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MEDIA ADVISORY:

RAPIDO, a program that redesigns the U.S. Disaster Recovery Housing Process, will be presented at the United Nations Habitat III conference in Ecuador

DALLAS – buildingcommunityWORKSHOP ([bc]) is pleased to announce the launch of RAPIDORECOVERY.org, to advocate for RAPIDO, a program that redesigns the U.S. Disaster Recovery Housing Process from policies to implementation with, and for, the people who are impacted the most. RAPIDO will be presented at the United Nations Habitat III conference Wednesday, October 19th, 2016 at 9:30am.

The team - comprised of Community Development Corporation of Brownsville, [bc], LUPE, ARISE, Texas A&M Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center, and Texas Low Income Housing Information Service - are pleased to announce RAPIDORECOVERY.org to share information about RAPIDO. On the website you can download the RAPIDO technical guides, watch a short 3-minute documentary about the project and listen to the Habitat III Presentation.

For more information about the conference, visit <https://habitat3.org/> or <https://nextcity.org/habitat3>

RAPIDO will be presented at Next City's World Stage at the HABITAT III exhibition

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About buildingcommunityWORKSHOP

The buildingcommunityWORKSHOP is a Texas based nonprofit community design center seeking to improve the livability and viability of communities through the practice of thoughtful design and making. We enrich the lives of citizens by bringing design thinking to areas of our cities where resources are most scarce. To do so, [bc] recognizes that it must first understand the social, economic, and environmental issues facing a community before beginning work. www.bcworkshop.org

For more information and press images:

<http://www.rapidorecovery.org/press/>

Social Media:

use #RAPIDO

www.twitter.com/bcworkshop

Tweet suggestions

Learn about #RAPIDO, a program that redesigns the entire U.S. Disaster Recovery Housing Process
<http://ow.ly/mgpJ305gZZG>

#RAPIDO will be presented at the UN Habitat III conference this week. Join us in spreading the word.
<https://habitat3.org/>

[bc] is excited to represent our RGV work @habitatIII ! Our #equity initiative is possible with the support of the @FordFoundation #RAPIDO

RAPIDO Overview

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Community Development Corporation of Brownsville (CDCB)

The Systems Model

RAPIDO is a new holistic approach that enables communities to recover from disasters within months instead of years. Through understanding and re-designing the entire disaster recovery process with, and for the people that are impacted the most, RAPIDO fosters resilience within communities and abates the social and economic impacts of disaster.

Working with people with first-hand experience in the failures of the standard disaster recovery process following Hurricane Dolly in 2008, the RAPIDO team evaluated every level of the housing recovery process, including community outreach, case management, housing design & construction, labor recruitment, and policy design as well as studied disaster case studies over the last 15 years. RAPIDO is a response to long-term disaster recovery at all scales using a bottom up, community-based approach that is centered on the families it intends to support.

The RAPIDO model recognizes that “Pre-recovery” activities must start prior to a disaster. Pre-recovery means:

- developing design guidelines with a diverse set of stakeholders to ensure varied and high quality home designs,
- training a local labor force and pre-procuring materials to enable rebuilding to start as soon as possible,
- planning, preparing, and training recovery teams knowledgeable in outreach, case management, eligibility requirements, and the design and construction process in order to support local jurisdictions and assist families in navigating the recovery process.

By investing in pre-recovery, communities will be more resilient to future storms.

The Housing Model

RAPIDO delivers higher quality housing, reduces the response time in meeting the needs of affected families,

and reduces the cost of current disaster response models. Utilizing a temp-to-perm strategy, RAPIDO provides immediate emergency housing while, in the same step, investing towards a permanent home.

This temp-to-perm system is built upon the “CORE”, a temporary, modular unit designed as the first component of a permanent home. The CORE bridges the gap between relief and recovery housing with a single unit. Typically, manufactured emergency housing is disposed of after the emergency phase or when the family is ready to move on. The CORE has been designed instead, for durability and expansion. When resources are available and the post disaster conditions are stable, the CORE can be expanded through customizable additions into a permanent home to meet each family’s needs and preferences.

RAPIDO provided affected families the opportunity to work with a designer to determine the form and function of their replacement home through a set of meetings. These meetings offered homeowners choices in the style and type of home that would replace the one they lost. This process quickly restores the feeling of ownership and pride. Presenting choices, instead of a disposable or standard model home reestablishes a sense of control and agency during a period of time that often leaves families feeling helpless. In practice, these choices result

RAPIDO Partners and Contacts

Community Development Corporation Brownsville

Role: Program Administrator and Coordinator
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Role: Design/Construction Lead and Program Coordinator
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La Unión del Pueblo Entero

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A Resource in Serving Equality (ARISE)

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Texas Low Income Housing Information Services [TxLIHIS]

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