

Puerto Rico Disaster Recovery Plan – The Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Comercio (DDEC)

Location: Puerto Rico

Status of County: Distressed

Project Timeframe: February 2018 – August 2018

Type of Assistance: Technical Assistance



Photo from Wikipedia

The Departamento de Desarrollo Económico y Comercio (DDEC) is the island government’s economic development authority. In July 2018, the Georgia Tech EDA UC completed a series of meetings and written contributions to the Puerto Rico Governor’s Disaster Recovery Plan. In that plan, our center provided \$24 million worth of recommendations the development of:

- Enhanced entrepreneurial education for Pre-K to 12 students, college students, and community members,
- Seed and gap funding programs for entrepreneurial teams,
- Maker spaces in communities
- A distributed network of entrepreneurial support organizations across the island – like SBA centers but focused exclusively on programs for startups,
- Integrated clusters of excellence which engage startups, academic research, academic programs, government and industry, and

- Expansive mentor and first customer networks for young startups.