

Impact on the Community

The Fund for Gulf Communities provided CFA the opportunity to oversee a large grant program led and managed by the staff— a major first for the foundation, which had little previous experience with proactive grantmaking. Through its **Health Services** grants, CFA funded emergency and urgent care services for communities impacted by the Oil Spill. In fact, in the Spill's aftermath, many health care providers reported a significant increase in the numbers of patients, especially those who were unemployed and uninsured. CFA responded with a series of grants to organizations like the *Franklin Foundation Hospital*, a small community facility in St. Mary's Parish. The grant helped offset Franklin's increased emergency room costs, which were causing financial strain on the hospital. The grant also supported upgrades to the internal ER operations and customer service protocol, allowing the hospital to significantly improve its productivity and financial position, and ultimately resulting in higher patient satisfaction and clinical outcomes.

When the Spill shutdown much of the oil and fishing industries, many people were out of work causing uncertainty and economic distress. The region's food banks felt the brunt of the crisis, with many experiencing a spike in demand. **Emergency Assistance** grants brought relief for organizations responding to this growing need. CFA's grant to *Liberty Heights Giving Grace Gardens* allowed the organization to offer fresh food supplies through its pantry and community garden to the mostly rural residents of St. Martin Parish. Liberty Heights also hired additional staff and expanded its reach, partnering with the state to launch a new summer youth feeding program. Likewise, the organization enrolled in a sustainable farming initiative with Southern University and is establishing a local produce co-op. This will help provide affordable foods for communities affected by the Oil Spill for years to come.