

## **LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

### **Preliminary Approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 1 to the Hurricanes Gustav and Ike Action Plan**

**February 26, 2009**

**OVERVIEW:** A Resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors to provide preliminary approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 1 to the Hurricanes Gustav and Ike Action Plan which outlines the distribution of recovery funds and defines eligible program activities and to authorize the publication of Action Plan Amendment No. 1 for public comments.

Whereas, the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors (LRA Board) approved the Hurricanes Gustav and Ike Action Plan at the December 2008 board meeting;

Whereas, the LRA Board recommended the Action Plan to the Governor, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and the Louisiana Legislature for approval;

Whereas, the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget approved the Action Plan at its December 2008 meeting and members of the House of Representatives and the Senate approved the Action Plan by mail ballot in January 2009;

Whereas, the Office of Community Development (OCD) submitted the Hurricanes Gustav and Ike Action Plan which provided the framework for the distribution of \$438 million of Louisiana's initial allocation from the Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act of 2009 to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in January 2009 for approval and HUD provided preliminary approval of the Action Plan in February 2009;

Whereas, given HUD's approval of the Action Plan and the need to expeditiously forward much needed recovery dollars to local communities impacted by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, the staff of the LRA and the OCD worked with local communities and other state agencies to define how funds will be distributed and what eligible program activities would be funded;

Whereas, Action Plan Amendment No. 1 to the Hurricanes Gustav and Ike Action Plan allocates funds to specific recovery areas including parish allocations, affordable housing, fisheries, agriculture, coastal restoration, and administration;

Whereas, more than seventy percent of the recovery funds will be allocated to the parishes most impacted by the hurricanes based on their individual parish Federal Emergency Management Agency and Small Business Administration damage estimates;

Whereas, ten percent of the funds will be allocated to affordable housing programs as mandated by the federal legislation;

Whereas, funds will be distributed via state implemented programs and parish implemented programs, with the OCD administering eligible activities in coordination with other state agencies;

Whereas, the state will operate a grants management program to extend recovery funds to the local communities with the goal of providing the most autonomy and flexibility to the parishes;

Whereas, parishes and municipalities are encouraged to work together to determine recovery priorities and to develop recovery plans to be submitted to the LRA for approval;

Whereas, parishes have the option of implementing programs on behalf of their municipalities or allocating funds directly to the municipalities;

Whereas, parishes shall apply for funds by:

1. Submitting a proposal following a template provided by the state;
2. Proposals shall define effects of the storms on the local community, the programs that will be accessed to address those effects, and the amount of the parish's allocation that will be distributed to each program; and
3. Plans will be reviewed and approved by the LRA and OCD staff;

Whereas, eligible program activities include activities which support housing rehabilitation, disaster recovery and prevention, economic recovery and revitalization, hurricane protection and coastal restoration, infrastructure repair, and improvements requested by local governments to assist the state;

Whereas, state implemented programs will include affordable housing, the Louisiana Farm Recovery Loan and Grant Program, the Louisiana Agri-Business Recovery Loan Assistance Program, the Louisiana Critical Farm Infrastructure Grant Program, the Fishery Recovery Program, and the Coastal Communities Recovery Program;

Whereas, the state implemented programs will be administered by the OCD, Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority, the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, and the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration and shall be monitored by the OCD in accordance with the State Program Monitoring Plan;

Whereas, parish implemented programs will include housing, infrastructure, and economic recovery and revitalization programs;

Whereas, Action Plan Amendment No. 1 to the Hurricanes Gustav and Ike Action Plan outlines each of the state and parish implemented eligible activities and programs in detail, provides for a local plan submittal and approval process, and state monitoring;

Whereas, it is imperative that funds flow to the communities impacted by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike as soon as possible to prevent any additional economic, agricultural, and infrastructure damage; and

Whereas, approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 1 to the Hurricanes Gustav and Ike Action Plan is the first step towards a full and speedy recovery for impacted Louisiana communities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors does hereby provide preliminary approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 1 to the Hurricanes Gustav and Ike Action Plan which outlines the distribution of recovery funds and defines eligible program activities.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors does hereby authorize the publication of Action Plan Amendment No. 1 for public comments.