



LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY
2005-2010





VISION

Hurricane-impacted regions of the state are rebuilt and revitalized to be physically safe and economically strong, providing a high quality of life while maintaining Louisiana's rich cultural heritage.

MISSION

The mission of the Louisiana Recovery Authority is to ensure that Louisiana rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter. There are five areas of focus: securing funding and other resources needed for the recovery, establishing principles and policies for redevelopment, leading long-term community and regional planning efforts, ensuring transparent accountability in the investment of recovery funds and communicating progress, status and needs of the recovery to officials, community advocates and the public. Throughout its initiatives, the LRA is committed to a recovery process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Louisiana Recovery Authority was created in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita in 2005 to lead the most extensive rebuilding effort in American history. In undertaking this incredible challenge, there has been a lot of hard work done, great progress made, many lessons learned and some things yet to be completed.

This report reflects the tremendous recovery that has taken place in our state since the 2005 storms. As you will see in these pages, it has been the result of the efforts of many, including Louisiana's Congressional delegation, state officials, federal policy makers, parish governments, local municipalities, nonprofit organizations, citizens affected by the storms and the dedicated employees of the LRA and the state Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery Unit.

Yet none of our efforts would have come to fruition without the current and former members of the LRA board of directors. Their vision and direction have guided us through the arduous process of creating and implementing programs that have helped residents return home, boosted economic development and rebuilt critical infrastructure. I would like to thank each and all of our board members for investing their time, knowledge and talents in this significant endeavor.

Lessons learned after hurricanes Katrina and Rita have been implemented in the state's plan for recovery from hurricanes Gustav and Ike. We are bringing much of the federal recovery funds for the 2008 storms down to local governments, allowing them to choose how to address their critical needs. We are also documenting recovery protocol in order to implement these lessons in future events.

As the Louisiana Recovery Authority sunsets on June 30, 2010, our state and communities are well on their way to rebuilding safer, smarter and stronger from the four major storms endured over the last five years.



Robin Keegan
Executive Director
Louisiana Recovery Authority

KATRINA/RITA: LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR A STRONG RECOVERY



HURRICANE KATRINA: AUGUST 29, 2005
HURRICANE RITA: SEPTEMBER 24, 2005

IMPACT OF THE STORMS

MORE THAN:

1,100 lives lost, 785,000 residents displaced, 215,000 homes destroyed, 835 schools damaged, 40 schools destroyed, 18,700 businesses destroyed, 220,000 jobs lost, 100 square miles of wetland destroyed by storm surge

LOSSES:

Temporary relief services - \$15-\$20 billion, Property and infrastructure - \$75-\$100 billion, Economic - \$50-\$70 billion, Government revenue - \$8-\$10 billion



HOUSING

Allocated: \$11 billion

Spent: \$9.65 billion*

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita displaced nearly 800,000 Louisiana residents. Statewide, over 200,000 homes and rental units sustained major or severe damage. Orleans Parish accounted for more than 50 percent of the damage statewide, losing an estimated 51,700 units and rendering 51 percent of the parish's rental units uninhabitable.

The state responded by placing a high priority on helping Louisianans return home and having housing for the existing and future workforce. The Road Home has helped existing homeowners, while the rental programs – Piggyback and Small Rental – were designed to create healthy, vibrant, mixed-income neighborhoods.

Case Management Program

Beverly Kzirian of New Orleans East sold her Katrina-destroyed home and property to the Road Home program. Living on a modest income, her case manager referred Beverly to a local nonprofit organization in Baton Rouge, where she attended a homebuyer's class in November 2008.

Beverly said, "After my home in New Orleans East was destroyed by Katrina, I lived in two different FEMA trailer parks and then finally a DHAP apartment. My case manager referred me to a homebuyer's class offered by Catholic Charities Baton Rouge. After taking that class, I had the skills necessary to purchase my new home in Mandeville in February 2009."

Small Rental Program



"The [Small Rental] program allowed me to make the repairs needed without getting a loan, [allowing me] to offer affordable rents to people who need it. When I go to sleep at night, I know that my tenants have a quality roof over their heads that they can afford."

Lieutenant Rickey Coleman received \$94,000 through the Small Rental Property Program to repair a duplex in the Jefferson Parish town of Gretna.

* All spending figures as of April 30, 2010

Homeowner Assistance Programs



Using Road Home elevation funds, New Orleans homeowner **Gwendolyn Lee** raised her Ninth Ward house four feet above the ground. "I want people to know how good it feels, to be in my house and be four feet up. I feel secure. I know I made the right decision."

"Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were truly catastrophic events, with more than 200,000 homes destroyed. When we began looking at the redevelopment of housing, we knew there were greater issues of restoring neighborhoods and cultures as well as helping the individual homeowners. We also knew that, to rebuild our economy, people and workers had to have a place to live. So we moved aggressively to develop a program that would eventually assist more than 127,000 homeowners rebuild their lives and homes."

Walter Leger, Jr., Member, LRA Board of Directors

Paul Deckert of New Orleans received \$59,015 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds after elevating his home 10 feet. "People may ask why I chose to stay in New Orleans, but the better question is why not stay? I grew up here; this is my place, so why leave?"





The Preserve Apartments in New Orleans

Piggyback Program

“While the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina created a critical housing shortage in New Orleans, it also presented the opportunity to raise the standard of rental housing in the region, while rebuilding neighborhoods in a comprehensive fashion that would leave them stronger than they had been before. The LRA and the LHFA were instrumental in realizing this vision, working to create flexible programs from the ground up that could be effectively used in a challenging [economic] environment.”

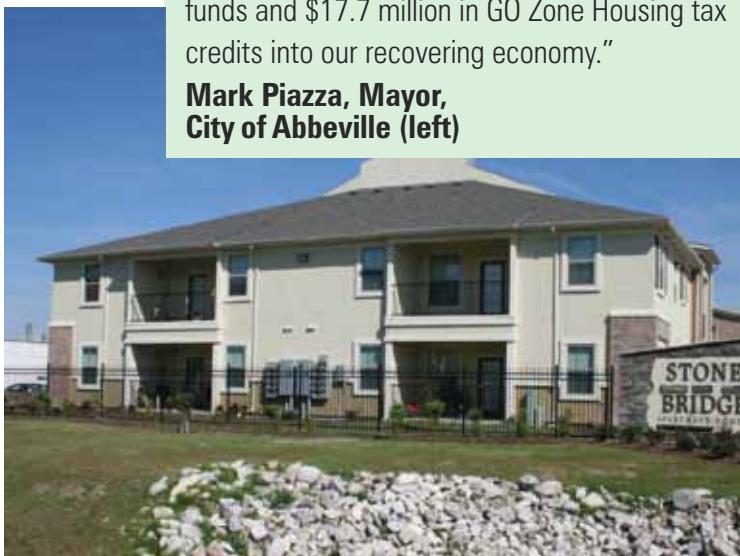
Matt Schwartz, co-founder of the Domain Companies, which developed *The Preserve*, *The Crescent Club* and *The Meridian Apartments* in New Orleans.

The Domain Companies’ complexes have provided a combined 483 rental units in the city, 237 of which offer affordable rents.

In Oct. 2009, the editors of Multifamily Executive magazine presented its third annual Editors’ Choice Award to The Preserve mixed-income apartments. The innovative project also received the Grand Award for Project of the Year: Best Reuse of Land.

“As a result of the state’s Piggyback Program, the Stonebridge Apartments opened in Abbeville in March 2009, offering our residents 250 high-quality, mixed-income rental units. This new construction not only addressed our housing needs, but directly infused \$19.6 million in Community Development Block Grant funds and \$17.7 million in GO Zone Housing tax credits into our recovering economy.”

**Mark Piazza, Mayor,
City of Abbeville (left)**



Alternative Housing Pilot Program



Maj. Gen. Bennet C. Landreneau:

“The rebuilding of our facilities at Jackson Barracks is a historic understanding. It has re-established our presence in New Orleans and in a community devastated by Hurricane Katrina. We’re proud to be a stimulus to the recovery efforts. New housing at Jackson Barracks, like the Katrina Cottages, will further provide a community environment for our returning employees at Jackson Barracks and an economic base for local commerce.”

The Alternative Housing Pilot Program is a one-time, four-year pilot program to identify and evaluate better ways to house disaster victims. The Louisiana Recovery Authority received \$74.5 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to build AHPP “Katrina Cottages” on group sites and as infill developments in southern Louisiana.

When Sade Breaux evacuated from New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina, she was expecting her child. Although Sade appreciated the help she received in rental assistance from the state’s Disaster Housing Assistance Program, she had hoped for a better future.

Currently living in a Katrina Cottage in Baton Rouge with her four-year-old daughter, Sade said, “I’m so happy to be in my own home. It’s affordable and everything is brand new.

“My little girl is about to enter pre-Kindergarten. She has her own place now, because I’m leasing to own. I want to thank everybody for helping us do this. I’m just so happy. Thank you so much.”

Sheila Buggage and her extended family members were scattered in all directions by Katrina. After evacuating from New Orleans, Sheila stayed in three separate locations seeking shelter before finally settling in Texas.

Now living in a Katrina Cottage in Baton Rouge with her 15-year-old son, Sheila said, “It was a horrible experience, to go through what I had to go through, but being in my own cottage helps me feel better. I love it. There’s a park across the street, it’s like a dream come true. It’s better than anything I could have expected.”

“In five trips to Louisiana since becoming HUD Secretary, I have witnessed first-hand the continued recovery of the state’s hurricane-impacted parishes. The LRA has worked diligently to establish and maintain open lines of communication with HUD’s representatives, ensuring that their action plans are approved in a timely manner and that the Community Development Block Grant funds from our agency are maximized in the local communities.”

**Shaun Donovan, Secretary,
U.S. Department of Housing and
Urban Development**



Workers demolish a LLT property in New Orleans

Louisiana Land Trust

“The LRA has ensured that local entities have had a voice in setting policy, and they have been open to pursuing new and innovative ideas. With the Lot Next Door, we offered local residents a discounted price when they planted and beautified

empty lots next to their houses. The LRA’s willingness to entertain these kinds of ideas has been of great service to the citizens of New Orleans.” **Ommeed Sathe**, Director of Real Estate, New Orleans Redevelopment Authority

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Allocated: \$322.5 million

Spent: \$253 million

Businesses after Katrina and Rita were often deemed “second” responders. Business owners and their workers returned to devastated communities and began offering their services to the first responders and local officials involved in the day-to-day recovery. Few federal resources were available to these business owners. The state initially invested \$10 million in bridge loans to businesses to assist them in their immediate recovery, followed by grants, loans and technical assistance.

Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program Technical Assistance for Small Firms

The Business Recovery Grant and Loan program provided gap loans to help small businesses between the onset of damages and payout of insurance claims and helped businesses adapt to a changed marketplace. The Technical Assistance program provided support to small businesses and nonprofit organizations in the storm-affected parishes.

CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of New Iberia

When CASA of Acadiana closed in June 2007, Robin Hedge knew she wanted to keep providing this critical service to the children of the three parishes she had been serving: Iberia, St. Martin and St. Mary. What she needed was help to move out from under the Louisiana CASA umbrella and create an independent nonprofit agency.

Through a Technical Assistance grant provided to the Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations, Robin was able to attend workshops with topics such as board development and creating a web presence, and she received a marketing plan, a strategic plan and reviews of her policies and procedures.

CASA of the 16th JDC, Inc. became independent of the state agency in March 2009. The agency had 10 volunteers serving approximately 45 children in the three parishes before hurricanes Katrina and Rita; now there are 45 volunteers serving more than 100 children.

“Creating this independent CASA branch was basically like starting a business,” said Hedge, now executive director of the agency. “Without the help of LANO through their technical assistance grant, it would have taken much longer to accomplish.”

Page Hemphill, CASA advocate supervisor, prepares for a volunteer training session.



Sen. Mary Landrieu:

“Since its inception, the Louisiana Recovery Authority has played a key role in the state’s efforts to rebuild after the devastating storms that inflicted so much damage and destruction on the Gulf Coast region. Over the past five years, I have worked to help the LRA in its mission by securing more than \$13 billion in Community Development Block Grants for programs like Road Home and more than \$70 million for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program.

“I also am proud to have authored several pieces of legislation that have been instrumental in helping Louisiana’s families and businesses recover. These new laws restored the forgiveness option for Community Disaster Loans, established an arbitration panel for disrupted public assistance projects and increased lump sum payments for the reconstruction of schools, police stations, fire stations and criminal justice facilities.

“There is still more work that needs to be done, and we continue that work each and every day. But with the help of the LRA, there is much that we have accomplished together during these last five years.”



Commercial fisherman Samay Sun of Buras proudly displays his catch, made possible with the dedicated assistance of the Louisiana Small Business Development Center through the LRA's Technical Assistance for Small Firms program.

Small Business Development Center

The Greater New Orleans Small Business Development Center assisted more than 500 fishermen with funding through the Technical Assistance for Small Firms program, including commercial fisherman Samay Sun of Buras. The center provided Sun with business consulting services that helped him secure \$80,000 in Business Recovery Grant and Loan assistance from the LRA, a \$14,285 disaster recovery grant for resident fishermen and also helped him raise another \$3,282.

While still recovering from hurricanes Katrina and Rita, his fledgling business was hit again, this time by hurricanes

Gustav and Ike. For these storms, the SBDC helped Samay obtain \$19,558 in recovery grants and \$2,449 from other sources.

Because of this assistance, Samay – who immigrated to the United States from Vietnam 12 years ago – was able to work out a three-year business plan with his bi-lingual consultant at SBDC, which included the goal of bringing his wife and children to live with him in Louisiana. Today, Samay owns two fishing boats, has expanded his business to include two employees, is reunited with his family and lives in a brand new house that replaced the home he lost in Katrina.



Loyola undergraduate Jonathan Kurtz, now a graduate student at Tulane University, looks for kissing bugs in the caves of Guatemala as part of a workshop in the Tropical Medicine Research Scholars Program.

Research Commercialization

The \$28.5 million Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program enhanced scientific and technology research facilities at institutions of higher education in storm-impacted areas. The program was administered by the Board of Regents, which reviewed proposals, interviewed applicants and made funding recommendations.

Loyola University received \$498,000 to expand research, commercialization and education in Chagas disease – a problem of major importance in Central and South America. In tandem with the research project, the university established a Tropical Medicine Research Scholars Program to provide undergraduate students with significant research experience that will encourage them to pursue careers in biomedicine.

Dr. Patricia Dorn, Loyola University biologist in charge of the program, said, “The program has been a tremendous success. We have trained 10 undergraduates in all aspects of scientific research from bench work, to ethics, to scientific writing and presenting. Students have co-authored scientific articles, have presented at national meetings and even collected kissing bugs in caves in Guatemala as part of the Chagas research. All graduates have gone on in biomedicine, including one student who chose to matriculate in a Louisiana graduate school, thus retaining talent in our state.”





The NOCVB advertising campaign “Forever New Orleans” combined humorous copy with striking images, telling the whole world about recovery in the Big Easy by trumpeting a message of hope and determination.

Tourism

The Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism received \$28.5 million to strengthen and extend the “Fall in Love with Louisiana All Over Again” ad campaign launched by then-Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu to counteract the massive negative publicity that resulted from the hurricanes of 2005. The program promoted tourism in the state, particularly in the parishes most impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The New Orleans Convention and Visitors Bureau utilized \$8.5 million for an aggressive international sales, marketing, public relations, advertising and customer relations campaign to clarify misperceptions and educate millions of potential visitors worldwide that New Orleans was safe and ready for visitors.

According to Stephen Perry, President and CEO of the New Orleans CVB, “This funding was essential to restoring New Orleans tourism, a multi-billion-dollar perception-driven business that produces billions of dollars of economic growth, tens of thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of taxes for the state and city.

“We successfully overcame unprecedented brand impairment, and visitor numbers increased from 3.7 million visitors and \$2.8 billion visitor spending in 2006 to 7.6 million visitors and \$5.1 billion visitor spending in 2008. Today, New Orleans once again is one of the most popular destinations in the country, and we are winning major meetings, conventions, festivals and special events, including the Super Bowl in 2013.”



Brooklyn Belanger (left) and **Karmeka Sereal**, HearTS students, check the vital signs of Gloria Auguster.

Workforce Recovery

Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center

"A lot of our success has come from personalizing the program and reminding the students of their obligation to work in a hurricane-impacted parish for at least six months after they finish their training. Our students know they are fulfilling a need and helping their community, while at the same time being given an opportunity to have a career they can build their lives on."

Mimi Fuselier, *Workforce Development Director and Director of the Healthcare Recovery Training System (HearTS) at the Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center*

The HearTS program received approximately \$6 million in Workforce Recovery funds from the LRA. Since HearTS began in 2007, more than 2,300 workers have entered healthcare training and 1,673 have completed the program.

Of those, 1,180 were placed in the workforce. More than 500 participants in the training were displaced by hurricanes Katrina or Rita, and 75 percent were low to moderate income.

Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce

The Jefferson Parish Chamber of Commerce received \$1.8 million in workforce recovery money to recruit trade school students in the Greater New Orleans area for workforce development programs, including culinary arts training.

As a result of this funding, Café Reconcile in New Orleans trained and placed more than 145 employees into the city's workforce. Part of the nonprofit Reconcile New Orleans, the café employs local residents, offering on-the-job training for at-risk youth.

Up to 10 students at a time, ranging in ages from 16 to 21, participated in the six-week program that taught students all facets of the restaurant business: food preparation, life skills training and steps to success.

Randy Roach, Mayor, City of Lake Charles:

"Part of our city's recovery included the courageous commitment of its citizens to recognize the historic opportunity for a rebirth of our city. The Louisiana Recovery Authority has provided the leadership necessary to facilitate recovery in the coastal areas of our state; they have been innovative and creative in working through complex issues affecting virtually every aspect of recovery.

"Today [we] continue the infrastructure, downtown/lakefront, city parks and other improvements begun three years ago. Due to the continued support from our community, government and business partners, the City of Lake Charles is developing a higher quality of life for its citizens for generations to come."



INFRASTRUCTURE

Allocated: \$1.3 billion

Spent: \$312 million

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed billions of dollars in infrastructure – **schools, roads, bridges, ports, sewer and water systems and other facilities**. Since residents and businesses could not return without these facilities, it became a priority of the Louisiana Recovery Authority to provide parishes with funds for infrastructure improvements. Not only were the programs designed to rebuild lost infrastructure, but to do so safer, smarter and stronger to mitigate against loss from future storms.

Long Term Community Recovery Emergency Communications Equipment in Washington, Tangipahoa parishes

Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana planned to build a statewide, interoperable 700 megahertz radio system for first responders. The transition was fast-tracked after the storm, when the state obtained funding to construct the 700 MHz system in storm-affected areas of south Louisiana.

Both Washington and Tangipahoa parishes have decided to utilize the new statewide system instead of investing additional dollars into obsolete communications systems that failed during the hurricanes.

“It is our goal to maintain the strong working relationships established with all of our partners from the federal, state and local levels. These relationships are paramount to the continued success of our recovery efforts.”

**Mark Cooper, Director, Governor’s Office
of Homeland Security and Emergency
Preparedness**

The New Orleans Theater District received a \$2 million boost through the purchase of a commercial building by the Canal Street Development Corporation, which is a public benefit entity that used the funds to obtain and rehabilitate a four-story building located at 1101 Canal Street. A portion of the building will be incorporated into the adjacent Saenger Theatre, with the remaining spaces leased out as retail and commercial offices designed to enhance the city’s planned theater district.

Canal Street Development Corporation Board of Directors President Randall A. Smith said, “We are very excited about the acquisition and incorporation of 1101 Canal Street into the theater renewal project, and believe this will help provide an anchor for the development of a performing arts district in our city.”

Washington Parish received \$1.3 million for the purchase of 563 new 700 MHz radios and \$778,948 for construction of a new radio tower.

Washington Parish President Richard N. Thomas, Jr. said, “Washington Parish is thankful for this assistance from the Louisiana Recovery Authority in the purchase of emergency communications equipment for our first responders. Without a doubt, our first responders would not have had this capability for many years without these federal Community Development Block Grant funds.”



Tangipahoa Parish first responders received \$525,000 for the purchase of 338 new 700 MHz radios. Benefitting from the new equipment will be (left to right): Hammond Fire Chief Paul Collura; Hammond City Mayor Mayson Foster; Director of Homeland Security Dawson Primes; Tangipahoa Parish President Gordon Burgess; Hammond Police Chief Roddy Devall; and City of Hammond Emergency Manager CPT John Thomas.

“The funds received from the Louisiana Recovery Authority have enabled many schools throughout the impacted parishes to be rebuilt or refurbished, and also for new schools to be erected that are more energy-efficient and better equipped to handle today’s technology. The LRA has also played an instrumental role in the Recovery School District’s negotiations with FEMA to allow for lump sum payments of damages, which has allowed for faster construction and opening of the Recovery District schools.”

Paul Pastorek, Superintendent, Louisiana Department of Education

Primary & Secondary Education



Caneview Elementary School, New Iberia

“This is a top-notch, state-of-the-art school, and it has a positive impact on the students. This is a place they want to be, and where parents want their children to be.”

Principal Dorothy Small

Caneview is a new school that merged two schools that had flooded as a result of Hurricane Rita. FEMA funds were used to build the school, and approximately \$304,000 CDBG funds, through the Primary and Secondary Education Infrastructure Program, were used to build casework and purchase student desks in the classrooms.



Cameron Parish Hospital

The Louisiana Recovery Authority helped make possible the rebuilding of Cameron Hospital with \$23.5 million in FEMA Public Assistance funds and \$4 million in CDBG funds. The new South Cameron Memorial Hospital is elevated 10 feet above sea level. When hospital workers returned after evacuating in advance of Hurricane Ike, they found the generator still running and the building dry, even though the surrounding grounds were flooded.

“Being elevated the way we were, we missed the big surge that gutted the hospital during Hurricane Rita,” said Hospital Administrator Rita Simon after Hurricane Ike. “Our elevation is what saved us.”

South Cameron Memorial Hospital, which serves lower Cameron Parish, is a state-of-the-art facility featuring a trauma room and digital imaging suites.



St. Bernard Parish Waterworks received \$34.9 million for water treatment plant improvements after Hurricane Katrina submerged the parish's two facilities under floodwaters for up to two weeks. The operations building, equipment and piping systems were severely damaged at the larger of the two plants, which was built in 1974. The smaller plant, which was built in 1954, was destroyed.

In addition to other improvements, this project will make needed repairs at the newer plant, bringing it up to current U.S. Environmental Protection Agency water quality standards, as well as build a replacement plant on the site of the older, destroyed plant.

"Key infrastructure improvements such as this one assure our residents that our local, state and federal governments are committed to rebuilding St. Bernard. We are grateful for the partnerships we have with our officials on the state and federal level. St. Bernard deserves a safe and secure water supply that is up to current standards."

St. Bernard Parish President Craig Taffaro



Construction of a boat repair yard, where fishermen can dry dock vessels and fix damages from underwater hazards deposited by Hurricane Katrina, is under way at the Venice Shipyard in Plaquemines Parish.

Fisheries

The Venice Shipyard received \$1.44 million for construction and improvement of shipyard facilities. The project involves construction of a one-acre boat repair yard on parish-owned property near the Venice Boat Harbor, which allows commercial and recreational fishermen to dry dock and repair their own vessels in a cost-efficient manner.

Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser said, "Hurricane Katrina set back the fishing industry in Plaquemines Parish, not only destroying and tossing boats up on land, but it also obliterated the infrastructure that supported our fishing industry. That's a major component of our economic base and culture. Our fishermen have been determined to overcome all of the recovery challenges, and we are grateful that CDBG funding made this project possible."



The City of New Orleans was able to replace their mobile dental clinic after Hurricane Katrina with funds from FEMA.

FEMA Public Assistance

City of New Orleans 40 foot mobile dental unit

The City of New Orleans Health Department received \$434,368 in FEMA funding to purchase a new 40 foot mobile dental clinic for treating elderly patients in Orleans Parish. The collaborative program between the City and the New Orleans Council on Aging has been in existence since the 1970s; however both of the program's mobile units were washed away by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Equipped to provide low-cost evaluations and services to primarily minority and Medicaid patients at COA-designated Senior Centers, the mobile dental clinic has chairs for two patients, a working lab area, digital radiography, wheelchair lift, sterilization area and three TV/DVD sets for patient education.

Mabel Blache, DDS, director of mobile dental services for the City of New Orleans said, "This unit is a state-of-the-art dentist's office and mini-lab on wheels, providing our older citizens – who generally have limited resources and limited means of transportation – with critically needed dental services that safeguard their health and well-being."

New Medical Center in New Orleans

The state of Louisiana and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in late 2008 selected co-located sites spanning 70 acres in downtown New Orleans for construction of two hospitals designed to replace previous facilities heavily damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

The plan is to develop side-by-side, state-of-the-art hospitals that will provide excellent health care and medical training for students from Louisiana State University, Tulane, Xavier, Delgado and other health professional programs. The LSU facility will be known at the LSU Academic Medical Center.

The teaching hospital will replace Charity Hospital, which suffered extensive flood damage in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. After years of disputing the amount of damages to be awarded for the facility by FEMA, an independent arbitration panel in Jan. 2010 awarded Louisiana \$474.7 million for damages to Charity. The panel's ruling is final and binding.

"Since the Louisiana Recovery Authority's establishment following Hurricane Katrina, FEMA has worked diligently to support their mission of ensuring that Louisiana rebuilds safer, stronger and smarter than before. Together, through our joint recovery efforts, we've accomplished unprecedented achievements over the past five years." **Mark Landry, FEMA's Louisiana Transitional Recovery Office Interim Director**





LOUISIANA SPEAKS

Our Voice. Our Plan. Our Future.

A LONG-TERM COMMUNITY PLANNING INITIATIVE OF THE LRA

Planning

Louisiana Speaks

Published in May 2007, the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan guides the state and its citizens on a “bold new course” through the state’s recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita and “into a safer, stronger, smarter future.” The Louisiana Speaks initiative worked toward the development of a sustainable, long-term vision for south Louisiana, which included the creation and promotion of the Louisiana Speaks Regional Plan, first published in May 2007. The plan represents 18 months of work facilitated by some of the top planners in Louisiana and the United States, built upon and validated by the voices of 27,000 Louisianans. The plan combined the efforts of local, state and federal partners along with many experts, stakeholders and citizens into a comprehensive approach in order to guide recovery and growth in the state of Louisiana over the next 50 years. The Regional Plan includes more than 100 action items, supporting three broad goals: *Recover Sustainably, Grow Smarter and Think Regionally*. The effort put into Louisiana Speaks has led to better coordinated planning efforts among state, regional and local officials.

Parish Planning Capacity Building Program

Recognizing that the 13 parishes most affected by the 2005 storms would need additional capacity for recovery planning in the short term, the LRA and OCD developed the Parish Planning Capacity Building Program. This three-year, \$3 million program was based on the cost of hiring a full-time planner and estimated damages for each parish. The state-funded planners work closely with the LRA planning team on recovery-related issues.

Because the program was created to increase capacity, it provides a step-down award over a three-year span. The state anticipates that the parishes will continue to fund their planners after the program ends, thereby building planning capacity.

The parishes receiving Planning Capacity Building funds are Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion and Washington.

Lessons Learned

The Louisiana Recovery Authority was created to handle the massive recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita in a way that seized on the opportunity to build back in new ways that would improve the infrastructure and economy of our communities.

From the beginning, the LRA listened to local residents, community leaders, design and planning experts and federal and state policy makers to assess all strengths, needs and opportunities that existed within the hurricane-impacted parishes. The themes of rebuilding “safer, smarter and stronger” emerged, and that has remained the LRA’s mission throughout the past five years.

The board of directors was originally comprised and has continued to be represented by civic and national leaders who originate from the impacted communities. These volunteer leaders have met consistently, nearly every month over the last five years, to offer their expertise to the recovery process.

In 2006 Task Forces were formed to cover all aspects of recovery from infrastructure to housing to human services. Each Task Force was chaired by a member of the LRA board of directors and included several legislators and a broad-based group of decision makers who came together to address recovery challenges, which influenced the policies created.

The board of directors not only established principles and policies for redevelopment, but they also worked to secure the federal funding necessary to rebuild after the first and third most costly disasters to occur in the United States. After the initial allocation of \$6.2 billion in Community Development Block Grant funding, board members worked with the members of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation to secure the additional \$7.2 billion in CDBG funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, which have been critical to the state’s ongoing recovery.

While working with federal, state and local leaders to rebuild Louisiana, the LRA embraced ideas to make our communities stronger, including: creating mixed-income communities instead of simply rebuilding public housing units; providing homeowners funds for elevation and other hazard mitigation measures; working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and local governments to pool federal recovery funds and allow for faster rebuilding; providing funds to small business owners to sustain and grow local economies; and funding projects that utilized new energy conservation methods.

Louisiana built on the lessons learned after hurricanes Katrina and Rita when Louisiana faced two new storms in 2008, Gustav and Ike. These important lessons will inform future rebuilding challenges.

GUSTAV/IKE: BUILDING ON THE LESSONS LEARNED



HURRICANE GUSTAV: SEPTEMBER 1, 2008
HURRICANE IKE: SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

IMPACT OF THE STORMS

43 parishes severely impacted by Gustav, 14 by Ike, 51 lives lost, 12,000-13,000 homes flooded, 150,000-300,000 homes damaged, between \$8 and \$20 billion in physical damage, \$2-\$7 billion in housing damages, including \$1.7 billion in uninsured losses, more than \$1 billion in public infrastructure damage, approximately \$5 billion in loss of economic activity



Hurricanes Gustav and Ike hit Louisiana in September 2008 with two unique storm paths that left a majority of the state impacted; 53 parishes were part of the disaster declaration. The Louisiana Recovery Authority acted quickly, implementing a refined plan for a more effective and efficient recovery process built on the vast lessons learned after hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The first decision made was to bring the majority of the recovery funds down to the parishes. More than 53 percent, or \$565.5 million, of the total allocation of Community Development Block Grant funds to the state have been dedicated to the 53 impacted parishes based on their level of damage.

After the 2005 storms, the LRA demonstrated that it had set in place recovery protocols that provided for effective recovery, rebuilding and revitalization processes. Louisiana was the first state to submit an Action Plan for its 2008 federal recovery dollars, doing so in just over 30 days, and was the first state to receive approval of its plan from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Building on this extensive experience, the LRA has continued to develop and submit for HUD's consideration programs that are innovative, expand the typical use of recovery funds and are designed to meet the specific needs of the state's citizens and businesses.

The Louisiana Recovery Authority has allocated the state's \$1.058 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant funds for recovery from hurricanes Gustav and Ike in the following ways:

PROGRAMS

Allocation to Parishes	\$565.5 million
Housing	\$123.5 million
Economic Development	\$120 million
Infrastructure	\$67 million
Agricultural and Fisheries Recovery	\$92.1 million
Coastal Restoration	\$27.4 million
Comprehensive Resiliency	\$10 million
Administration, Planning and Technical Assistance	\$52.9 million



Parish Funds

The LRA has built into the recovery process an extensive plan of technical assistance, training and outreach with parish officials and other local government staff. Parishes have a menu of programs – for housing, infrastructure and economic development – that are used as a guide in determining which options best facilitate their own recovery.

State-Implemented Programs

The first Gustav and Ike recovery funds were disbursed through the Farm and Agribusiness Recovery Grant and Loan Program. As of June 2010, several other state-implemented programs were underway:

Fisheries Recovery Program

Commercial fishermen, vessel owners and wholesale dealers whose businesses were affected by the 2008 storms – and who have shown a commitment to remaining in the industry – can apply for fully-funded grants to assist with paying down storm-related uninsured and non-covered losses. Funds can be used to reduce payments of storm-related fishery losses that are currently being financed at higher interest rates, to replace gear or other items lost or damaged during hurricanes Gustav and Ike or to maintain employment or hire employees.

Municipalities Infrastructure Program

Many small to mid-sized municipalities across Louisiana were impacted by hurricanes Gustav and Ike while still in the midst of recovering from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Much of the infrastructure was compromised, if not destroyed, by the 2005 storms and could not sustain the heavy rain, wind and flooding impacts brought about by Gustav and Ike. A survey conducted with the Louisiana Municipal Association identified outstanding unmet needs in returning infrastructure to full operation or in implementing needed improvements. This program makes grant funds available on a competitive basis to municipalities located within the 53 parishes impacted by the 2008 storms and is designed to complement existing recovery activities and provide for municipalities' needs that are not addressed directly by other programs.

Affordable Rental Housing

As required by the 2008 federal disaster supplemental bill, at least 11.2 percent of the state's overall allocation of funding for recovery from hurricanes Gustav and Ike has been dedicated to affordable rental housing programs. **The Affordable Rental Program** consists of two approaches: competitive rental programs and direct allocation to the five entitlement parishes most affected by the 2008 storms. Both programs will provide assistance for the development, rehabilitation and rebuilding of affordable rental housing. **The Piggyback Rental Permanent Supportive Housing Program** supports mixed-income developments in the parishes affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike by "piggybacking" tax credits or other incentives with Community Development Block Grant funds. The mixed-income projects must have at least 30 residential rental units and must include units for Permanent Supportive Housing.

Comprehensive Resiliency Program

The increasing number and intensity of coastal storms has placed much of Louisiana's coastal communities and property at risk. The Pilot Comprehensive Resiliency Program provides comprehensive nonstructural recovery to some of our most at-risk communities. Because the state recognizes there is no one solution for the communities along our coast, we will work with the at-risk communities to develop the appropriate suite of pilot solutions, which range from innovative resiliency planning and development of forward-thinking land-use plans and zoning ordinances to an increase in code enforcement staffing. The program assistance will adhere to realistic, community-driven plans and will help leverage private and philanthropic resources.



Agricultural Aid

More than 1,000 farmers and agribusiness owners received \$31.3 million in the first disbursement of agricultural funds in late 2009. Farmers and ranchers were offered a mix of grants and low-interest loans to help with their 2009 production costs. Agribusinesses, such as aerial applicators and cotton gins, received 1.5 percent interest loans.

Gov. Bobby Jindal visits with **Ken Thornhill**, a sweet potato farmer from Franklin Parish in northern Louisiana, who received more than \$36,000 in grants and loans to aid in the recovery of his farm.



The City of Baker purchased a new Ferrara Fire Apparatus Invader fire truck with Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funding dedicated to pay for damages inflicted by hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Baker Fire Truck Acquisition

During Hurricane Gustav, one of the City of Baker’s two fire trucks was heavily damaged, which left only one truck to provide emergency services for the entire city. Both trucks were used during the storm to evacuate residents from tree-damaged homes, help remove downed power lines until the utility crews arrived on the scene and secure FEMA Point of Distribution sites – where federal blue tarps, hot meals, sand and ice were made available to residents.

As part of its \$1.5 million allocation, the City of Baker spent \$300,000 on the purchase of a new Ferrara Fire Apparatus Invader model fire truck. The truck is equipped with six cylinders, an automatic transmission and a 50 gallon fuel tank, and it will service all areas of the city.

“The purchase of the new fire truck allows us to better serve residents in the City of Baker. It will allow us to carry more equipment and provide more pumping capacity at a fire, which will assist us with our safety rating. In addition, we will be meeting National Fire Protection Association standards for firefighter safety.”

Baker Fire Chief Danny Edwards



“Terrebonne Parish was ground zero to the full fury of Hurricane Gustav and was inundated by Hurricane Ike. Thousands of parish residents were displaced for extended periods as a result. The HUD Disaster Recovery Grant program, as administered by the LRA, has provided the financial platform to allow our community to aggressively rebuild safer, smarter and stronger.”

Terrebonne Parish President Michel H. Claudet





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