

Construction workers needed in Mississippi

Fox 10 TV

10/17/06

<http://www.fox10tv.com/global/story.asp?s=5551456>

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) - Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour says rebuilding along the state's Gulf Coast has suffered because of a shortage of qualified construction workers.

Barbour joined local officials Monday in Gulfport for the announcement of a program to train more workers.

The goal of Gulf Rebuild: Education, Advancement and Training is to train 20-thousand Gulf Coast residents from Texas to Mississippi in basic construction over the next three years.

The program is funded by both government and private dollars. In Mississippi, the classes are taught through several community colleges including Mississippi Gulf Coast.

With some 70-thousand homes damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, Barbour says the need for more construction workers is apparent.

About 150-thousand workers will be needed to complete the rebuilding work needed in all the states hit by the 2005 hurricanes.