

# LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

## PILOT COMPREHENSIVE RESILIENCY PROGRAM

### F.A.Q.s

#### Background

The increasing number and intensity of coastal storms has placed much of Louisiana's coastal communities and property at risk. In many areas, forward-thinking land-use planning, coupled with local code enforcement and individual mitigation measures, serve as the most cost-effective and safest actions we can take to protect our coast communities and population. The state has designed the Pilot Comprehensive Resiliency Program to provide comprehensive nonstructural recovery to some of our most at-risk communities. Because the state recognizes that there is no one solution for the communities along our coast, the state seeks locally driven proposals for increasing the resiliency of our communities.

This is a \$10 million pilot program. We want to learn from you about what you see as the most pressing needs for preparing to rebuild and grow resilient communities. Our goal is to help you prepare implementation plans and to set the stage to enact local policies and efforts that result in reduced risks to people and reduced damage to property. We hesitate to discourage applications because we do seek an accurate representation of what needs our parishes, municipalities, and non-profits believe they have. However, due to funding limitations we will not consider planning projects that do not demonstrate a clear and direct tie to reducing or eliminating future risks and damages.

Below is a list of answers to common questions we are receiving regarding the grant program.

#### General Questions

Q: Are there geographical eligibility limitations on this program?

A: Yes. Only entities serving and within the 53 parishes affected by hurricanes Gustav and/or Ike are eligible to apply. Refer to the list of parishes and percent of damage caused by the disasters at the end of these F.A.Q.s to determine if you are eligible.

Q: Are funding limitations set in either of the Categories?

A: No funding limitations are set because the LRA would like to use this pilot program to receive accurate information on the planning and code enforcement needs throughout the state. However, the LRA encourages applicants to leverage other public and philanthropic funding sources in order to demonstrate your commitment to the effort.

Q: If a board or council resolution is needed, but cannot be obtained prior to the application deadline of March 17, 2010, may applicants still submit?

A: Yes. If the applicant is reasonably sure that the appropriate approvals can be obtained prior to the award notification date of April 19, 2010, the applicant may submit the application and submit the resolution when it is available and prior to April 19, 2010.

Q: What is the source of funding for this grant program and are there any restrictions on its use?

A: The funds have been made available through a congressional allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for disaster recovery from the effects of hurricanes Gustav and Ike. Only areas affected by these hurricanes are eligible to apply and the funds have numerous federal and state restrictions on uses and eligibility.

Q: May a parish or municipality apply for funding in both categories?

A: Yes, but please keep in mind that we expect to receive applications for funding far in excess of the amount available.

Q: Will the committee make partial awards?

A: Depending on the applications received and availability of funds, the committee may choose to award in only one category or to award only a portion of the funds requested within a category. The applicant may opt not to accept the award if they believe the partial award is insufficient to successfully accomplish the efforts proposed in the application.

Q: How are the funds through this program provided?

A: Actual expenses and contractor fees are paid on a costs incurred reimbursement basis.

Q: Are pre-award costs for application development, grant writing an eligible cost under this program?

A: No. If you need assistance in understanding the application or developing your idea for resiliency planning, contact the LRA Planning Unit.

Q: If a grantee retained a consultant for pre-award application development services, is that consultant eligible to respond to a request for proposals/qualifications for the planning efforts if awarded?

A: Most likely not. Federal and state procurement regulations prohibit consultants from competing for contract work for which they have an unfair advantage over other firms.

#### Category 1 – Resiliency Planning - Questions

Q: What type of planning activities may be undertaken?

A: We are seeking implementable, strategic economic and environmental resiliency plans in the areas of: innovative water management, education and risk communication plans, efforts to encourage residents and businesses to locate in safer locations, and business, housing, and infrastructure sustainability plans, and efforts that help lead Louisiana toward greater long-term sustainability.

Q: What type of organizations may apply?

A: Any public entity and non-profit organizations of statewide, regional, or subject matter (planning, zoning, resiliency, risk reduction) significance.

Q: Can the plans and efforts be undertaken by in house staff or contractors?

A: Applicants may use either, but if in-house staff are used, only actual costs for time spent on the efforts detailed in the application are reimbursable. The applicant should provide extensive detail in the budget of the application so that the correct award determination can be made.

Q: If you have procured consultants already, may they be used for the planning efforts applied for under this grant?

A: There are very specific procurement rules that must be followed in order for activities to be funded under this grant. In general, public entities will need to follow CDBG specific procurement procedures and non-profit organizations will need to demonstrate a fair and open competitive procurement process. We encourage you to not take any procurement actions prior to consultation with our compliance team.

#### Category 2 – Code Enforcement Staff - Questions

Q: Are there any special requirements parish and municipal governments should be aware of in order to be eligible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for code enforcement?

A: Yes. The local jurisdiction will need to submit a special designation of the entire area to be served by the code enforcement staffing as either slum/blighted or deteriorated/deteriorating as a result of hurricane Gustav and/or Ike.

Q: Can this assistance be used to hire consultants or contract staff?

A: No. This category of assistance may only be used to reimburse actual costs related to staff salary and standard benefits.

Q: May this assistance be used to pay for existing building code staff?

A: No. The purpose of this assistance is to help add capacity to the local building code enforcement efforts while the local entity secures sustained funding for code enforcement efforts.

Resources for Thinking about Resiliency Planning

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association Smart Growth for Coastal Communities

[http://coastalsmartgrowth.noaa.gov/smartgrowth\\_fullreport.pdf](http://coastalsmartgrowth.noaa.gov/smartgrowth_fullreport.pdf)

LA Speaks Planning Guide, Pattern Book, and Tool-Kit

[http://planningexcellence.org/louisiana\\_speaks\\_downloads.asp](http://planningexcellence.org/louisiana_speaks_downloads.asp)

Florida Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning

[http://www.csa-planning.com/portal/modules/dms/folder\\_expand.php?folder\\_id=381](http://www.csa-planning.com/portal/modules/dms/folder_expand.php?folder_id=381).

Environmental Protection Agency Water Scorecard

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/greeninfrastructure/munichandbook.cfm>

PARISHES AFFECTED BY GUSTAV/IKE

<b>Parishes</b>
Terrebonne
Cameron
Iberville
East Baton Rouge
Lafourche
Jefferson
Assumption
St. Mary
Ascension
Calcasieu
Rapides
Pointe Coupee
St. Landry
Livingston
Iberia
St. James
Tangipahoa
Vermilion
West Baton Rouge
St. John the Baptist
St. Martin
St. Charles
Franklin
Avoyelles
Lafayette
St. Tammany
Ouachita
St. Helena
East Feliciana
Acadia
Catahoula
Evangeline
Orleans
Plaquemines
West Feliciana
East Carroll
Beauregard
Richland
Allen
Concordia
Grant
Morehouse
Jefferson Davis
St. Bernard
Washington
West Carroll
La Salle
Vernon
Winn
Sabine
Madison
Tensas
Union