

# Louisiana Recovery Authority



QUARTERLY REPORT  
June – August, 2006

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## OUR MISSION

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) was created by Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita to serve as the planning and coordinating body for Louisiana's recovery.

Appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Senate, the organization's 33-member body is charged with securing funding for community recovery and resurgence, ensuring accountability and effectiveness, coordinating across jurisdictions, and planning for the rebuilding of South Louisiana.

The authority's objectives cover a broad spectrum of sectors with the mission of ensuring that Louisiana recovers in a way that helps the state rebuild safer, stronger, and smarter than ever before. The LRA will carry out this mission by focusing on four areas of work: securing funding and other resources needed for recovery, establishing principles and policies for redevelopment, leading long-term community and regional planning efforts, and ensuring transparency and accountability in the investment of recovery funds.

The LRA works in cooperation with local, state and federal agencies in the public sector as well as its partners in the private sector to coordinate long-term planning for South Louisiana while simultaneously pursuing short-term initiatives for the recovery and revitalization effort. Throughout all of its initiatives, the LRA is committed to a recovery and rebuilding process that is fair and equitable to everyone.

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*Chairman*

Walter Isaacson  
*Vice-Chairman*

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## Letter from the Governor

Dear Friends:

In the wake of the 2005 hurricane season, we made a promise to honor all that was lost by working together to recover and rebuild Louisiana safer, stronger and smarter than ever before. With support from President Bush, Chairman Don Powell, Congress, the Louisiana Recovery Authority as well as our other local, state and federal partners, we have kept this promise and made tremendous progress over the last year.

The tragedy of hurricanes Katrina and Rita did not diminish the spirit and determination of our great people. Instead, it gave us the opportunity to start anew. From the broken levees and floodwaters that were left behind, to the intense wind and rain that were brought ashore, South Louisiana is rebuilding. Today, Road Home housing assistance centers are opening throughout the state to help residents get back into their homes as quickly as possible. Dozens of schools are re-opening. Hundreds of businesses are recovering and thousands of lost jobs are being restored.

While these gains are unmistakable, there remains much more to be done. In the coming year, our construction economy will take root and tens of thousands of homes will be rebuilt. Billions of dollars will be invested to restore critical pieces of our infrastructure, such as bridges, roads, and sewer and water systems. Families will continue moving back. More and more tourists will come to experience our rich culture, and corporate America will bring private investments as we show the world that Louisiana is open for business once again.

Working together, we have made great strides in recovery and laid the foundation for Louisiana's long-term growth. I am very proud of the progress we have made thus far, and I have no doubt that our best and brightest days are yet to come.

Sincerely,



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco  
Governor



The hurricanes struck the Gulf Coast, less than four weeks apart, **damaging** more than **200,000** homes, **81,000** businesses and **870** schools, taking nearly **1,500** lives and initially displacing more than **1.3 million** Louisiana residents.

## Executive Summary

Louisiana is no stranger to adversity or tragedy. Since Hernando de Soto claimed the territory for Spain in 1541, the region has weathered French, Spanish, British and American successions, the War of 1812, the Civil War, Reconstruction, the yellow fever epidemic, the flood of 1927 and hurricanes Betsy and Camille. And, still, the destruction of hurricanes Katrina and Rita wreaked unprecedented havoc on the state and became the first and third most expensive natural disasters in American history.

The hurricanes struck the Gulf Coast, less than four weeks apart, damaging more than 200,000 homes, 81,000 businesses and 870 schools, taking nearly 1,500 lives and initially displacing more than 1.3 million Louisiana residents. Together the two storms and the failure of the federal levee systems in the Greater New Orleans area left behind a legacy of destruction that will exert its impact on Louisiana and the U. S. for generations.

Recognizing the need for coordination of efforts and short-term solutions within the context of long-term strategic planning, Governor Blanco created the LRA less than one month after the storms and gave it the mission of leading the rebuilding of a safer, stronger, smarter Louisiana.

In the months immediately following the disasters, the LRA worked to begin laying the foundation for Louisiana's recovery. And just one year later, with unprecedented cooperation from its local, state, federal and private partners, and extensive public participation, Louisiana has made significant progress.

### **G Making Certain that Every Recovery Dollar is Spent Wisely and Accounted for Honestly**

*Measures include hiring independent auditors, implementing tough accountability safeguards and establishing a multi-agency anti-fraud task force*

### **G Secured Congressional Approval of Critical Recovery Assistance**

*Successfully made the case for \$10.4 billion for housing, infrastructure repairs and economic development, and \$5.7 billion to repair levees with upgrades to withstand a 100-year storm*

### **G Implemented \$7.5 billion Road Home Program, to Help Homeowners Restore their Homes**

*Homeowner assistance pilot launched in July; assistance centers opening statewide in August*

### **G Implemented Strict New Statewide Building Code**

*Ensures any new construction will be built safer and stronger*

### **G Encouraging Parishes to Adopt Higher Standards for Rebuilding**

*Funds will only be provided to communities and parishes abiding by the latest FEMA flood map requirements; ensures new construction is built safer, stronger and smarter than before*

### **G Approved a State Takeover of New Orleans' Underperforming Schools**

*Recovery School District will focus on improving student achievement and turning schools around*

### **G Streamlined New Orleans Area Government to Improve Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness**

*Reduced number of N.O. clerks, sheriffs and courts. Proposed constitutional*

amendments to consolidate levee boards and reduce the number of assessors. Measures must be approved by voters statewide this fall.

- G **Developed Programs to Invest \$350 Million in Economic Development**  
*Programs provide workforce training, technical assistance, grants and loans to small businesses*

- G **Developed Programs to Match an Estimated \$7 Billion in FEMA Public Assistance Projects**  
*Leveraging recovery funds to achieve the greatest possible investment by recommending about \$700 million in CDBG funds to match FEMA contribution for repair of public facilities*

- G **Created a Program to Invest \$200 Million to Repair Schools**  
*Provides funding for school repairs that are ineligible for FEMA reimbursement; Criteria ensures schools will provide optimum learning environments for students*

- G **Established the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative**  
*Collaborative will develop health care plan focused on prevention, primary care and accessibility*

- G **Established Southwest Louisiana Task Force to Address Hurricane Rita Recovery Issues**  
*Special Louisiana Recovery Authority committee dedicated to addressing needs and unique challenges facing parishes devastated by Hurricane Rita; Special Rita report due in September*

- G **Allocated More than \$66 M in Housing Tax Credits, with \$27 M for Projects in the N.O. Region**  
*Designed to spur \$660 million in investments aimed at affordable rental housing in areas with the greatest need. Another \$112 M expected to be allocated by year's end, generating a \$1.7 B total investment*

- G **Helped Encourage Rebuilding of St. Bernard and Lower 9th Ward by Launching a \$200 M Project to Restore Jackson Barracks Military Base**  
*Proposals include devoting property to public uses such as schools, fire stations and clinics*

- G **Designed Multi-Faceted Planning Process to Create Long-term Vision for South Louisiana**  
*Worked with the LRA Support Foundation to hire a team of world-renowned planners to map out the most ambitious rebuilding effort in American history.*



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The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, which was passed by the U. S. Senate in August, includes a provision to open new areas of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas production, with coastal energy-producing states, including Louisiana, sharing in a portion of the revenues.

## Securing Recovery Funding

After months of working with President Bush, Federal Gulf Coast Recovery Coordinator Donald Powell, the Louisiana Congressional delegation and the United States Congress, Louisiana secured two significant funding appropriations that are critical to its recovery.

The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill, which Congress passed in June, included an additional \$4.2 billion in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) which were awarded to Louisiana by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in July. This funding is necessary to fully-fund The Road Home, a program to provide eligible homeowners with up to \$150,000 for uncompensated damages to get back into their homes. The appropriations bill also included an additional \$4 billion for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete flood control and restoration projects that are necessary to upgrade levees in New Orleans to protect against a 100-year storm. The announcement of these appropriations, made just two months ago, marked a significant step forward in Louisiana's recovery.

With these critical funds in place, the LRA has now turned its focus toward securing Louisiana's fair share of Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) revenues to repair the coastal wetlands that act as our hurricane "buffer zone" and protect the oil and gas infrastructure that is located along Louisiana's coastline.

The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006, which was passed by the U. S. Senate in August, includes a provision to open new areas of the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas production, with coastal energy-producing states, including Louisiana, sharing in a portion of the revenues. This crucial new source of revenue will allow Louisiana to invest in hurricane protection and coastal wetlands restoration systems that will protect land-based infrastructure and the people living in neighboring coastal communities before, during and after hurricanes.

With nearly one-third of all oil and gas consumed in the United States being produced in or flowing through Louisiana, the restoration and protection of these coastal wetlands is not only important to Louisiana's recovery, but to the nation's prosperity. The restoration of Louisiana's coastal wetlands will help to protect crucial oil and gas infrastructure, thereby helping all Americans by minimizing the impact of future hurricanes on their fuel bills.

In the coming months, Governor Blanco, the LRA and the Congressional delegation will continue working with Congress and the White House to secure these critical funds as the legislation moves to conference committee.



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# Establishing Policies and Principles for Redevelopment

## Infrastructure

The infrastructure of communities throughout South Louisiana was battered by hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the failure of the federal levee systems. Earlier this year, the LRA recommended the allocation of \$100 million for the Local Government Emergency Infrastructure program to fund the non-federal match for emergency infrastructure projects such as sewer systems, schools and universities, roads and bridges in parishes that have adopted the latest available base flood elevations from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and new statewide building standards. The LRA also recommended and received approval for the allocation of \$150 million for the repair and reconstruction of state buildings and \$250 million for the State Hazard Mitigation Grant Program to help prevent damages from future disasters.

This quarter, the LRA recommended the allocation of an additional \$300 million for the expansion of the Local Government Emergency Infrastructure program, creating a total pool of \$400 million. This recommendation also expanded the program to allow expenditures for FEMA ineligible repair costs of critical infrastructure.

This allocation backs a commitment of the LRA to cover all of non-federal matching funds for all FEMA Public Assistance (PA) projects for permanent infrastructure repairs. These matching funds will allow Louisiana to fully leverage recovery funds to achieve the greatest possible investment in public infrastructure. **As of August 15, 2006, FEMA had obligated more than \$3.3 billion in federal dollars for PA projects in Louisiana.**

This action plan was approved by the LRA Board of Directors, Governor Blanco, and the Louisiana Legislature and now moves to HUD for final approval.

## Economy and Workforce

With more than 81,000 businesses initially impacted by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Governor Blanco quickly began working with Louisiana Economic Development (LED) to establish the Louisiana Bridge Loan Program. Following the state's investment, the LRA recommended that \$100 million be allocated for the continuation and expansion of the program. As of August, nearly \$40 million in gap funding has been granted to more than 700 qualifying businesses. The next phase of the program is scheduled to launch this fall.

This quarter, the LRA worked with the Office of Community Development (OCD) to develop the following economic development programs:

- \$100 million for a Long Term Recovery Loan Program to leverage an estimated \$550 million in funding for fixed assets, equipment, and working capital;
- \$40 million for a Small Firm Recovery Loan and Grant Program targeting firms that do not qualify for conventional financing and/or loans from the Small Business Administration;
- \$30 million for a Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program to revive the second

## Did You Know:

Repairs and improvements to the Louisiana Superdome, a symbol of rebirth for South Louisiana, are nearing completion. The "Dome" will be ready to host the first home game of the New Orleans Saints on September 25, 2006.

Phases 1 and 2 of repairs and reconstruction to the Interstate 10 Twin-Span Bridge were completed ahead of schedule.

A \$200 million project to restore Jackson Barracks, which will serve as a bridge between St. Bernard and Lower 9th Ward communities, is underway and scheduled for completion by August 2009.



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louisiana recovery authority

- largest industry in the state, in terms of employment; and
- \$10 million to provide technical assistance to small firms seeking to recover in a changed, post-storms marketplace or to start new businesses in the impacted communities.

These action plans were approved by the LRA Board of Directors, Governor Blanco, and the Louisiana Legislature and are now pending final approval from HUD.

In an effort to support the state's current workforce development initiatives, the LRA also partnered with OCD to develop plans for a \$40 million workforce training program. The program is aimed at developing training programs that are tailored to the needs of the impacted regions in the following recovery sectors:

construction, health care, transportation, advanced manufacturing, oil and gas, and the cultural sector. The action plan was approved by Governor Blanco and the LRA Board of Directors and is now pending Legislative approval before being submission to HUD.



## Housing

### Road Home Moves Toward Implementation

Within a month of receiving full funding for the homeowner assistance program, Governor Blanco, the LRA and OCD moved to quickly launch a pilot for the Road Home. During the pilot, which began in July, a sample of nearly 500 homeowners began moving through the entire Road Home process, including the awarding of grant funds, helping the state to fine tune the program's policies and procedures.

The LRA and OCD also published a Road Home Action Plan amendment to clarify the model for assisting residents whose homes were damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The changes, which were negotiated between state and federal officials, provided greater detail on how the homeowner assistance program will be implemented.

The action plan amendment also details agreements reached with Louisiana bankers and national lenders for the manner in which monies will be disbursed to homeowners as they repair or rebuild their homes. Homeowners, along with their lenders, will be able to manage their awards through joint accounts.

### Rehabilitating and Building Affordable Housing

To help rebuild affordable housing for Louisianians, the LRA is working with the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA) and OCD to develop programs that will maximize the benefit of expanded Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC), made available to Louisiana through the Gulf Opportunity Zone.

This quarter, the LHFA recommended approval of more than \$66 million in LIHTCs, which are estimated to generate roughly \$660 million in investments. From these tax credits, \$27 million were designated for projects in Orleans Parish, which sustained 63 percent of total damage to rental housing units.

For new affordable housing projects, the LRA is working with LHFA to couple the tax credits with CDBG funds to foster the development of deeply affordable rental units and mixed-income communities, which are meant for people at a variety of income levels.



The LRA also endorsed a proposal to recommend the reallocation of additional CDBG funds, if necessary, to create more mixed-income housing communities through the Road Home rental program. Based on recent negotiations with the Housing Authority of New Orleans, the LRA may be able to bring additional financial resources into the Road Home rental program from housing vouchers. This proposal will be published in an Action Plan for public comment and will subsequently be forwarded to Governor Blanco and the Louisiana Legislature for final approval.

The LRA is committed to the development of mixed-income housing communities as a tool for de-concentrating poverty—a critical piece of Louisiana’s long-term recovery. Overall, the combination of these tax credits and CDBG funds will yield over \$ 3 billion in investments that will foster the redevelopment of affordable housing in hurricane devastated regions.

## Health Care

Health care reform is an integral part of Louisiana’s long-term recovery. The LRA Support Foundation commissioned a study by PricewaterhouseCoopers, to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of Louisiana’s health care system and recommend ways to improve it, particularly as the state recovers from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The report, which was received and endorsed by the LRA this quarter, addresses three critical areas of health care recovery and redesign: emergency preparedness and disaster recovery; health care workforce and medical education needs, especially in areas of highest devastation; and design of a health system that will ensure equal access to quality care for all Louisianians.

Calling last year’s hurricanes an opportunity to rebuild a more effective system of health care for the communities impacted by the storms, the LRA also joined Governor Blanco, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Michael Leavitt, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) Secretary Fred Cerise, and other public and private hospitals, doctors and health care providers to establish the Louisiana Health Care Redesign Collaborative.

The mission of this collaborative is to develop, and oversee the implementation of, a practical blueprint for an evidence-based, quality driven, patient-centered health care system for Louisiana. This blueprint, which will serve as a guide for health care policy in Louisiana and for the recovery and rebuilding of health care in the hurricane-affected areas of the state, is scheduled to be delivered to Secretary Leavitt in October 2006.

The LRA is also partnering with Secretary Cerise to convene a workgroup of local, state and federal leaders to design and implement redesign recommendations specific to the health care system in Southwest Louisiana. The LRA will actively participate in the workgroup, which will be charged with developing a sustainable, patient-centered, primary care-driven health care delivery system that is tailored to the needs of the rural and urban communities in the region.

## Human Services

In an effort to strengthen the social and physical conditions for Louisiana’s most vulnerable populations in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the LRA is working with the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Louisiana Family



Governor Blanco’s Road Home program is designed to help residents of Louisiana affected by hurricane Katrina or Rita get back into their homes as quickly and fairly as possible. This groundbreaking program represents the largest single housing recovery program in U.S. history. Working together, Governor Blanco, the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the Office of Community Development created The Road Home Program to afford eligible homeowners up to \$150,000 in compensation to get back into their homes.

### Road Home Implementation Timeline:

**June:** Congress approves full funding for The Road Home.

**July:** HUD awards funding to Louisiana; total number of citizens pre-registered for The Road Home exceeds 100,000.

**August:** Governor Blanco opens housing assistance centers across the state and homeowners begin receiving awards.

“...Louisiana is working to ensure that every child who returns to school will have a safe, clean, academically challenging environment where he or she can learn every day.”

Recovery Corps (LFRC), and FEMA to coordinate the delivery of services. In the immediate aftermath, DSS provided nearly \$400 million in disaster benefits to nearly a half-million households through the Disaster Food Stamp Program.

DSS, FEMA and the LFRC are also working to help displaced families get the assistance they need to get out of transitional housing and into permanent homes. As of August, FEMA reported there were 81,688 occupied transitional housing units in private, commercial, group and industrial sites throughout the state.

Earlier this year, LRA also worked with OCD, DSS and DHH to recommend and receive legislative approval to use \$220 million in Social Service Block Grants (SSBG) for child care, welfare services, behavioral health services, and preventative and primary care.

LRA and DSS also collaborated to develop a homelessness plan as part of the Road Home housing program. This plan addresses increased homeless needs in the impacted areas by increasing beds, facility capacity and supportive services.

## Education

With more than 870 schools damaged or destroyed, the challenge to rebuild Louisiana’s educational infrastructure in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita was great.

In New Orleans alone, after water inundated 80% of the city, damaging and destroying roughly 100 schools. But even before Katrina destroyed the buildings, the education system in New Orleans was in a state of disrepair, with nearly 60 schools in academic crisis and district finances in disarray.

Calling this a “once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for change,” Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco and the LRA endorsed legislation passed by the Louisiana Legislature to expand the Louisiana Department of Education’s Recovery School District (RSD), which allowed the state to take over a total of 112 of the 128 public schools in New Orleans, which were in a state of academic crisis.

Nearly a year later, hundreds of schools have re-opened across the state, and Louisiana is working to ensure that every child who returns to school will have a safe, clean, academically challenging environment where he or she can learn every day.

With approximately 50 – 60 schools opening in Orleans Parish for the 2006 – 2007 school year, the Louisiana Department of Education’s Recovery School District (RSD) and the non-profit organization New Schools for New Orleans (NSNO) are interviewing hundreds of teaching applicants well into the fall, with many candidates visiting the area from outside of South Louisiana. In an effort to support this process, the LRA and the New Orleans Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) and its members have teamed up to provide free hotel rooms to all teachers applying for K-12 teaching positions in New Orleans during their interviews.

To further support Louisiana’s educational recovery, the LRA also worked with the Louisiana Department of Education to develop a program for distributing more than \$200 million in CDBG funds to repair and rebuild K-12 schools, mandating that all impacted school districts that request such funds must follow

proven best practices of school facilities design. These best practices include building flexible-use classrooms, sharing facilities with neighboring communities, and fostering a small school culture. These funds will cover all of the state matching funds for FEMA PA projects for permanent infrastructure repairs and other critical FEMA ineligible repair costs. The Action Plan to distribute these funds was approved by Governor Blanco, the LRA Board of Directors, and the Louisiana Legislature and is now pending final approval from HUD.

## Environment

Louisiana, along with its Gulf Coast neighbors, experienced an unprecedented environmental disaster when hurricanes Katrina and Rita came ashore last year. Together the storms created recovery challenges of an unprecedented magnitude: more than 24.6 million tons or 61 million cubic yards of debris, including millions of orphan drums of unknown origin and content; over 350,000 flooded and abandoned cars; over 60,000 damaged vessels; and more than 1.5 million units of white goods. Nearly one year later, significant progress has been made in debris removal, recycling and environmental clean up.



- 15.9 million tons or 39.9 million cubic yards of debris have been removed and processed, including more than 20 million pounds of household hazardous waste (pesticides, bleach, paint, solvents, etc.) and nearly 4 million orphan containers (propane tanks, hazardous containers, drums) which have been collected and properly disposed of.
- 40,000 vessels have been removed.
- Nearly 870,000 white goods (refrigerators/freezers, washers/dryers, stoves, AC units) have been recycled along with more than 50,000 pounds of Freon.
- More than 650,000 units of electric goods and 175,000 small engines have been recycled.
- More than 250,000 vehicles have been removed, 200,000 of which have been recycled.

Working with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), DEQ also conducted extensive environmental samples, including more than 8,500 air, nearly 3,500 water samples, and nearly 2,000 soil/sediment samples, across Louisiana to address health concerns. DEQ and EPA concluded shortly after the storm that the floodwaters were not toxic and that all concentrations of the toxic air pollutants were below EPA's one-year screening levels and below the Louisiana toxic air pollutant standards. DEQ along with numerous state and federal partners also



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Louisiana recovery authority

concluded that there were no unacceptable levels of risks from contaminants in the soils and sediments resulting from the hurricane. More than 1.5 million total chemical analyses were performed on post hurricane environmental samples.

Various federal, state and local agencies including DEQ, EPA, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, also conducted tests on water and food, including seafood, from the affected areas and all have been pronounced safe to consume. The states of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, along with federal partners, announced in early December that hundreds of samples of fish and shellfish, collected and analyzed in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, showed no reason for concern about the consumption of Gulf seafood.

## Leading Long Term Community and Regional Planning Efforts

In an effort to turn tragedy into opportunity in the aftermath of last year's devastating hurricanes, Louisiana has embarked on one of the most ambitious planning efforts in history. With support from the LRA Support Foundation, the LRA is working to address planning at every level of recovery through its long-term planning initiative, Louisiana Speaks. In keeping with the LRA's philosophy for rebuilding safer, stronger and smarter, the principles that drive this initiative will ensure that the recovery and rebuilding process is fair and equitable to everyone.

## Post-Katrina & Rita Citizens' Survey Completed

Working with a diverse team of researchers, the LRA's Louisiana Speaks initiative conducted interviews and surveys of more than 2,500 Louisianans to capture their post-hurricane opinions about the state and the recovery effort.

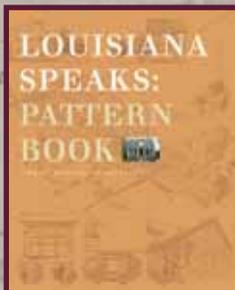
Results showed a majority of displaced residents are planning to return and revealed a great degree of hope and consensus around the themes of safety, prosperity, cultural integrity, inclusion and fairness. Results also revealed that of the thousands of individuals surveyed, more than 90 percent support coastal and wetland restoration. The complete survey is available online at [www.louisianaspeaks.org](http://www.louisianaspeaks.org).

## Louisiana Pattern Books Published and Distributed Free-of-Charge to Residents

This quarter, the LRA's Louisiana Speaks initiative also partnered with Road Home housing assistance centers and retailers across the state to begin distributing 100,000 copies of the Louisiana Pattern Book. The Pattern Book serves as a reference guide of building designs and materials that will enable people to rebuild using more storm-resistant materials while maintaining the architectural character of South Louisiana. Copies are now available in housing assistance centers, home improvement stores such as Lowe's and Stine's Lumber throughout the state, and online at [www.louisianaspeaks.org](http://www.louisianaspeaks.org).

## Neighborhood Planning Reports Completed

To help local communities rebuild and improve their neighborhoods, the LRA's Louisiana Speaks initiative worked with Andres Duany and other town plan-



ners from Duany Plater-Zyberk & Company (DPZ) to host a series of local neighborhood workshops or “charrettes” earlier this year.

Through the charrettes these planners worked around the clock with citizens and community leaders from three areas including downtown Lake Charles, South Acadiana, Arabi and other parts of St. Bernard Parish. As a result, the detailed plans for these neighborhoods were developed with widespread community input and emphasize strategies for rebuilding better than before.

These plans, which are now available at [www.louisianaspeaks.org](http://www.louisianaspeaks.org), will become the building blocks for South Louisiana’s regional vision and demonstrate how big ideas can be implemented at the local level, one neighborhood at a time.

## Unified Neighborhood Planning Process Announced for New Orleans

The process, announced by Governor Blanco, the LRA, Mayor C. Ray Nagin, the New Orleans City Council and others will bring together individuals, neighborhoods, and the entire city into a single process that will result in the development of a comprehensive recovery plan for New Orleans.

## Extensive Outreach for Regional Planning Conducted through Stakeholder Workshops

Through its long-term community planning initiative, Louisiana Speaks, the LRA also hosted a series of workshops across South Louisiana to work with stakeholders and begin developing a long-term regional plan for recovery and sustainable growth. More than 1,000 civic leaders participated in workshops and surveys this quarter to brainstorm possible scenarios for rebuilding hurricane-affected regions of the state.

Building upon this input from across the region, Louisiana Speaks will create a series of “pictures” of what South Louisiana might look like in the future. These choices and trade-offs will then be tested to gauge cost-efficiency, storm safety, and economic viability to help Louisiana determine: how the region will be protected from future natural disasters; which areas will see the most new development; and what kinds of jobs will be available. These efforts will culminate with a public-preference vote to help select a preferred scenario in January 2007.

## Ensuring Transparency and Accountability

Ensuring transparency and accountability in the recovery and rebuilding process is a key part of the LRA’s mission. To ensure the highest standards of integrity for all activities associated with recovery, to deter fraud, and ensure that every recovery dollar is accounted for, Louisiana has:

- Established the LRA Audit Committee which provides independent oversight of hurricane recovery spending. The Audit committee will ensure the state uses best practices and procedures in developing controls and moni-

*A post-Katrina and Rita survey of more than 2,500 Louisianians revealed:*

**Citizens Remain Optimistic:** 80% of the citizens surveyed believe that if people participate in the planning process and the plan is executed well, the region will be a good place to live again.

**Most displaced Residents Planning to Return:** 57% of the citizens surveyed said they were likely or somewhat likely to return. 63% of those displaced, but still within the state, plan to return to their original area.

**Universal Support for the Wetlands:** More than 90% of citizens support coastal restoration.

Complete survey is available online at [www.louisianaspeaks.org](http://www.louisianaspeaks.org).

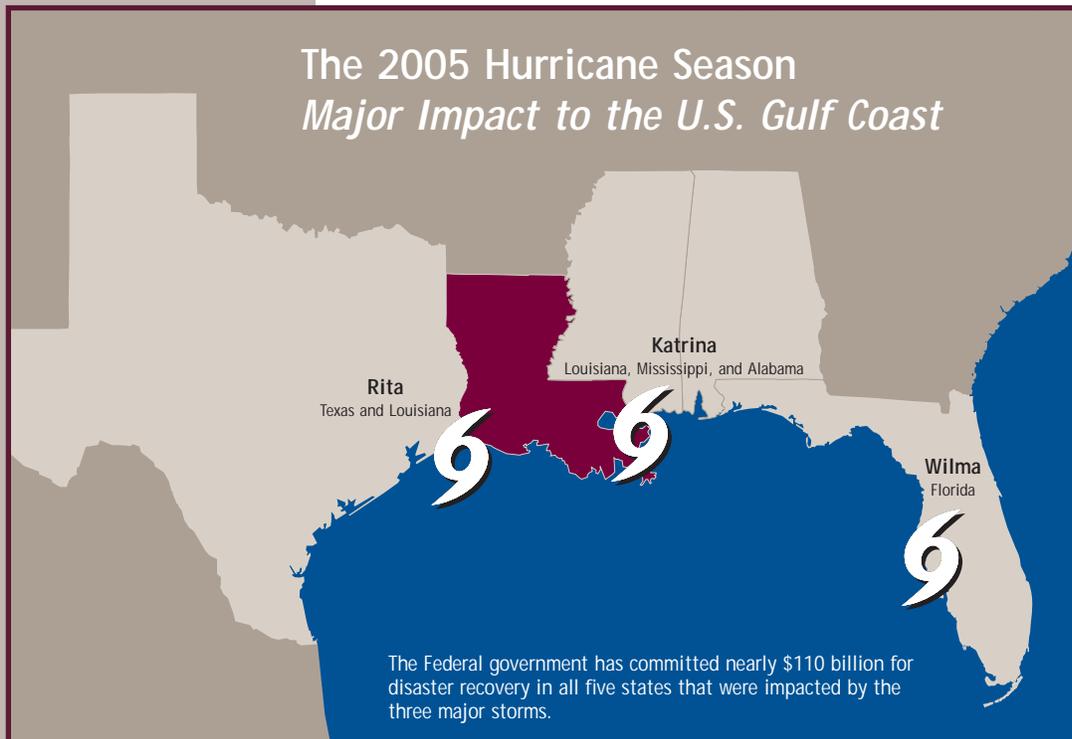
toring spending. It will receive reports from the Office of the Inspector General, the Office of the Louisiana's Legislative Auditor, and other outside auditors engaged by the state.

- Retained one of the "Big Four" accounting firms Deloitte & Touche LLP. Through its contract with the Division of Administration, Deloitte & Touche will aid the state and provide assistance in evaluating the disbursement of FEMA recovery dollars.
- Established the Road Home Fraud Prevention and Investigations Task Force, an investigative unit modeled after successful efforts by Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, to root out fraud and abuse and monitor CDBG expenditures.
- Established a legally binding covenant which requires homeowners receiving assistance through the Road Home program to follow through on certain actions related to the home, such as ensuring mitigation and remaining in the residence for 3 years, in exchange for compensation.

## The Flow of Recovery Funds

In response to the 2005 hurricane season, the Federal government has committed nearly \$110 billion for disaster recovery in all five of the Gulf States that were impacted by the three major storms. This includes Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas which were impacted by hurricanes Katrina, Rita and/ or Wilma.

While not all of this has been obligated, roughly \$59 billion in federal recovery funds has been committed to Louisiana thus far, which was struck by both hurricanes Katrina and Rita and suffered 75 percent of the Gulf Coast's total housing damages. More than half of this funding was for immediate disaster relief services and insurance payments to policyholders.

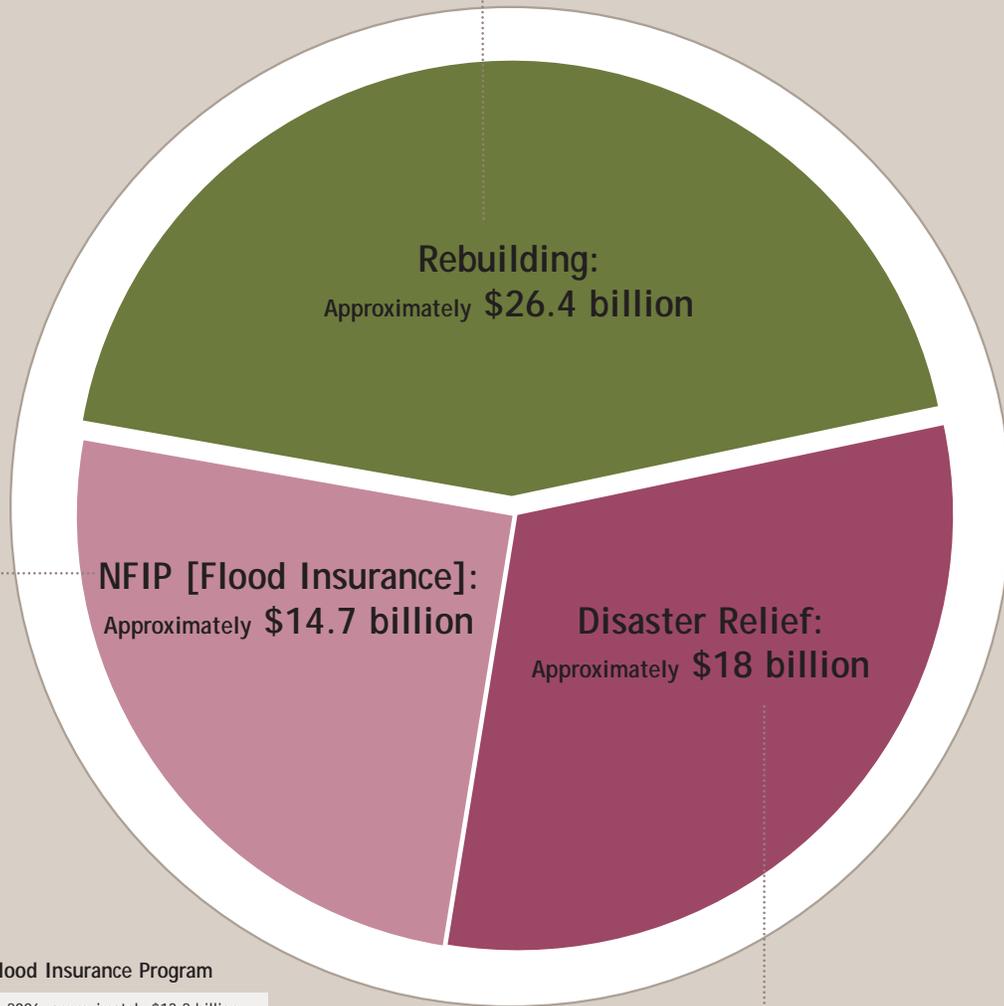


# A Snapshot of Federal Commitments to Louisiana's Recovery

Rebuilding:	\$26.4 billion
Disaster Relief:	\$18 billion
NFIP:	\$14.7 billion
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>Approximately \$59 billion</b>

## REBUILDING

CDBG and HMGP	\$11.9 billion
• Homeowner Assistance	\$7.5 billion
• Affordable Workforce Rental Housing	\$1.75 billion
• Infrastructure	\$2.3 billion
• Economic Development	\$350 million
Levees	\$5.7 billion
Transportation	\$1 billion
FEMA PA [CAT. C-G]	\$7 billion*
Other	\$812 million
• Jackson Barracks	\$142 million
• Veterans Hospital for New Orleans	\$550 million
• Coast Guard Integrated Support Command Center	\$80.8 million
• Historic Preservation Grants	\$37 million
• Job Corps Facility in New Orleans	\$2 million



## National Flood Insurance Program

As of August 2006, approximately \$13.2 billion had been paid out to policy holders in Louisiana.

## DISASTER RELIEF

Healthcare	\$1 billion
Education	\$760 million
UI Assistance & Workforce Development	\$600 million
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)	\$34 million
Small Business Administration (SBA)	\$834 million*
Social Service Block Grant (SSBG)	\$220 million
Individual Assistance (IA)	\$12.1 billion*
Other	\$2.4 billion
• DOD	\$586 million
• DHS/other	\$516 million
• HUD/other	\$71 million
• USACE	\$989 million
• All other	\$324 million

\* This chart represents the current estimate of recovery funds for Louisiana. Most categories show the estimate of the total investment that will be made in Louisiana based on specific Congressional appropriations. Those categories marked with asterisks (\*) represent the current estimate of what has been or is estimated to be spent in federally administered programs that do not have a specific appropriations cap. These will likely increase over time.

REBUILD REJUVENATE RESTORE WORK ROUS  
Our recovery plans needs to be inclusive, focused, and progressive  
DIFY GALVANIZE RECAPTURE RAISE REVIVE  
would like homes to be rebuilt so that my neighbors, friends and f  
MOBILIZE RENEWAL REPLENISH CONCILIATE  
people • No one cooks Red Beans on Mondays like we do • I would  
CONFIRM ENERGIZE OVERHAUL RALLY ENLIV  
• New Orleans should be a city known for its culture, food, history  
TOGETHER ENVIRONMENT VITALIZE ROUSE R  
rebuilding communities that are family friendly and affordable t  
NFORM CULTIVATE UPLIFT REPAIR SECURE  
equal opportunity in the areas of housing, education, and quality  
REGENERATE COMMUNITY MEND REVIVE INV  
watching the sunset over the Mississippi River • The spirit of Louis  
ENLIGHTEN TOGETHER MOBILIZE PROPEL INI  
our unique culture, our gumbo — that's what makes Louisiana w  
RELIEVE WORK RENEW GALVANIZE CULTIVAT  
one accord. We have to stop being territorial and think about our  
TRANSFORM PREPARE UPLIFT RECAPTURE RI  
reach all racial, ethnic, and socio-economic levels • Lincoln Beach t  
REVOLUTIONIZE WELCOME DIRECT SHAPE PR  
for future generations to come • I envision a New Orleans that tr  
RELIEVE CONFIRM IMPROVE WORK REBUILD  
districts is not only an economic development issue, it's a housin  
ORGANIZE CONSTRUCTION HARMONIZE REVIV  
people have access to healthy, local food • Any recovery plan we in  
SERVICE FORGE CONCILIATE REGENERATE U  
safer • We need local and regional governments that work toward  
WELCOME PREPARE ENLIGHTEN WORK IMPRO  
Orleans that make it different from anywhere else in the world •  
REVITALIZE MEND REPLENISH CONFIRM TRAI  
needs • The unique flavor of New Orleans makes our community  
POPULATION REPAIR WORK COOPERATE RALI  
to support historic and local traditions • Now is the time for chan

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