				Administrative or Fiscal Host	Funding Source(s) <sup>‡</sup>				
	Local government	Public agencies & utilities*	Nonprofit, Academia	Business/Private		Member dues/Cost-share	Philanthropic grants	State or federal grants	Other	In-kind services
<i>King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C)</i>	✓	✗	✗	✗	County	✓				✓
<i>Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative (CRC)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	Nonprofit – Local Government Commission	✓			✓	✓
<i>Sierra Climate Adaptation &amp; Mitigation Partnership (Sierra CAMP)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	Nonprofit – Sierra Business Council	~	✓		✓	✓
<i>Los Angeles Regional Collaborative for Climate Action and Sustainability (LARC)</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	University – UCLA	✓		✓		✓
<i>San Diego Regional Climate Collaborative (SDRCC)</i>	✓	✓	✓		University – USD	~	✓	✓	✓	✓
<i>Southeast Florida Regional Climate Change Compact (Compact)</i>	✓	✗	✗	✗	Nonprofit – Institute for Sustainable Communities; County – Broward (fiscal)	✓	✓	✓		✓

<sup>†</sup>Note on Membership: “✗” indicates entities/organization types that are not eligible at all for membership in the collaborative, while blank spaces indicate member types that are eligible but so far the collaborative does not have any from that category.

<sup>‡</sup>Note on Funding Sources: blank spaces indicate funding sources not used to date, while tildes (~) indicate mixed or optional dues structures (i.e., SDRCC, which does not charge dues to public agency members, and Sierra CAMP, which has a voluntary/suggested contribution structure).

\*Other public agencies include regional authorities like water and air districts, councils of government, port authorities, etc.

Utilities (e.g., electric) are included in this category regardless of ownership.

# REGIONAL RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP INITIATED

## 2019 COASTAL BEND HURRICANE CONFERENCE



# REGIONAL RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP COASTAL BEND OF TEXAS

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
ESTABLISHING A JOINT PROJECT BETWEEN  
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY-CORPUS CHRISTI  
AND  
COASTAL BEND COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
Agreement No. 1

I. PARTIES

This Memorandum of Understanding ("Agreement") is entered into by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi ("TAMUCC"), represented herein by Dr. Kelly Quintanilla in her capacity of President, and the Coastal Bend Council of Governments (CBCOG), represented herein by Mr. John Buckner, in his capacity of Executive Director, with the purpose of setting forth the general framework for specific projects in the future in matters related with: Disaster Resilience and Mitigation of the Texas Coastal Bend and Investigation and the Disclosure thereof, subject to the following considerations, recitals and clauses:

RECITALS

II. TAMUCC HEREBY DECLARES THROUGH ITS AGENT:

- (1) That it is a university managed by a Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System (the "A&M System"), and that it has legal capacity to engage in, and be engaged under the terms of the policies of the A&M System and the laws of the State of Texas.
- (2) That its purpose is supporting investigation and education activities as well as the disclosure thereof, which includes long term development in the sustainable use and preservation of the Gulf of Mexico and resilience building of Gulf coastal communities, specifically through the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies.
- (3) That the TAMUCC President has the legal capacity to execute this Agreement and additional agreements with other institutions according to the laws of the State of Texas and the policies of the A&M System.
- (4) That its legal domicile is located at Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, 6300 Ocean Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas 78412, United States of America, telephone +1(361) 825-2000.



## RRP launched in 2019 to build community capacity to mitigate disaster risk

- RRP Listserv for training and funding announcements
- Training sessions (local officials, small business, NGOs, students)
- Direct technical support and guidance to counties and cities on building and implementing recovery, resilience and risk mitigation plans
  - Co-develop feedback to state/federal surveys
  - Targeted assistance
- Technical assistance in data and GIS

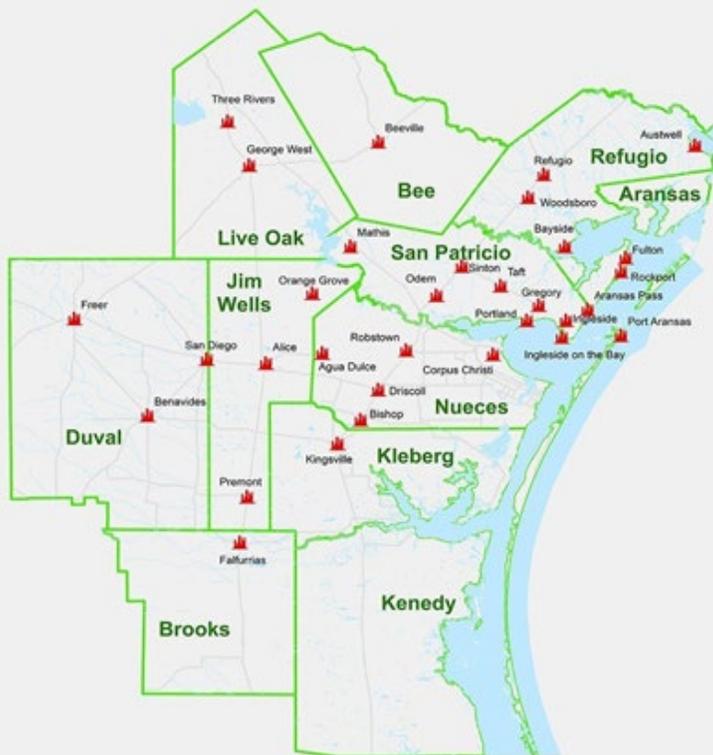
## Future efforts

- Develop funding strategies, assist with grants applications and administration
- Strategic resilience assessment locally and across counties

# PEOPLE OF RRP

**Stakeholders:** RRP primarily serves communities in the Texas Coastal Bend region. Examples include:

- Local government
- Chambers of Commerce
- Economic Development Corporations
- Workforce
- Independent School Districts
- Non-profit organizations
- Churches
- Public health entities
- Industry partners
- Higher Education
- State agencies and federal partners



# RRP STRATEGIC PLAN

## ***Vision***

*Coastal Bend and partner communities are resilient to natural and manmade disaster events and environmental change and are leaders in innovative strategies to mitigate disaster risk.*

## ***Mission***

*RRP brings a holistic approach to community resilience and capacity building, creating a foundation for robust economies, infrastructure, and ecosystems as well as strong and healthy social systems.*

### **Relationships**

Goal 1: Establish consistent, two-way communication with communities

### **Local Data for Local Resilience**

Goal 2: Understand and define resilience at the local level with local data

### **Needs Assessment**

Goal 3: Conduct a needs assessment in each Coastal Bend County

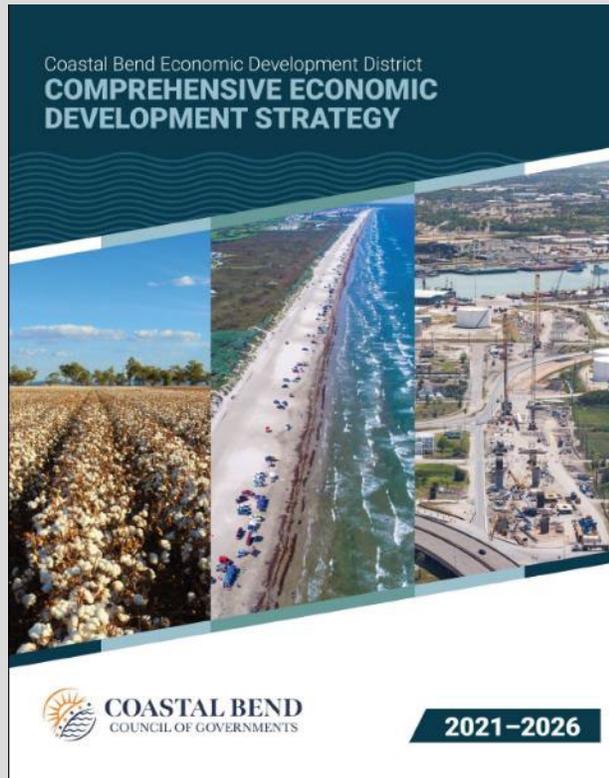
### **Strategies for Resilience**

Goal 4: Create, implement and/or inform data-driven strategies for resilience

### **Capacity Building**

Goal 5: Build local capacity to strengthen resilience and mitigate risk

# COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



- CEDS is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development, and is a prerequisite for designation by EDA as an [Economic Development District \(EDD\)](#)
- Driven by the CEDS Committee, the strategy is the result of a regionally-owned planning process designed to build capacity and guide the economic prosperity and resiliency of a region
- Must be updated every 5 yrs
- RRP was able to expand the stakeholder base needed to more meaningfully update the Coastal Bend CEDS for 2021-2026

# RRP & CEDS GOALS 1 & 4

## GOAL 1

Objective 1.1: Coastal Bend counties have county-wide resilient economic development plans

Objective 1.2: Resilient and diverse industries expand while local partners support innovation and entrepreneurship across small and mid-sized business

Objective 1.3: Coastal Bend has heightened attractiveness to global visitors and businesses

## GOAL 4

Objective 4.1: Quality of life programs and opportunities are made accessible to all Coastal Bend communities

Objective 4.2: Capacity is built across local agencies and businesses to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from disaster events

Objective 4.3: Local to regional projects are advanced to mitigate disaster risk



### **GOAL 1: Catalyze Resilient Economic Development**

Economic resilience is especially important to a region like the Coastal Bend that faces multiple risks from potential downturns and external shocks such as natural and man-made disasters. Building economic resilience will facilitate the region's ability to anticipate and evaluate how risks may impact key economic assets, while advancing a responsive capacity that can address regional needs pre- and post-disaster. Strategic Actions will strengthen and diversify the regional economy through a comprehensive economic development approach that works with partners to achieve common objectives.



### **GOAL 4: Support Community Well-Being**

Advancing community well-being is a theme that underpins and intersects with strong and resilient economies, infrastructure and workforce. Building community well-being and resilience is about fostering the collective ability to understand risks, diversify community strengths and establish safeguards to better mitigate disaster impacts. This goes beyond the physical aspects of disaster events to create stronger economies and social systems while providing access to and expertise in technologies that enable self-healing, such as smart grid systems. This is a critical point for small and rural communities that do not have the resources and capacity needed to pursue such goals, and as such, a key priority for this theme is to build local to regional capacity.



**EARL C. SAMS  
FOUNDATION**

## RRP PROJECTS: RESILIENCE TRAINING PROGRAM

Earl C. Sams Foundation awarded small grant to RRP to build the **RRP Training Program**:

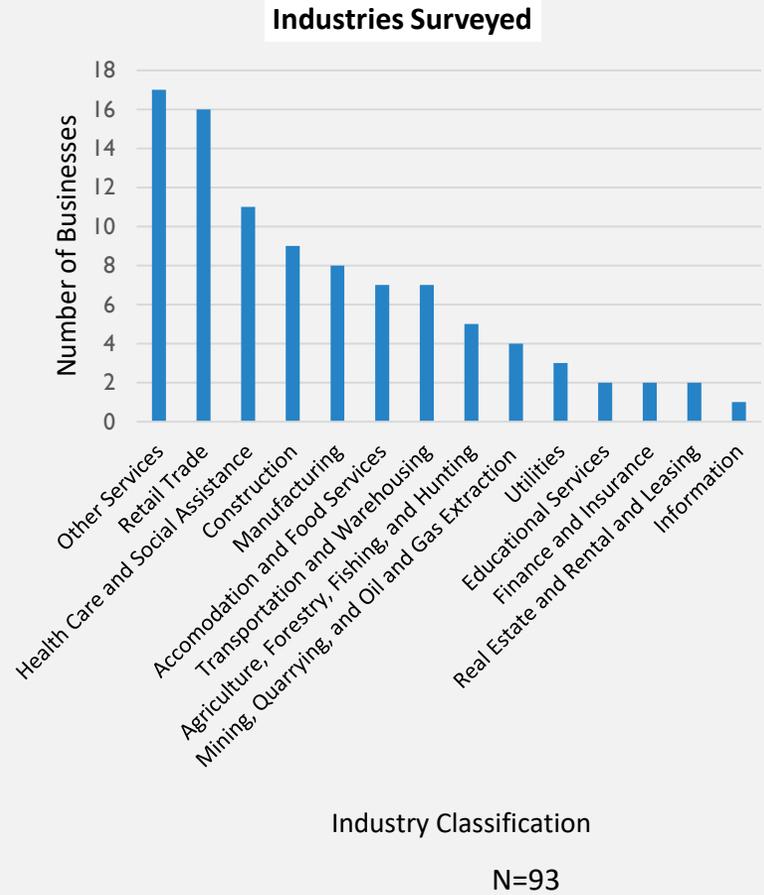
- Partnerships and Networks for Resilience;
- Training for Recovery & Resilience; and
- Building Data-Informed Action Strategies.

- Participants included actions or ideas from the training in an *Action Strategy for Resilience*
- *Strategy* included both a set of priorities in need of action to build-resilience, and a set of immediate and near-term actions that can be taken to advance those priorities.

*Training Topics: Data for Resilience; Long-term Recovery Planning; Pre- and Post-Disaster Preparation; Preparing for Damage Assessment; Community Engagement; Grants Procurement; Successful Grant Writing*



# RRP PROJECTS: COVID-19 SMALL BUSINESS IMPACTS IN THE COASTAL BEND

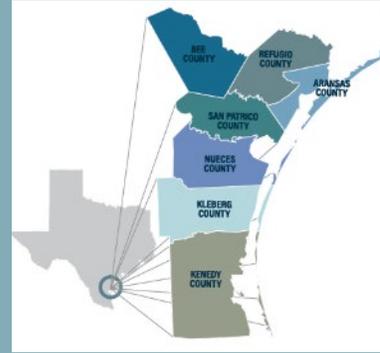


Concern Type	% Respondents
Other	54
Face masks/PPE	42
Social distancing	41
Sanitation supplies	28
Revenue impacts	24
Increased cleaning services	23
Employee childcare	14
Limiting employee shifts	4
Employee telework	4
COVID-19 screening	2
Plexiglass barriers	2
Hygiene etiquette	1

- Data needed to demonstrate COVID-19 impacts to businesses
- Rural and small-town communities, which constitute the majority of Coastal Bend areas, have a high low-response rate to online surveys
- Summer 2020 study surveyed local businesses by telephone in four rural Coastal Bend counties
- Results created data to feed into economic impact studies and used as an input to craft tailored strategies for individual counties, e.g.:
  - Most businesses were already operating at 100%, though ~34% were operating at 50% percent capacity or lower
  - About 2/3 had at least some impact to revenue, with ~18% of businesses experience revenue losses at or above 50%
  - Only 1/3 indicated that they had applied for and received financial assistance

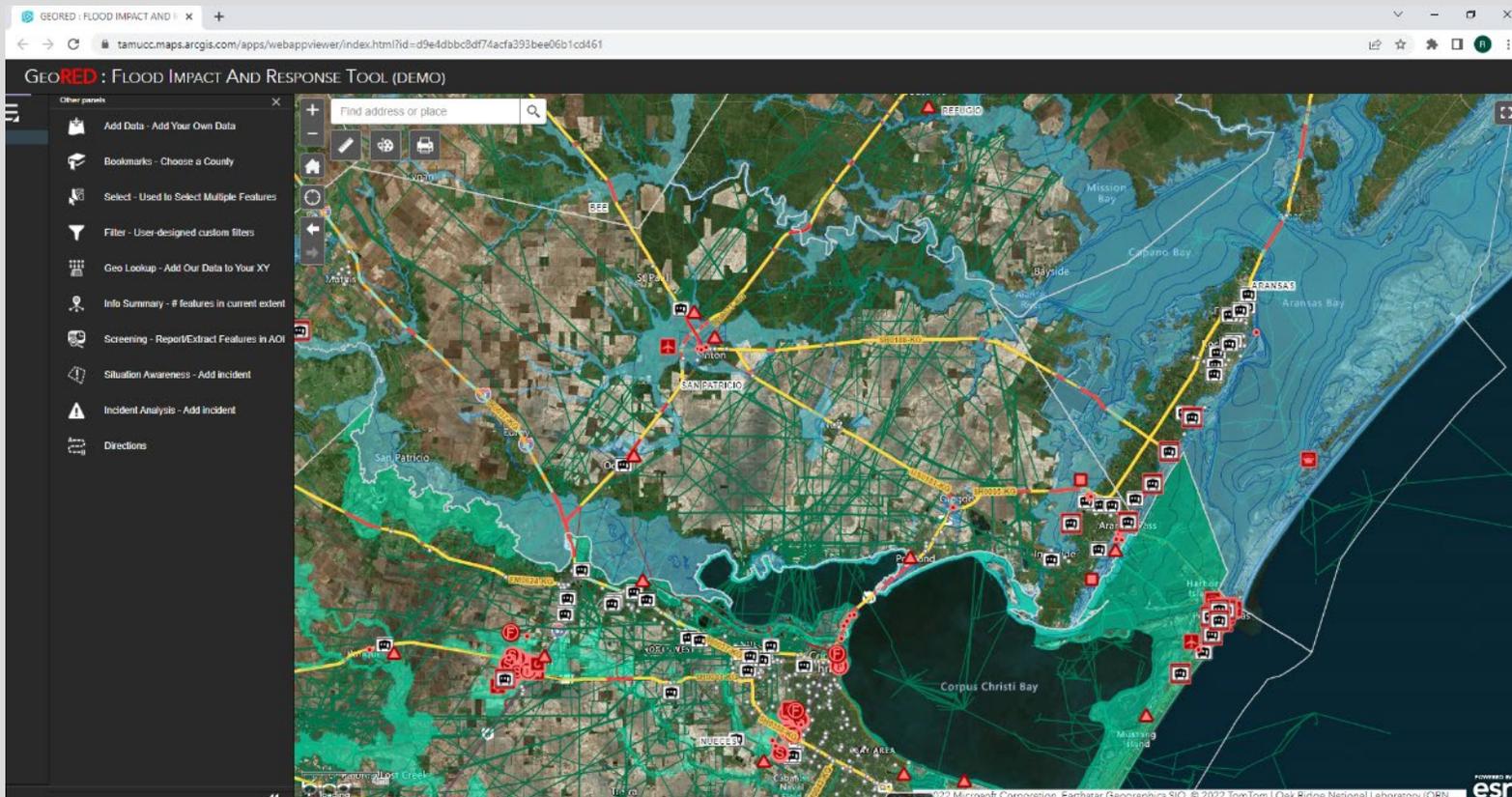
McClure, M. and K. Wowk. 2022. COVID-19 Small Business Impacts in the Texas Coastal Bend: A Hyperlocal Approach for Small Towns & Rural Communities. *Small Business Institute Journal*. Vol. ahead-of-print No. ahead-of-print.

# RRP PROJECTS: GEOSPATIAL RESILIENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (GEORED)



Advancing ~\$1.5M project to build the South Texas Platform for Resilient Economic Development in seven Coastal Bend Counties to:

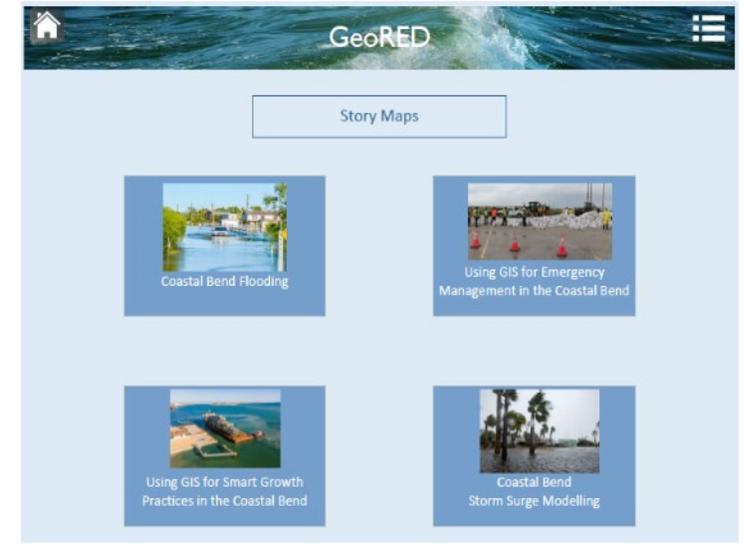
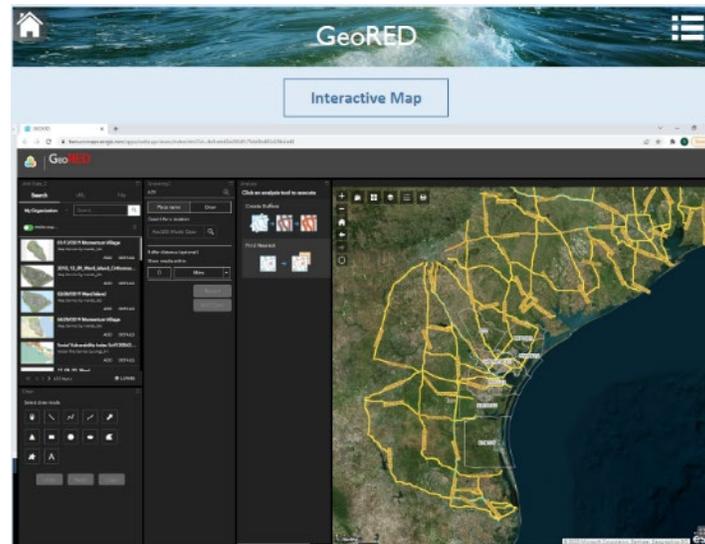
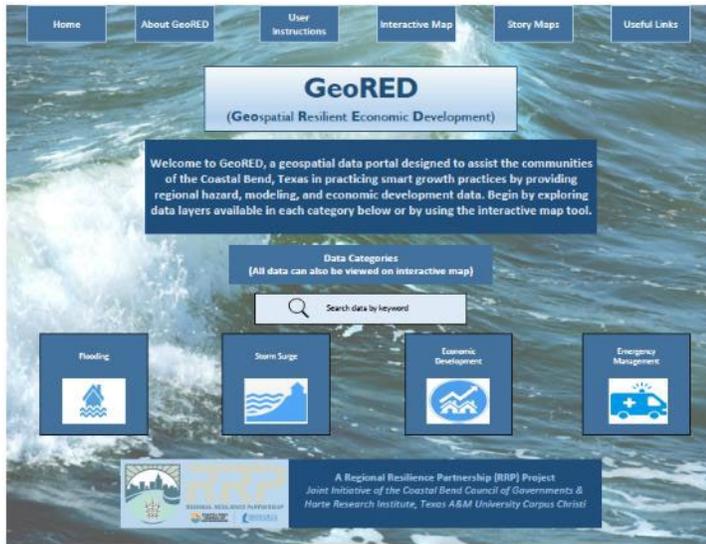
- Provide a common online platform to assess environmental and economic risk in a geospatial framework



Economic Development Administration funded the initial phase with focus on: Aransas, Bee, Refugio, San Patricio



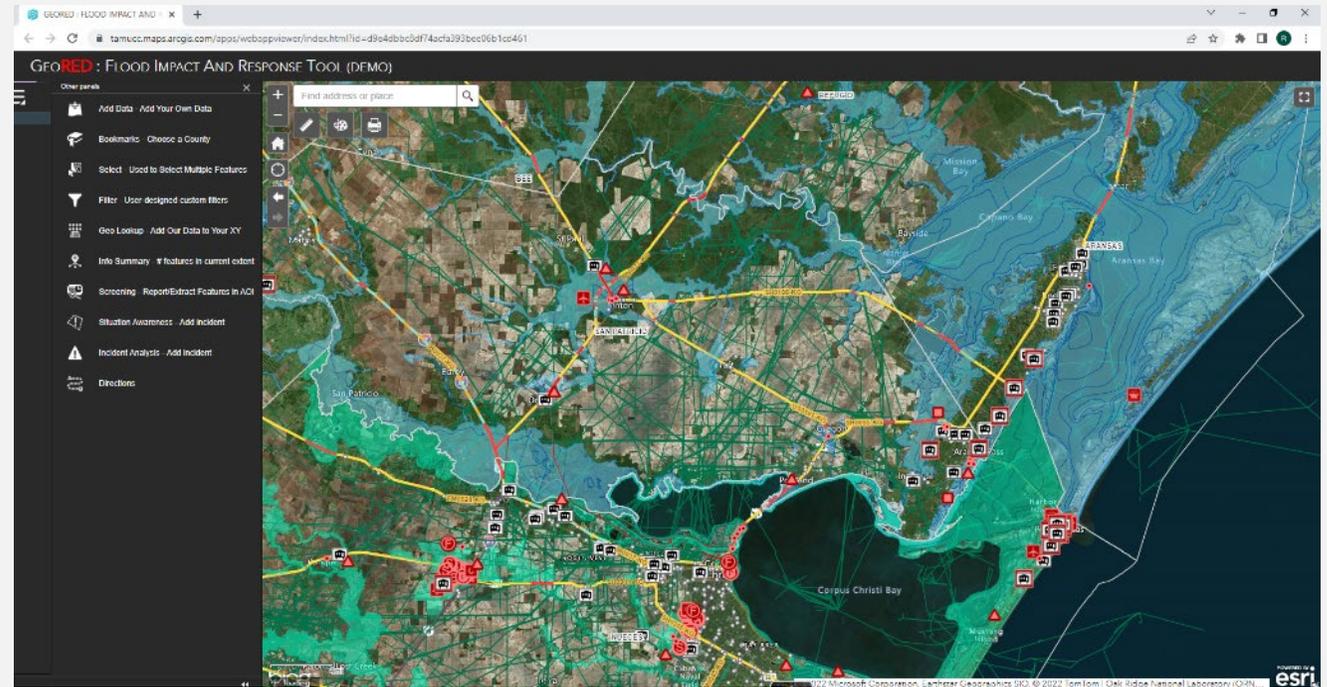
TCEQ / Texas OneGulf provided additional support for Nueces, Kleberg and Kenedy Counties



# GEORED WEBSITE MOCKUP

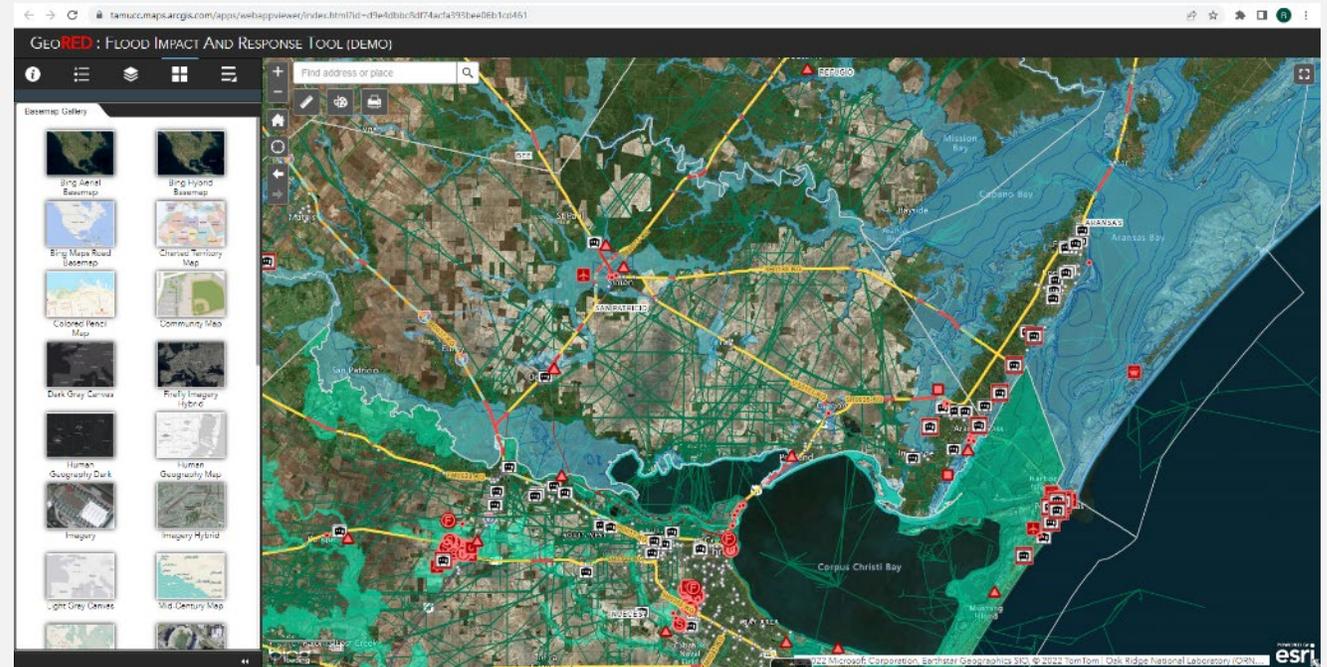
# INTERACTIVE MAP FUNCTIONALITY: TOOLS

- Tools tab: can add shapefiles, bookmark counties, select features, filter layers, look up addresses, analyze information summary tables, create area of interest to filter results spatially, and add incidents/features to the map



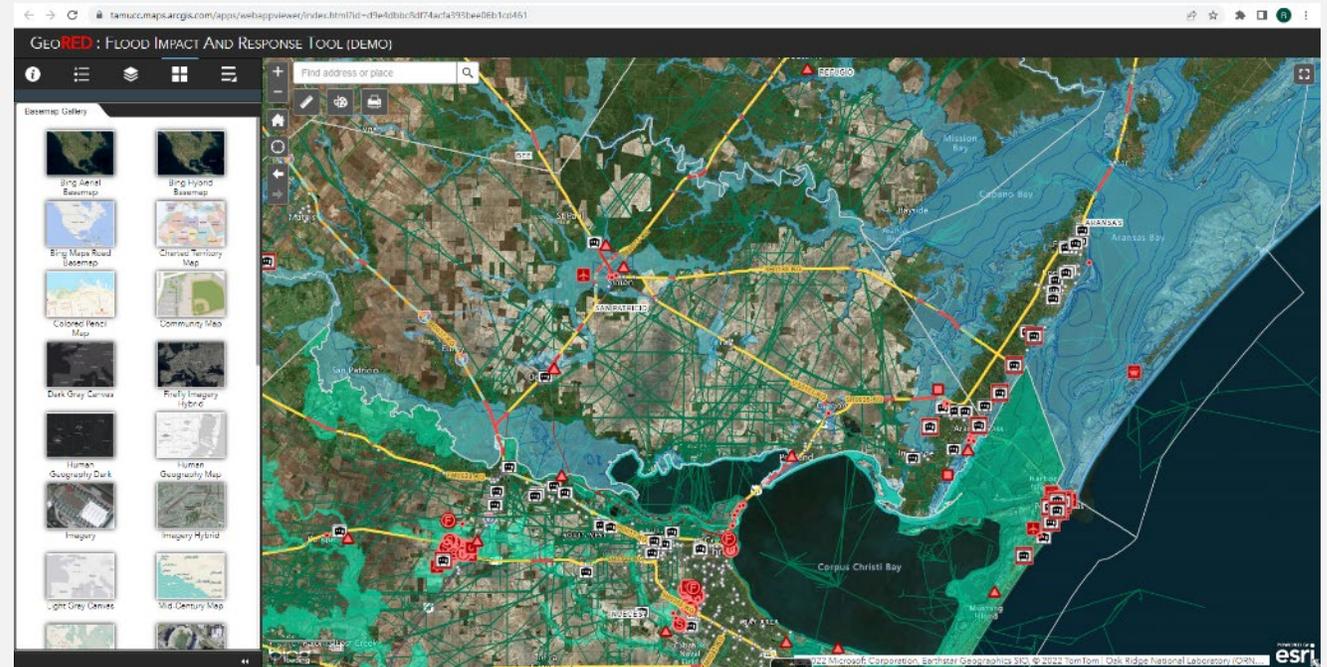
# INTERACTIVE MAP FUNCTIONALITY: BASEMAP

- Basemap Gallery: user can choose their own background imagery/street view/etc.



# INTERACTIVE MAP FUNCTIONALITY: REPORTS

- Report/extract features tool:  
user can draw a polygon on the  
map and a buffer radius of, e.g.,  
1 mile to see the results within  
those bounds



# GEORED: CO-PRODUCING THE TOOL

- Working with local officials to integrate, digitize and QA/QC local physical data, e.g., parcel level data, critical infrastructure, road data, etc.
- Working with ECDs and Chambers to identify and display economic data layers, e.g., supply chains, labor market analytics, opportunity zones, infrastructure etc.
- Will be overlaid with hazard information to enhance understanding of risk and opportunity



Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation

PROPERTIES COMMUNITIES BUSINESSES Layers Demographics Workforce Custom Reports Clear Map Share My Fav GIS

All Sub-Type Sale Lease City County Show/Hide Property Filter by Map Fed Opp Zone Acres Min Max Sq. Ft. Min Max Show More Filter Options Reset Search

Featured Export to CSV Share 45 Properties

Gandy Megasite GANDY SPUR RD, Robstown, Nueces County, TX, 78380 1,600 Acres **FEATURED** Vacant Land Site For Sale

102 NAVIGATION BLVD 102 NAVIGATION BLVD, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, TX, 78408 25,490 Sqft 2.93 Acres Wholesale/Distribution Building For Sale

LAYERS ACTIVE LEGEND Search Find address or place

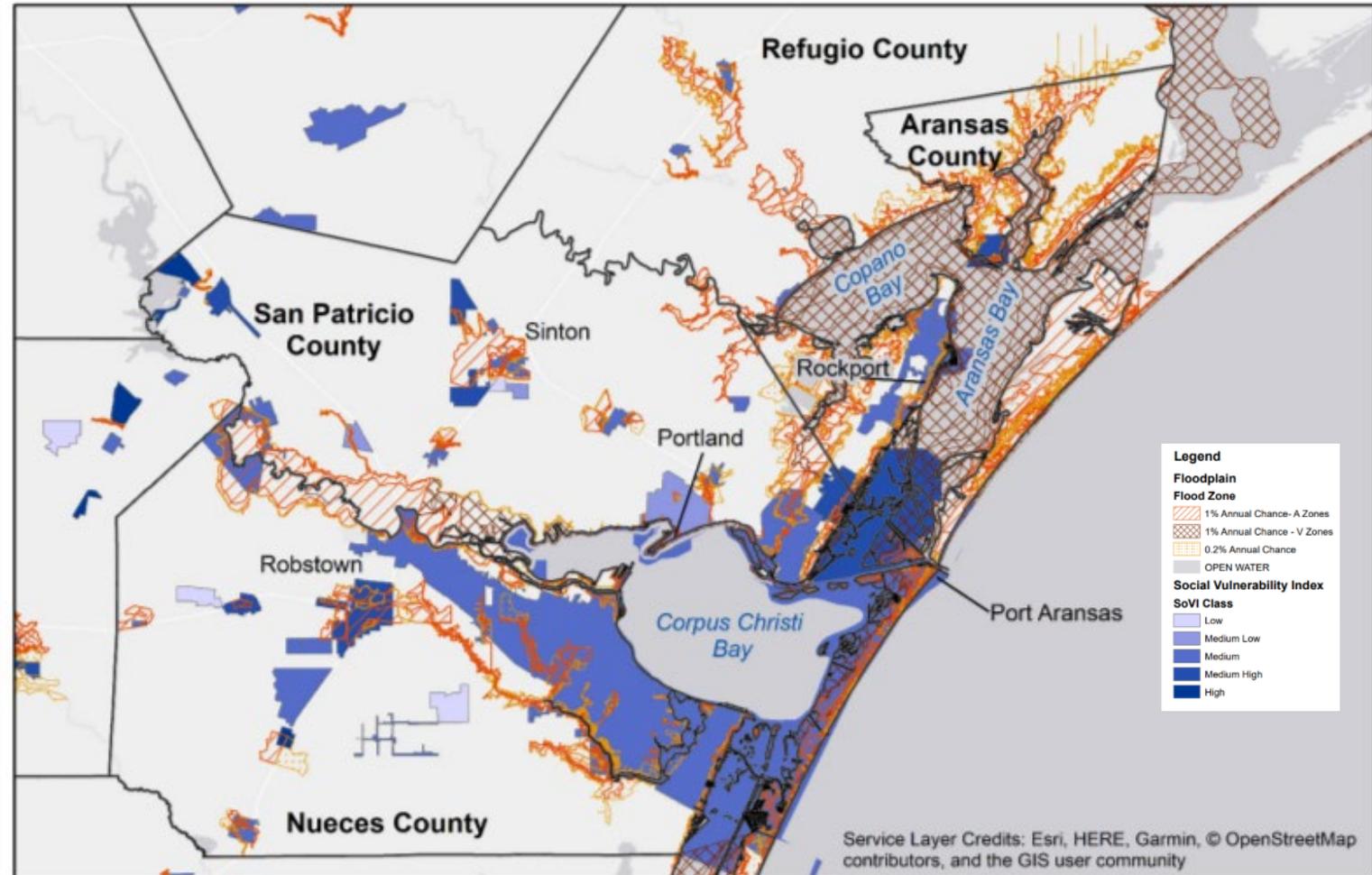
- ACS Geographic Mobility
- Businesses
- Infrastructure
- Flood Zones
- Education
- Zoning
- Recreation
- Broadband
- Port
- Military

0 15 30 mi

RRP PROJECTS: COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK  
GRANT – MITIGATION  
(CDBG-MIT) FUNDING

- Applied data in allocating **\$179,547,000** in CDBG-MIT funds
- Informed the Coastal Bend “Method of Distribution” (MOD), which allocates specific funding amounts to local jurisdictions
- Used data to map: Flood Zones; Population; Low-to-Moderate Income; Social Vulnerability; FEMA Individual Assistance Applications; Critical Infrastructure; Land Use/ Landcover
- Received waiver from GLO to use TWDB Texas Floodplain Quilt data in the Coastal Bend MOD – the only COG to do so
- Funding being used by local jurisdictions to develop strategic, high-impact activities to mitigate disaster risks

## Social Vulnerability Index and FEMA Flood Zones Regionwide



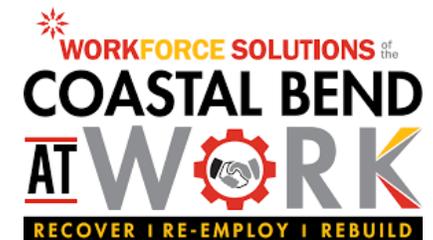
Maps available at:

<http://www.coastalbendcog.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Presentation%20.16.2022%20HRI.pdf>

# RRP UPCOMING WORK

## Workforce initiatives to support small business

- Partnering with communities to develop workforce development and entrepreneurship centers
- Focus is workforce training and career and technical education to support high demand marketable skills training
- Goal is to build a sustainable workforce for entrepreneurial endeavors and career resilience
- Aransas County awarded \$1.7 million grant from the EDA in 2021, under construction
- City of Falfurrias in Brooks County in development stages



# RRP COMMUNICATIONS



Facebook



Instagram



LinkedIn

[@CoastalBend.RRP](https://www.instagram.com/CoastalBend.RRP)



Read the latest RRP Listserv News here!  
Thanks to many for sharing the information below :)

#### ----- Important Information & Updates! -----

[Webinar] Financial Assistance Workshop Webinar – April 27, 10:00a-12:30p:  
The Texas Water Development Board is inviting you to join a financial assistance workshop webinar with valuable information and updates. This webinar will provide an overview of some funding programs. Please register for this webinar in advance. There will be time for questions during and after the presentation. [Register](#)

[Webinar] Affordable Housing Financing Resources from HUD – April 12, 1-2:30p:  
This session of the Federal Financing Webinar Series will highlight the resources available at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to support projects in affordable housing and disaster relief on both the state and local levels. Learning about these programs can help with projects in your community. A registration fee of \$55 is required for non-members of the CDFA. [Register](#)

[Webinar] TWDB Board Meeting – April 11, 9:30a-12:00p:  
The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) will hold a board meeting to consider approving financial assistance for water, wastewater, and flood projects. The board will also consider adopting rules for the Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) and the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) program. [Register](#)

#### ----- Resilience Webinars, Information, and Funding! -----

##### WEBINARS:

**Addressing the Silent Epidemic of Pedestrian Deaths – April 12, 12:00-1:00p**

The number of pedestrian deaths has been rising in recent years. What can communities do to turn this around? Join the Smart Growth Network as author and speaker Angie Schmitt explains why many pedestrian deaths are avoidable and what communities can do to reframe the problem, make improvements, and help to save lives. [Register](#)

**Meet the Grantmakers Webinar – April 13, 10-**



##### INFORMATION:

**CDFA Announces Infrastructure Finance Learning Series, In Partnership with EY**  
The CDFA Infrastructure Finance Learning Series, created in partnership with Ernst & Young Global Limited (EY), is designed to help communities develop a comprehensive

##### FUNDING:

**Energy Transitions in Underserved Communities – April 28**  
The EPA, as part of its Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program, is seeking applications proposing community-engaged research that will address the drivers and environmental impacts of energy transitions in underserved communities. [Information](#)

**Rural Health & Safety Education Competitive Grants Program (RHSE) – April 29**  
This program supports

We want to hear from you

*Contact us to partner for resilience!*

[RRP@tamucc.edu](mailto:RRP@tamucc.edu)

*Thank you!*



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[@CoastalBend.RRP](#)

RRP provides strategic direction and capacity building to the Coastal Bend and partners throughout Texas. The three pillars include:

- I. Partnerships & Networks for Resilience - develop trust, shared concepts and data
- II. Training & Data-Informed Actions - co-develop actionable strategies for resilience
- III. Implementation - implement, monitor and update actions