

# Puerto Rico

## Recovery Opportunities

Community Planning &  
Capacity Building

FUNDING

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### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**DEADLINE: April 11**

#### [Plaza Las Américas and Plaza del Caribe Foundations](#)

Plaza Las Américas Foundation and Plaza Del Caribe Foundation are currently receiving proposals for programs created by nonprofit organizations regarding arts and culture, environmental protection, social wellbeing and education. For further details, contact the [Mano Amiga](#) group.

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**DEADLINE: April 22**

#### [Grant for Health and Care Services for Residents of Rural Areas](#)

The Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement Program offers this opportunity for up to \$6.4 million in grant funding. The program supports quality improvement activities for rural primary care or health providers, such as a critical access hospital or a rural health clinic, serving rural residents. These activities include providing clinical health services to residents of rural areas by funding projects that improve the quality of essential health care services.

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**DEADLINE: April 30**

#### [JM Kaplan Fund Innovation Prize](#)

The J.M.K. Innovation Prize supports novel projects creators who undertake endeavors regarding environment, heritage conservation and social justice.

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**DEADLINE: April 30**

#### [Grants for development of lands and water for recreational purposes](#)

The National Park Service provides matching grants of \$50 million to states and local governments for the acquisition and development of lands and waters for outdoor recreation purposes.

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**DEADLINE: May 3**

#### [Funds for mitigation and reduction of threats efforts](#)

The purpose of this funding opportunity of the Department of Health and Human Services Center for Disease Control is to strengthen the capabilities of state, local and territorial public health systems to respond to threats and emergencies.

## TRAINING

**DATE/TIME:** March 30, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**[Beginning my agricultural business](#)**

This 4-hour free workshop is geared towards those interested in harvesting recao for commercial purposes only. Students will learn the basics to start a recao farm. Walk-ins are welcomed but a [reservation](#) is recommended in terms of space availability.

**LOCATION:** Santa Rosa Mall, Avenida Main, Bayamón PR 00959

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**DATE/TIME:** March 30, 8 a.m.-noon

**[Intermediate composting and vermiculture](#)**

This workshop addresses alternative ways to generate compost using vermiculture. It is recommended that attendees have taken the webinar regarding basic compost. The organization requests a \$10 fee and some food to share with fellow participants. For further information write to [puertoricocomposta@compostapr.org](mailto:puertoricocomposta@compostapr.org).

**LOCATION:** 942 Road, km. 1.6 Parcelas Nuevas del Barrio Mariana, Naguabo

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**DATE/TIME:** April 3, 2 p.m.

**[Webinar: How to Write Your First Grant](#)**

In this free one-hour webinar, students will learn the basics on writing grants. The trainee will become familiar with different types of grants, grant proposals, what information needs to be included and how to tell compelling proposals to get attention.

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**DATE/TIME:** April 4, 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

**[Webinar: Lessons learnt regarding preparedness, response and long term recovery](#)**

Join this discussion of what Texas has learned from recent disasters to improve preparedness and long-term recovery from extreme weather events.

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**DATE/TIME:** ON DEMAND

**[Webinar: What is a water footprint?](#)**

Circular Ecology has a free webinar that broaches the topic of water-related risks in supply chains.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**DATE:** April 6

**[Agrohack Conference & Expo](#)**

Agrohack provides an innovative platform for agricultural industry leaders who would like to meet with their peers, share ideas and expose global trends in produce. This event brings together knowledge, experience and emerging technologies spread throughout the world with the purpose of promoting agriculture as a sustainable source of economic prosperity.

**LOCATION:** Puerto Rico Convention Center, 100 Boulevard Saint John, San Juan PR 00907

**DATE: April 9**

**[Festival del Tinglar](#)**

The fourteenth Festival del Tinglar celebrates efforts to protect leatherback sea turtles. Educational talks, information about nonprofit organizations, activities for children and more than 50 kiosks of artisans and food vendors will be available as well as musical entertainment. For further information, call 787-534-3222 or write to [cprocen@outlook.com](mailto:cprocen@outlook.com).

**LOCATION:** Plaza Rosendo Matienzo Cintrón, 48 Calle Jesús T. Piñero, Luquillo PR 00773

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**DATE: April 10-11**

**[EXPO Puerto Rico 2019](#)**

Expo Puerto Rico 2019, one of the most important events on the island regarding product and services exports and entrepreneurship, will have exhibits and opportunities to meet with potential foreign buyers of local products. For further information, call 787-294-0101 (extensions 2130, 2131, 2132, 2134, 2124 and 2101). This is a free event but requires registration.

**LOCATION:** Puerto Rico Convention Center, 100 Boulevard Saint John, San Juan PR 00907

## HIGHLIGHTS

**[Hurricanes Irma and María Still Put Puerto Rico on the Philanthropic Map](#)**

A report from [Red de Fundaciones de Puerto Rico](#) (Network of Puerto Rico Foundations) revealed that the island has seen an unprecedented influx of private philanthropic funds in support of disaster relief, recovery, and rebuilding efforts. The report [Philanthropy and Puerto Rico After Hurricane María: How a Natural Disaster Put Puerto Rico on the Philanthropic Map and Implications for the Future](#) concludes that Puerto Ricans possess a great degree of solidarity and commitment towards their local organizations. It also demonstrates that effective recovery requires shifting from a disaster philanthropy outlook, to one focused on social justice.

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**[Federal funds allocated for EPA and HHS for Puerto Rico's Recovery](#)**

As published by [El Vocero](#) newspaper, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services will **receive** a total of \$6,240,193 in federal funds. Additional information is available at [El Nuevo Día](#) and [News is my Business](#).

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**[Climate Change Places Ninth Place Among Puerto Rican Concerns](#)**

The Coastal Zone Office and Climate Change Program commissioned the survey "Study of Public Perception of Risk and Resilience about Climate Change in Puerto Rico." The research identified crime, economic development and corruption as issues at the top of the list of concerns. Climate change was ninth among concerns. A summary of survey's findings is currently available at the [Department of Natural and Environmental Resources](#) website.

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**[In the Eye of the Storm: How Federal Funding Rescues Arts and Culture in Times of Disaster](#)**

Thomas F. R. Clareson, project director of Performing Arts Readiness when hurricane María hit Puerto Rico, indicated it is crucial to recognize that performing arts organizations are

vulnerable to emergencies. Their vulnerability may result in destabilizing or catastrophic loss of income and assets. This concern motivated the creation of the [Performing Arts Readiness project](#) in 2017. The project emphasizes disaster preparedness for performing arts organizations.

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[Government Should Work to Lessen Natural Disaster Losses Rather Than Insure Them, Experts Say](#)  
Zillow surveyed economists and real estate experts for their opinions about home insurance.

## CONTACT

The Community Planning and Capacity Building group brings together resources from federal agencies and planning organizations to help communities and local governments define their long-term recovery needs and develop strategies and projects to meet those needs. Additional information about rebuilding communities after a disaster can be found in the [Community Recovery Management Toolkit](#).

For general Community Planning Capacity Building questions, contact Nancy Piñero Vega:  
[nancy.pinerovega@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:nancy.pinerovega@fema.dhs.gov)



## INNOVATIVE PRACTICES

**Columbia University Students Create Resilient Designs for Vieques  
By Nancy Piñero Vega**

A group of students from New York-based Columbia University visited Vieques to find scenarios suitable for their master's degree projects in urban planning and architecture. Even though their visions and interests were varied, all of them shared the same objective in promoting resiliency and sustainability.

Alana Browdy and Lena Pfeiffer proposed investing in technical education that focuses on resilient design and ecology. The idea is to build a network of centers that teaches hands-on technical education. The purpose is that Vieques residents eventually develop resilient construction skills and in general terms, become savvy about the power and benefits of local ecology.

Lucy Navarro presented a mobile infrastructure based project. The student proposed tackling frequent post-storm situations like access to water energy and waste management by empowering Vieques through the development of reliable mobile infrastructure systems, also called a "mobile team".

A mobile team consists of a system of vans carrying water and energy packs consisting of solar panels and batteries. The proposal also takes advantage of Vieques numerous quantity of array horses by training riders that will have rescue equipment, water, first aid kits, satellite cell phones and ham radios at reach. The purpose is to mobilize skilled riders to reach remote locations during emergencies to check on elderly population, assess road conditions and survey damage before other help arrives.

Another student project was "Vieques Florece". The proposal aims to enrich economic development by helping farm-to-table ventures and conduct workshops about agro-ecology, beekeeping and articulating best practice curriculums about farming. The project aims to enhance collaboration among local farmers.

In addition, one of the projects suggested developing a bike path highlighting several socio-cultural and historical sites. Also, other student put forward the idea of creating affordable housing, utilizing materials printed in 3D format.