

Jóvenes de Puerto Rico en Riesgo, Inc.  
Orden del Manicato  
Leadership and Service Program  
“Community Youth Leadership Incubator”

Jóvenes de Puerto Rico en Riesgo, Inc. (JPRR) / Puerto Rico Youth at Risk developed the *Continuum of Socio-Educational Services* directed towards achieving personal and social success and developing ethical and solidary leadership. The last component of the *Continuum* is the Orden del Manicato (ODM), also known as the Leadership and Service Program, which serves youth at the transition between high school and post-secondary education and the work force. Traditionally the members of the ODM offer their volunteer services in JPRR projects and in activities organized by other NGOs in the areas of environment and services for children with disabilities, among others.

The physical and social devastation caused in Puerto Rico by 2017 hurricanes and the limited official response, confronted some PRYR project graduates and Leadership Program Members with a new challenge. The challenge of assuming community leadership roles for which they had no training and/or experience. A pilot project to address this need is urgent. The project's objective is to expand the social capital of a group of at least eight (8) youth and young adults by designing and delivering a theory and practice “Juvenile Community Leaders Training Module” through a one year period (August 2018 to July 2019).

In its preliminary phase, and as a pilot project, the initial module will include:

1. Recruit volunteers to design the module.
2. Identify and recruit current PRYR allies with expertise in community leadership field as trainers and partners.
3. Convene ODM members interested in the project.
4. Hold a meeting to present the pilot project.
5. Recruit eight (8) youth candidates from the ODM, two from each PRYR site (San Juan, Canóvanas, Naguabo and Juncos) to become the pilot project participants.
6. Recruit former PRYR mentors and resource partners to support the trainees (one to one) through their training process.
7. Design a youth community leadership curriculum with theoretical and practical training modules
8. Develop and deliver a community needs and restoration efforts survey to align trainees' interests with current/relevant community issues.
9. Match the trainees with a specific project to practice their newly acquired skills.
10. Identify funding sources for project costs
  - a. One project coordinator (part-time) and one AmeriCorps VISTA member (CNCS)
  - b. Travel, diet and communication reimbursement
  - c. Training activities
  - d. Incidental expenses
11. Evaluate the pilot projects' effectiveness and expansion possibilities.

The development of Pilot Project activities will take place from August 2018 through July 2019. In the month of July 2019, the project will be evaluated to determine its viability for replication, extension and/or expansion.

In the long term, the project would provide scholarships for some of the distinguished youth leaders to travel to internship and training programs in institutions recognized in the field of leadership development.