

# Rebuilding Community Capacity to Protect New Orleanians' Health after Katrina

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*about the collaboration...*

**The Center for Empowered Decision Making** is a community-based, nonprofit organization serving the New Orleans and Baton Rouge communities |

**CommonHealth ACTION** is a national, nonprofit organization located in Washington, DC |  
[www.commonhealthaction.org](http://www.commonhealthaction.org)

This collaboration is funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to support  
post-Katrina recovery efforts in Louisiana.



# Goals of Collaboration

- **Assess the immediate needs of residents**
- **Support the safe return home or securing a new home for community residents**
- **Establish sustainable mechanisms to ensure the voices of those most impacted across Louisiana inform redevelopment efforts so that the mistakes made during Katrina's disaster response efforts are never repeated**



# Goals of Collaboration

- **Prepare written reports and provide a briefing of findings associated with practice and policy implications**
- **Disseminate findings and recommendations for public consumption**

# Critical Role of Children





# Methodology

- Convened groups to characterize needs of children and families as they return to Orleans Parish
- Identified current programs and services available to facilitate children and families to return and thrive (schools, mental health, health care, faith community, etc.)
- Identified gaps in programs and services
- Developed a specific plan of action to address gaps, strengthen community programs and services
- Captured the voices of youth to inform New Orleans' redevelopment efforts





# The Children of New Orleans

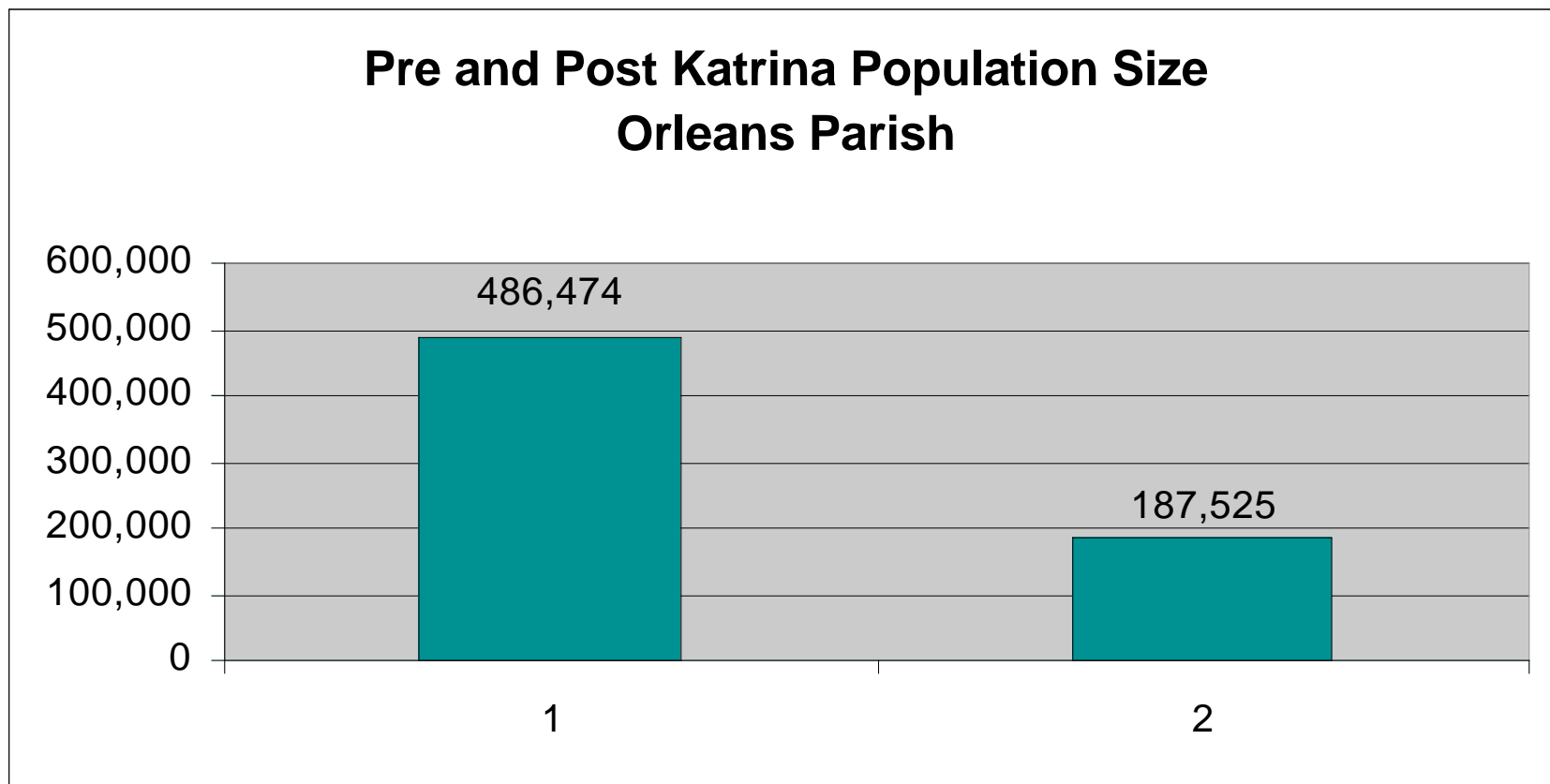


# Children's Advice for the Future New Orleans – Informing a Policy Agenda

- Improve Safety
- Clean Up and Improve Schools
- Need More Places to Play, Things to Do
- Cleaner Environment and City
- Plan, Prepare, and Protect



# 2006 Louisiana Health and Population Survey Expanded Louisiana Public Health Institute







# Emerging Policy Agenda

- Fund supervised recreation for all children.
- Mandate and fund full-time staffing of mental health services in all schools.
- Enact LEAP waiver for 2007 Hurricane affected graduating seniors.



# Emerging Policy Agenda

- Mandate that all schools are cleaned up to assure a clean, safe place for children to learn and thrive. This includes mandating availability of certified teachers for all students.
- Revisit Orleans Parish Children and Youth Planning Board legislation previously enacted by Orleans Parish and provide funding support to implement legislation.





# Emerging Policy Agenda

- Fund the *Prepare for the Children Consortium* to continue its collaborative activity on behalf of children and families.



# Lessons Learned from Katrina: Implications for Every Community

- Viability and Adequacy of Emergency Plans
- Vulnerable Populations
- Public Awareness
- Built Environment and Public Safety
- Aligning Action and Advocacy
- Developing Action Plans to Address Gaps, Strengthen Community Programs and Services



# Health as a Primary Public Good

Public health practice is what “...we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.”

*Institute of Medicine, 1988 & 2003 Reports*



# Viability and Adequacy of Emergency Plans

- What do community advocates, previous leaders, and members of the communities affected (including youth and older persons) think about the plans?
- To what extent are emergency simulations, drills and other exercises realistic?



# Vulnerable Populations

- How, where, and to what extent are the most vulnerable populations represented in response efforts?



# Public Awareness

- To what extent are the trusted and legitimate leaders or representatives aware of the city/town's emergency response plan?
- What messages (direct and indirect) are the media promoting?



# Built Environment and Public Safety

- As America's cities and towns grow, to what extent are we committed to 'smart growth' principles?
- How should 'smart growth' principles be adapted to facilitate effective emergency response (e.g., mass evacuation)?



# Aligning Action and Advocacy

- From Silos and Competition to New Models of Governance... Toward a comprehensive advocacy model for health equity...



**Action Planning**



## Levels of “Upstream-ness”

### *Doak Bloss: The Ingham County Experience*

- Level 1: An activity that attempts to eliminate those things in the social structure that deny certain people voice, power, and political influence in society (e.g., class exploitation, racism, and gender discrimination).

**“Upstream”**



## Levels of “Upstream-ness”

### *Doak Bloss: The Ingham County Experience*

- Level 2: An activity that directly attempts to give people access to the things that will help them obtain an equal footing with those who are currently privileged (e.g., quality education, low-interest loans, inclusion in social networks).

**“Moderately Upstream”**



# Levels of “Upstream-ness”

## *Doak Bloss: The Ingham County Experience*

- Level 3: An activity that moves people from conditions that impede health into conditions that support health (e.g., secure and good-paying jobs, quality and affordable housing, access to transportation).

**“A Little Upstream”**



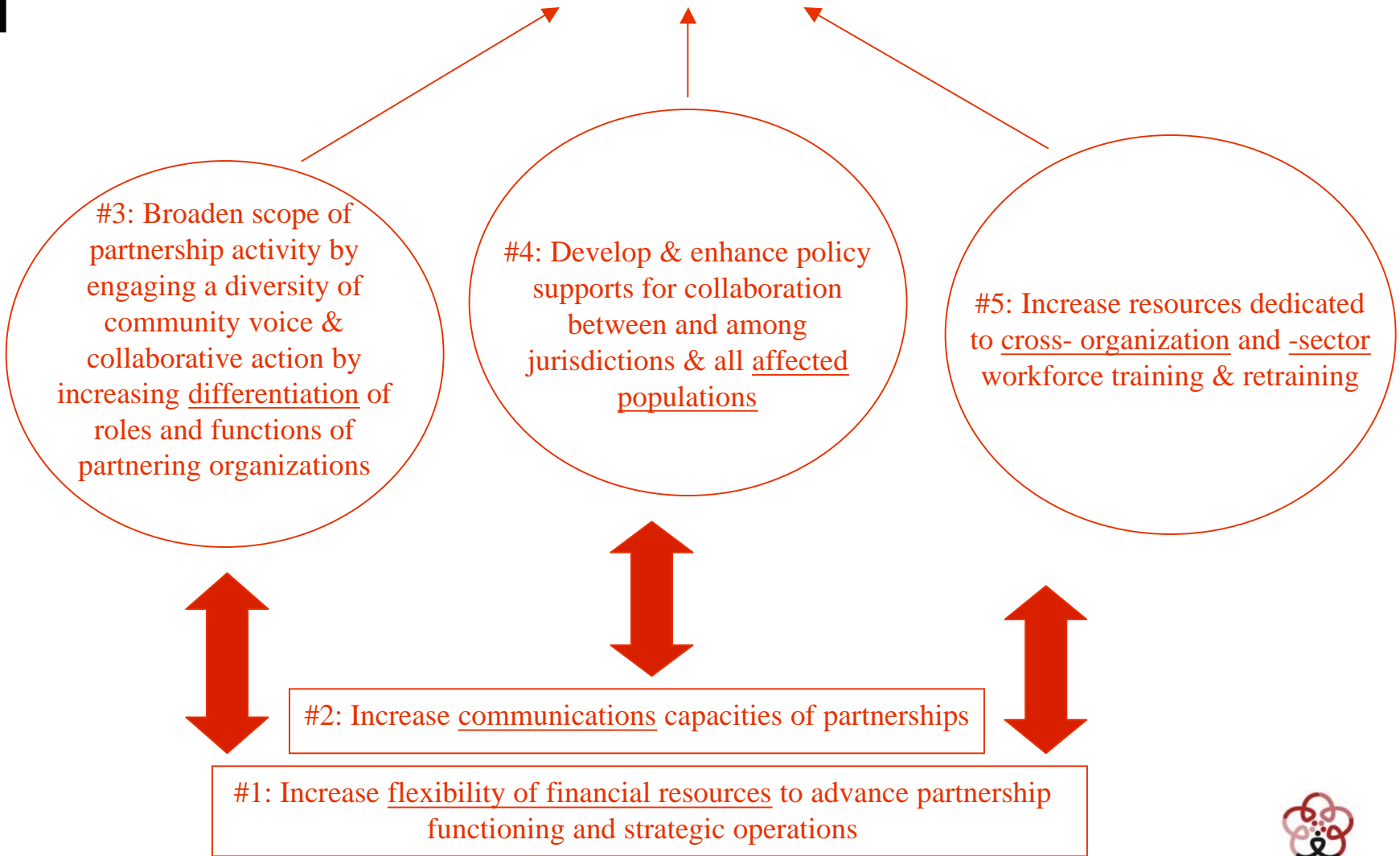
# Levels of “Upstream-ness”

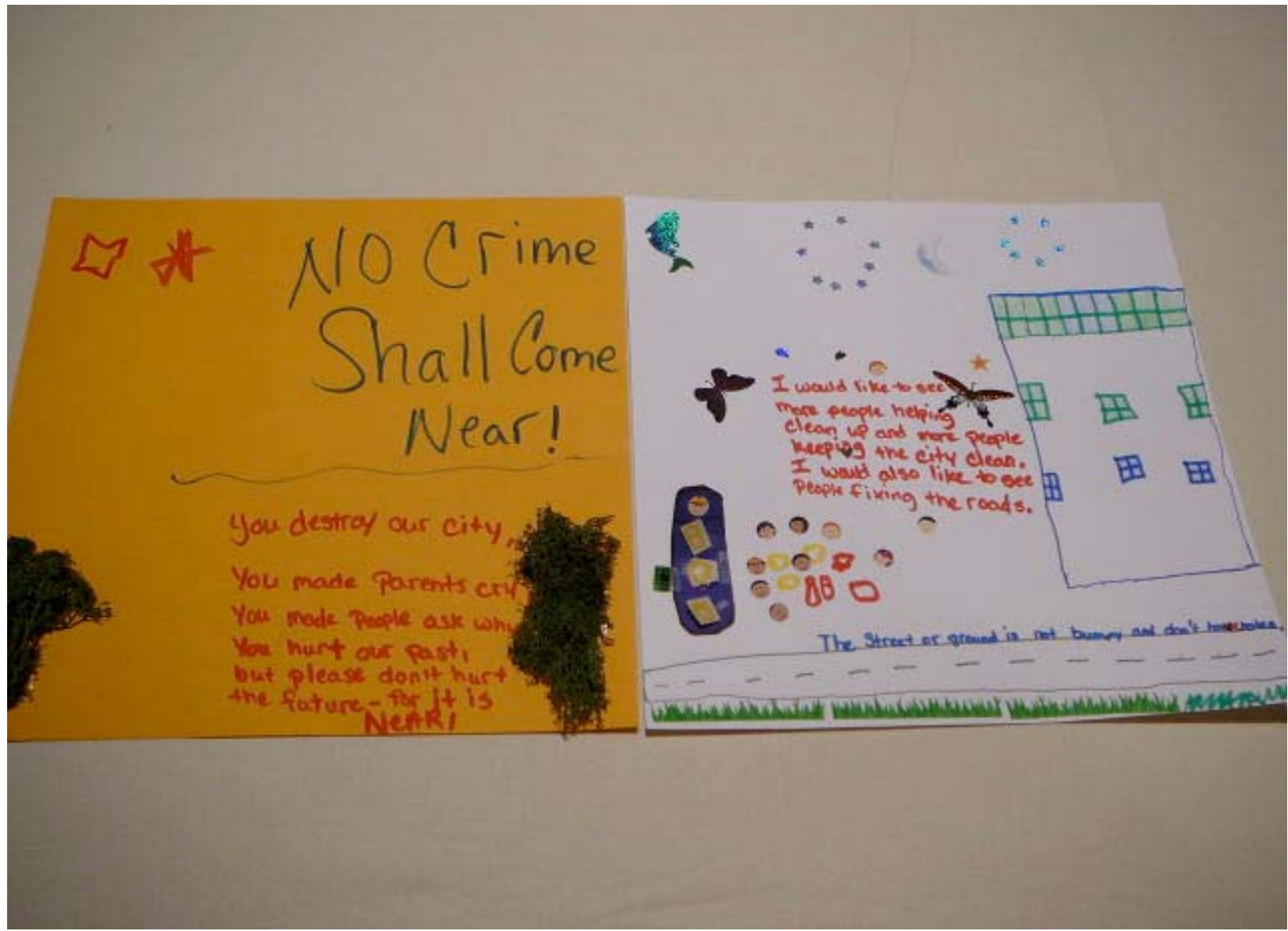
## *Doak Bloss: The Ingham County Experience*

- Level 4: An activity that relieves stress or changes unhealthy behaviors (e.g., support groups, smoking cessation campaigns, family planning education).

**“Downstream”**

**Organizational and Policy Opportunities to Advance Collaborative Action to Improve *Population Health & Well-being***







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