

**Pacific Institute for Community Organizations**

(Oakland, CA)

*Hurricane Katrina*

**Total Award: \$75,000 over 3 months**

***Presidential Authority Grant***

To support the Pacific Institute for Community Organization's (PICO) efforts to rebuild its office and network in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The devastation caused by Katrina has left PICO's New Orleans affiliate, All Congregations Together (ACT), and its statewide effort, Louisiana Interfaiths Together (LIFT), in a critical state. ACT has been at the center of civic life in New Orleans for the past fifteen years, fighting to improve public services, particularly for families in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward, which has now been devastated. Although staff members were able to save ACT's database and some records, the office is under water. PICO has re-opened ACT in Baton Rouge and is now rebuilding its infrastructure, securing an office, furniture and equipment, and hiring new staff to reestablish operations. LIFT is also participating in reconstituting PICO's organizing presence by reconnecting with elders, pastors, and their families from ACT, who are scattered throughout the Gulf Coast. Re-establishing the PICO network will help New Orleans families and congregations organize themselves to be an effective voice in the relief and reconstruction process as it develops.

***Program Contribution Breakdown:***

**\$60,250** Health Program: *Objective I, Strategy 1 and Objective II, Strategy 2*

**\$10,000** Interprogram Initiatives for Social and Economic Justice Program: *Objectives I & II*

**\$4,750** Jewish Life and Values Program: *Goal I, Strategy 3*