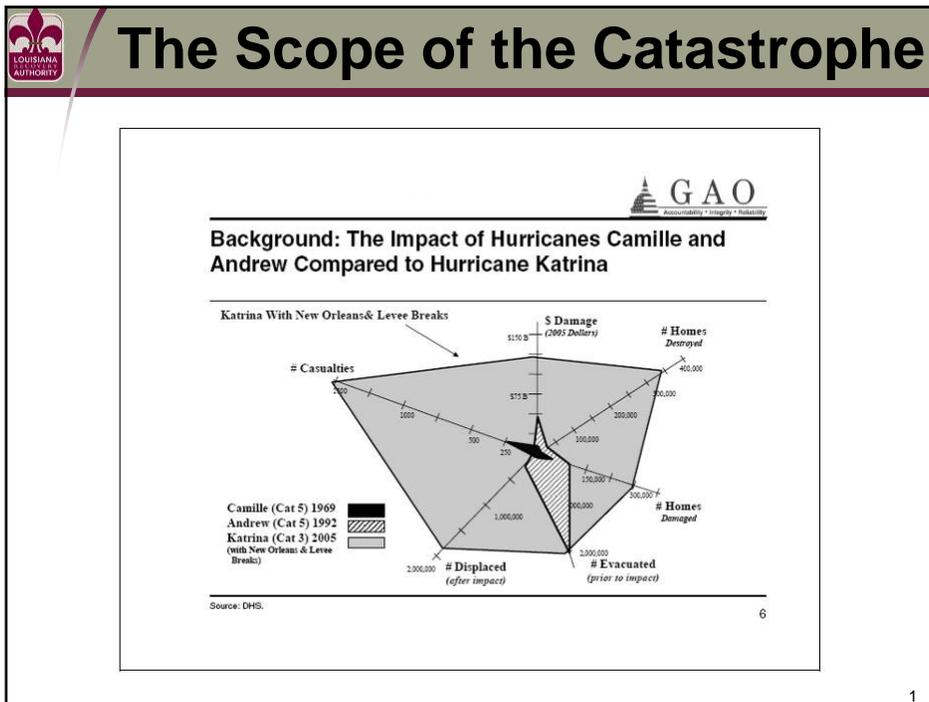




Executive Director's Report
September 11, 2007





Louisiana's Hurricane Property Losses

Estimated Property Losses:

Homes, Vehicles, Personal Property	\$35 billion
Commercial Structures, Property, Inventory	\$34 billion
Public Infrastructure (<i>utilities, roads, ports, rail, water</i>)	\$17 billion
Public Facilities: State, Educational, Health	\$8 billion
Levees	\$6 billion

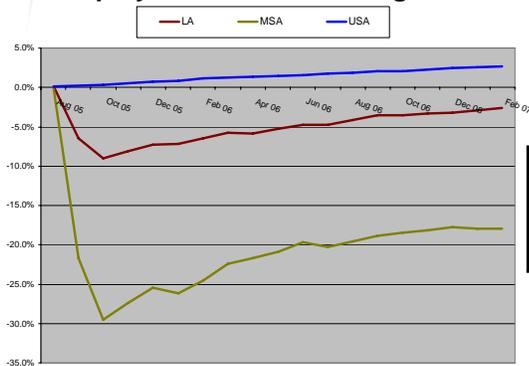
TOTAL EST. PROPERTY LOSSES: \$100 billion

2



Statewide Economic Losses

Employment Percent Changes



	LA	MSA*	US
September 05	-6.50%	-22%	0.20%
October 05	-9.00%	-30%	0.30%
February 07	-2.60%	-18%	2.60%

*MSA = Metro New Orleans

Gross State Product

LA GSP 4 quarters prior to Katrina (July 2004 thru Jun 2005)	\$138.2B
LA GSP 4 quarters post Katrina (July 2005 thru June 2006)	\$126.7B
Reduction in GSP	\$ 11.5B

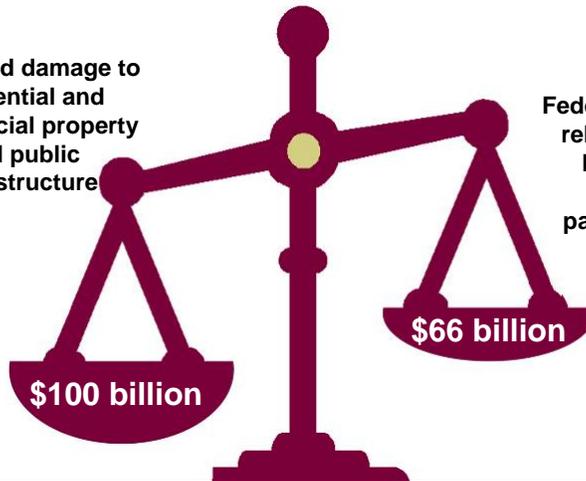
3



Louisiana's Hurricane Losses (Net)

Balance of Payments for Property and Infrastructure Damage from Katrina and Rita

Estimated damage to residential and commercial property and public infrastructure



Federal dollars for rebuilding (\$26 billion) and insurance payments (\$40 billion)

4



Net Losses Total \$34 Billion

Louisiana has unrecovered losses of \$34 billion in commercial and residential property and public infrastructure.

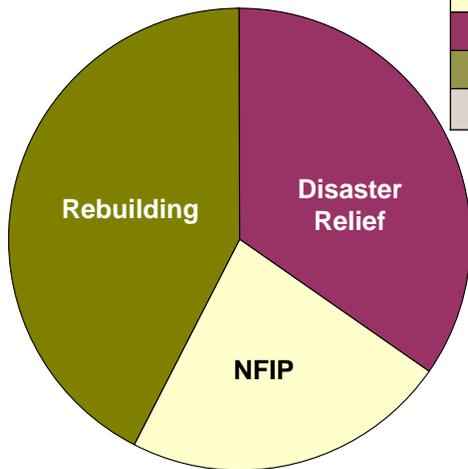


\$20,000 per Louisiana family

5



Federal Funding Commitments to Louisiana

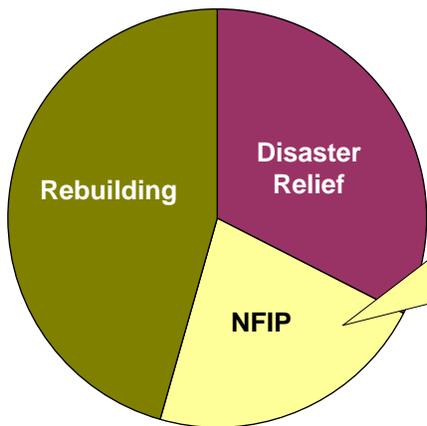


Allocated Funds	
National Flood Insurance Program	\$13.5 billion
Disaster Relief	\$20.9 billion
Rebuilding	\$25.5 billion
Total Funding Allocated	\$59.9 billion

6



National Flood Insurance Program - \$13.5 b

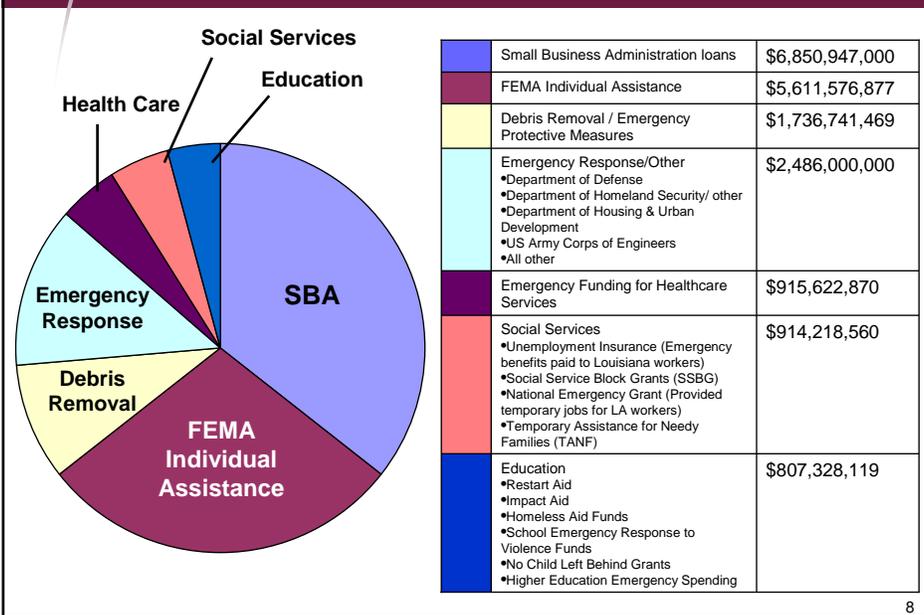


As of May 31, 2008, the National Flood Insurance Program paid 286,000 claims totaling approximately \$13.5 billion for policy holders in Louisiana.

7



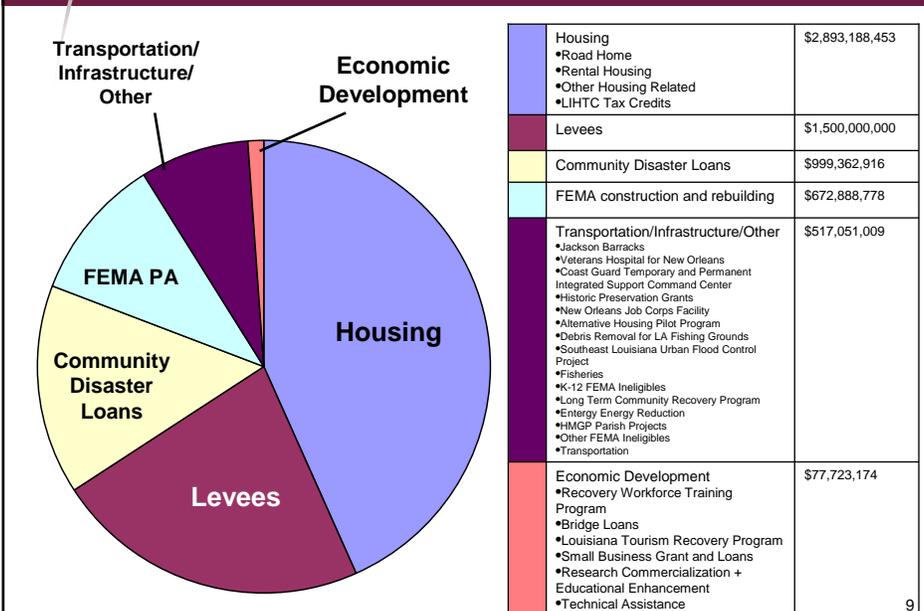
Disaster Relief Funds Spent - \$19.3 B



8



Rebuilding Funds Spent -- \$6.7 B

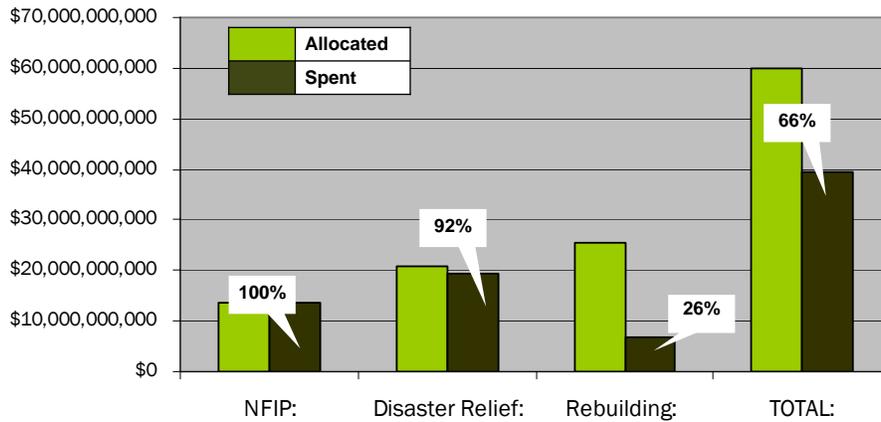


9



Federal Funding Commitments to Louisiana

Spent vs. Allocated by Type of Funds

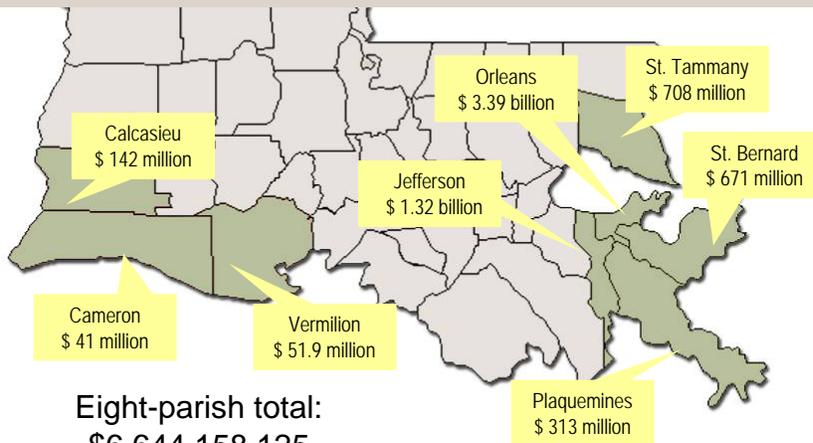


10



Dollars on the Ground

Close up of federal funding spent in the eight parishes most affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



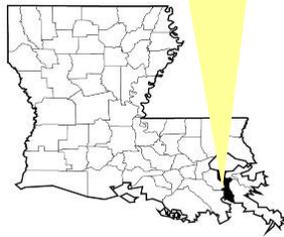
11



Rebuilding dollars on the ground - Jefferson

Jefferson parish

Parishwide total	\$1,322,989,746
------------------	-----------------



Funding sources

FEMA PA -- Rebuilding	\$123,720,687
Community Disaster Loans	\$280,526,529
Road Home	\$399,134,099
LIHTC Tax Credits	\$13,019,965
Bridge Loans	\$15,574,730
Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program	\$40,643
Small Business Grant and Loans (Conservative Estimate)	\$3,771,000
Levees	\$483,000,000
Transportation	\$4,202,093

12



Rebuilding dollars on the ground - Orleans

Orleans parish

Parishwide total	\$3,393,375,042
------------------	-----------------



Funding sources

FEMA PA -- Rebuilding	\$291,120,793
Community Disaster Loans	\$466,416,286
Road Home	\$1,456,558,749
Rental Housing	\$81,650,000
LIHTC Tax Credits	\$92,641,100
Energy Energy Reduction	\$181,000,000
Bridge Loans	\$15,119,970
Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program	\$4,059,343
Small Business Grant and Loans	\$13,365,000
Coast Guard	\$10,500,000
New Orleans Job Corps Facility	\$2,000,000
SELA Urban Flood Control Project	\$10,000,000
Historic Preservation Grants	\$8,414,672
Levees	\$684,000,000
Transportation	\$76,529,129
Total	\$3,393,375,042

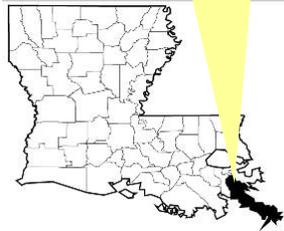
13



Rebuilding dollars on the ground - Plaquemines

Plaquemines parish

Parishwide total	\$313,104,164
------------------	---------------



Funding sources

FEMA PA -- Rebuilding	\$48,764,735
Community Disaster Loans	\$24,386,477
Road Home	\$31,882,935
Bridge Loans	\$650,000
Small Business Grant and Loans	\$2,979,000
HMGP	\$131,588
Historic Preservation Grants	\$89,888
Levees	\$200,000,000
Transportation	\$4,219,542
Total	\$313,104,164

14



Rebuilding dollars on the ground – St. Bernard

St. Bernard parish

Parishwide total	\$671,454,988
------------------	---------------



Funding sources

FEMA PA -- Rebuilding	\$197,625,284
Community Disaster Loans	\$65,982,312
Road Home	\$299,309,005
Bridge Loans	\$2,040,000
Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program	\$11,087
Small Business Grant and Loans	\$3,024,000
Historic Preservation Grants	\$451,925
Levees	\$101,000,000
Transportation	\$2,011,374

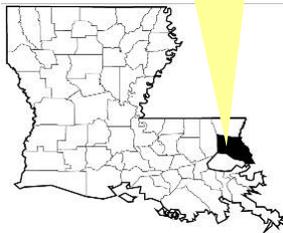
15



Rebuilding dollars on the ground – St. Tammany

St. Tammany parish

Parishwide total	\$708,174,148
------------------	---------------



Funding sources

FEMA PA -- Rebuilding	\$192,787,388
Community Disaster Loans	\$132,216,213
Road Home	\$281,093,302
LIHTC Tax Credits	\$12,639,525
Bridge Loans	\$5,754,110
Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program	\$79,081
Small Business Grant and Loans	\$1,377,000
HMGP	\$481,002
Historic Preservation Grants	\$105,715
Transportation	\$81,640,813

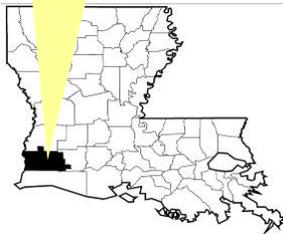
16



Rebuilding dollars on the ground – Calcasieu

Calcasieu parish

Parishwide total	\$142,050,984
------------------	---------------



Funding sources

FEMA PA -- Rebuilding	\$35,403,748
Road Home	\$76,936,589
LIHTC Tax Credits	\$12,624,926
Bridge Loans	\$2,367,720
Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program	\$27,064
Small Business Grant and Loans	\$918,000
Historic Preservation Grants	\$43,073
Transportation	\$13,729,864

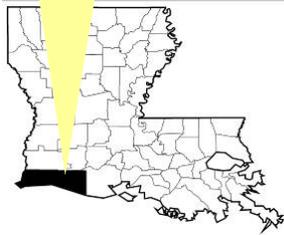
17



Rebuilding dollars on the ground – Cameron

Cameron parish

Parishwide total	\$41,047,840
------------------	--------------



Funding sources

FEMA PA -- Rebuilding	\$5,194,692
Community Disaster Loans	\$7,484,935
Road Home	\$19,153,048
LIHTC Tax Credits	\$383,716
Bridge Loans	\$260,000
Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program	\$27,064
Small Business Grant and Loans (Conservative Estimate)	\$1,458,000
Transportation	\$7,086,385

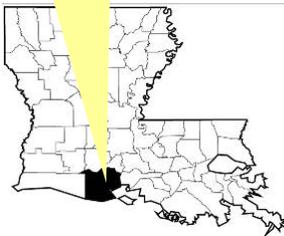
18



Rebuilding dollars on the ground – Vermilion

Vermilion parish

Parishwide total	\$51,961,215
------------------	--------------



Funding sources

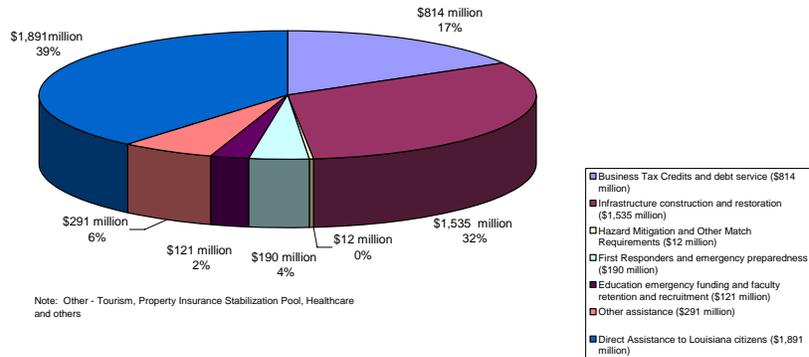
FEMA PA -- Rebuilding	\$3,237,191
Community Disaster Loans	\$174,572
Road Home	\$23,284,853
Rental Housing	\$19,600,000
LIHTC Tax Credits	\$2,832,068
Bridge Loans	\$175,000
Louisiana Tourism Recovery Program	\$4,170
Small Business Grant and Loans	\$1,188,000
Historic Preservation Grants	\$45,000
Transportation	\$1,420,361

19

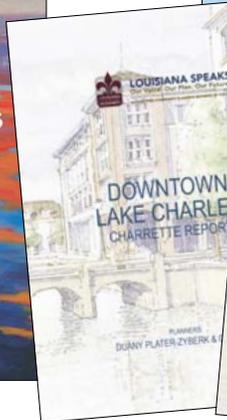
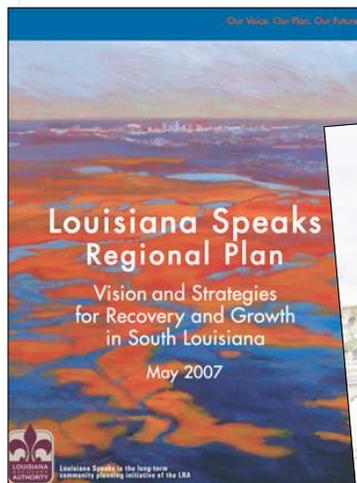


State Commitments to the Recovery

State of Louisiana Hurricane Recovery Expenditures (\$4,853 million)



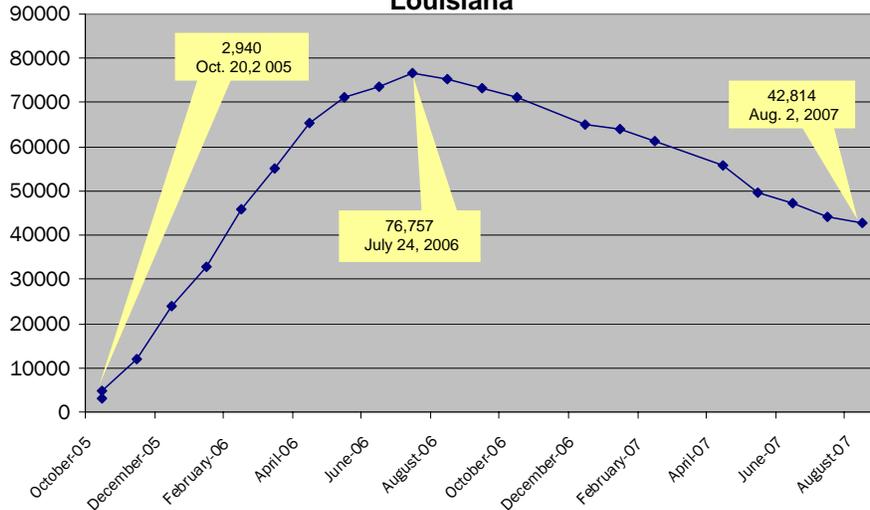
Rebuilding Safer and Stronger





FEMA Temporary Housing

Active FEMA Travel Trailer or Mobile Home Leases in Louisiana



The Road Home One Year Ago

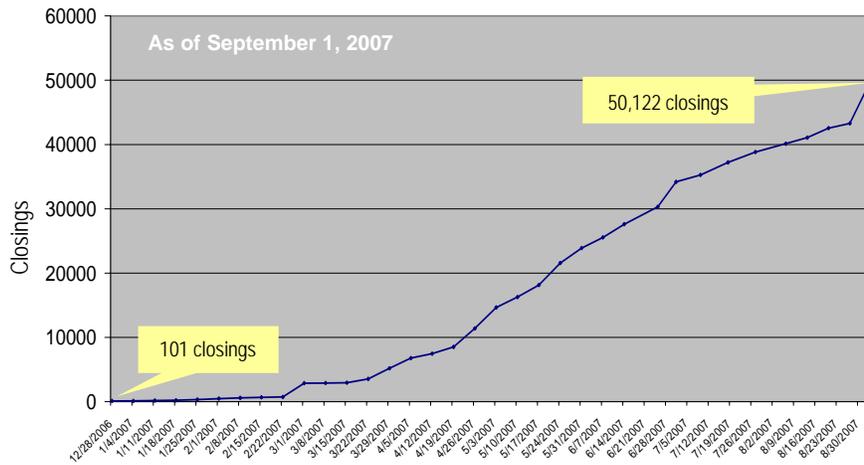


In August 2006 Governor Blanco, joined by LRA board members, formally opened 10 Road Home housing assistance centers.



Pace of Closings

Total Number of Road Home Grant Closings by Week for 2007



Current Program Data

As of September 8, 2007

Applications Recorded	184,464
Total Appointments Held	172,524
Benefits Calculated	122,100
Benefit Options Selected:	
Number of Option One Selections	72,230
Number of Option Two Selections	8,416
Number of Option Three Selections	2,134
Total Benefit Options Selected	89,676
Amount of Benefits Calculated	\$8.1 billion
Average Benefit Calculation	\$69,058
Average Award Disbursed	\$72,833
Total Awards Disbursed	\$3.2 billion
Closings Scheduled	1,119
Closings Held	50,528



Road Home In-flight Review



- In late August, the LRA contracted with the RAND Corporation for an “in-flight” review of ICF International’s administration of the Road Home program.
- RAND will be on the ground for 7 to 10 days to review the program’s application process and program data to assess the extent to which the Road Home Program Statement of Principles adopted by the LRA is being met.
- RAND will identify points of delay and error introduction that inhibit the quality and efficiency of the program and will produce a final report that will be publicly presented to the LRA’s Housing Task Force and its member community groups.



Launch Budget vs. Current Projection

Launch Budget

	Number Served	Compensation	Elevation	IMM	ACL	Total
Average	114,532	\$34,554	\$8,341	\$5,007	\$12,208	\$60,109
Total	114,532	\$3,957,495,146	\$955,286,430	\$573,428,861	\$1,398,189,564	\$6,884,400,000

Less HMGP not approved by FEMA -\$1,170,000,000
\$5,714,400,000

Current Projection

(Includes \$400M for Individual Mitigation Measures)

	Number Served	Compensation	Elevation	IMM	ACG	Total
Average	166,122	\$44,759	\$9,207	\$2,408	\$11,863	\$68,236
Total	166,122	\$7,435,384,371	\$1,529,459,374	\$400,000,000	\$1,970,627,365	\$11,335,471,110

Average awards significantly higher

Difference -1,590

Current projected -\$5,621,071,110

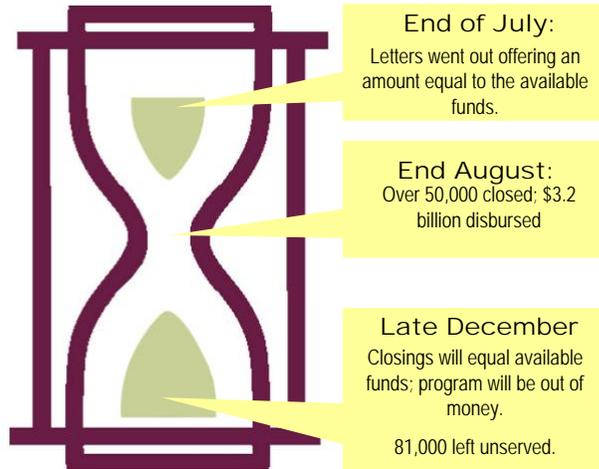
Louisiana’s Commitment \$1,000,000,000
-\$4,621,071,110

Congressional directive allowing use of HMGP \$1,170,000,000
-\$3,451,071,110

Serving an additional 51.6k homeowners



Projected Timeline



Approximate dates based on closing data from August 8th, an available budget of CDBG of \$5.7 billion plus \$1B of State funds, and average costs from the ICF Pipeline reports and Financial Dashboard through the end of August.

28



Congressional Delegation Visit

The LRA briefed the Congressional Delegation on its visit to the Gulf Coast led by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Majority Whip James Clyburn on the status of the recovery in Louisiana and the state's needs for the future.



Photo courtesy of The Times Picayune

“We are going to try to close what we projected to be a \$3 billion to \$4 billion gap in that program. We have made that commitment.”

Congressman Clyburn

29



Road Home Rental Programs

- **Pre-storm, 47% of housing stock in affected areas were rental units**
- **82,000 rental housing units in Louisiana suffered major or severe damage**
- **Creation of affordable and workforce rental units is a major key to the entire rebuilding effort**

30



CDBG-LIHTC Piggyback Program

The Piggyback Program combines:

- **\$1.1 billion in tax credit equity from the 2007 and 2008 Gulf Opportunity Zone Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC)**
- **\$667 million in CDBG funds**

31



From Historic Landmark to Quality Housing

200 Carondelet



- Adaptive reuse of historic American National Bank Building
- Historic tax credits used

• \$26.5 million deal to restore and refurbish the former National American Bank building as a mixed-income rental property.

• Part of the state's Low Income Housing Tax Credit Piggyback Program that leverages tax credits to spur mixed-income rental properties.

32



Location of 12,000 rental units in New Orleans

The Times Picayune plotted the locations of rental units provided regionally from the first round of tax credits.



33



Tulane Avenue Residential Renaissance

The Crescent Club



The Preserve



The Preserve and The Crescent Club broke ground on Tulane Avenue in New Orleans in August. The projects received \$36.7 million worth of GO Zone Housing Tax Credits through the LHFA and \$35.5 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds through OCD.

Conceived by the LRA and designed in collaboration with OCD and the LHFA, the "Piggyback Program" leverages CDBG funds and tax credits to promote the development of high quality market rate and affordable workforce housing in hurricane damaged areas.

34



Small Rental Program Goals

The Small Rental Program seeks to invest \$869 million to:

- Repair and rebuild small rental properties with 1 to 4 units
- Targets rebuilding of 18,000 units
- Prevent blight by rebuilding through in-fill development
- Stabilizing rents in traditional neighborhoods by increasing supply
- Prioritizes mixed income small rental properties and small, Louisiana-based landlords

35



Small Rental Program Update

Awards made in Round 1



Round 1 Recap:

- \$202 million awarded
- 6,734 applications
- 2,693 awards
- 5,124 units

Round 2:

- \$300 million in funds reserved for Round 2
- Awards will be announced in late September

Parish Participating	Units	Dollars Awarded
Acadia	9	\$364,200
Calcasieu	93	\$3,071,350
Cameron	32	\$1,155,100
Iberia	15	\$382,900
Jefferson	631	\$25,367,175
Orleans	3,707	\$145,606,225
Plaquemines	66	\$3,161,550
St. Bernard	359	\$14,654,150
St. Tammany	153	\$6,617,450
Tangipahoa	9	\$282,000
Terrebonne	16	\$419,000
Vermilion	19	\$538,000
Washington	15	\$410,000
TOTAL	5,124	\$202,029,100

36



Louisiana Loan Fund

Partnership among state, banks, foundations and community development organizations to provide low-interest loans to developers of affordable housing



Program anticipates funding 4,500 new and rehabbed homes.



37



Employment in Louisiana

- Although overall the state of Louisiana has climbed back to within 3% of its pre-storm employment, the greater New Orleans area is still down over 108,000 jobs (or 18%) as of the end of 2006 (4th Quarter).
 - All sectors in the greater New Orleans area have lost employment except mining and construction, which both have modest growth.
- The hardest impacted sectors are:
 - Accommodations and Food Service (down 21,000 jobs)
 - Healthcare and Social Assistance (down 21,000 jobs)
 - Education Services (down 16,000 jobs)

38



Small Business Recovery

Data from the fourth quarter of 2006 shows:

Since the period immediately after the storms in 2005, more than 4,000 employers have been added in Louisiana.

- The entire state of Louisiana had 892 fewer employers (0.9%) by the fourth quarter of 2006 than before the Hurricanes. This represents a significant recovery from an initial loss of 5,192 employers immediately following the Hurricanes and also shows progress over the third quarter of 2006.

Businesses in Southeast Louisiana, which was heavily affected by Hurricane Katrina were more likely to fail than in other areas of the state.

- The state as a whole had an overall business failure rate of 20.87% from the second quarter of 2005 to the fourth quarter of 2006, while the Southeast region had a failure rates of 28.31%.

Small businesses experienced the highest failure rates.

- Through the fourth quarter of 2006, 25.3% of employers in the state that had 1-5 employees before Katrina and Rita failed, while only 16.3% of those with more than 50 employees failed.

39



Small Business Recovery

Southeast Region

- In the fourth quarter of 2006, the increase in the number of businesses in the five Southeast parishes was the largest since the storms.
- Orleans Parish had the biggest business loss in the hurricanes, but showed the most growth in the fourth quarter of 2006.
- St. Bernard Parish had the largest decline in percentage terms – a 50% loss. The fourth quarter net gain of 14 employers was also smaller, both in numerical and percentage terms, than Orleans parish and the region.
- Unlike the other parishes in the region, St. Tammany Parish showed an increase in the number of firms with a net gain of 371 employers (7.3%).

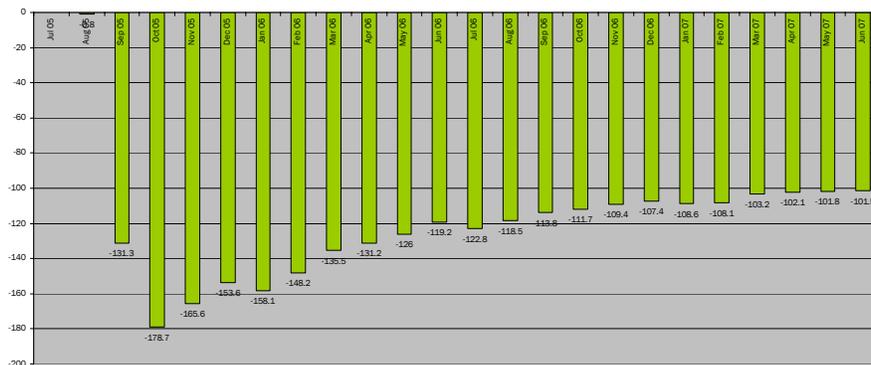
Southwest Region

- The Southwest region was within 0.4% (22 employers) of its pre-storm employer level by the fourth quarter of 2006. Cameron Parish was the most affected in the region, losing 22.5% of employers as of the fourth quarter of 2006.



Employment in Louisiana

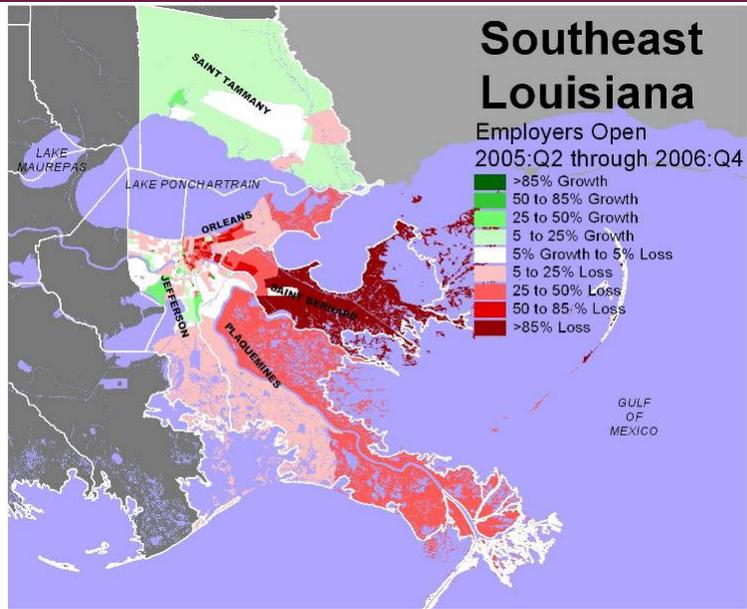
Employment Loss in Metro New Orleans Area in Thousands



The Greater New Orleans area is still down more than 101,000 jobs as of the end of June 2007.



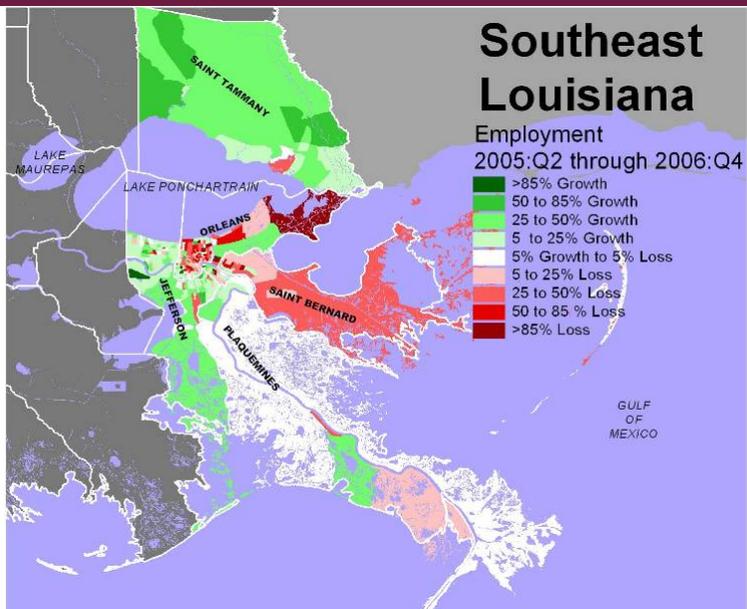
Firm Growth in SE Louisiana



42



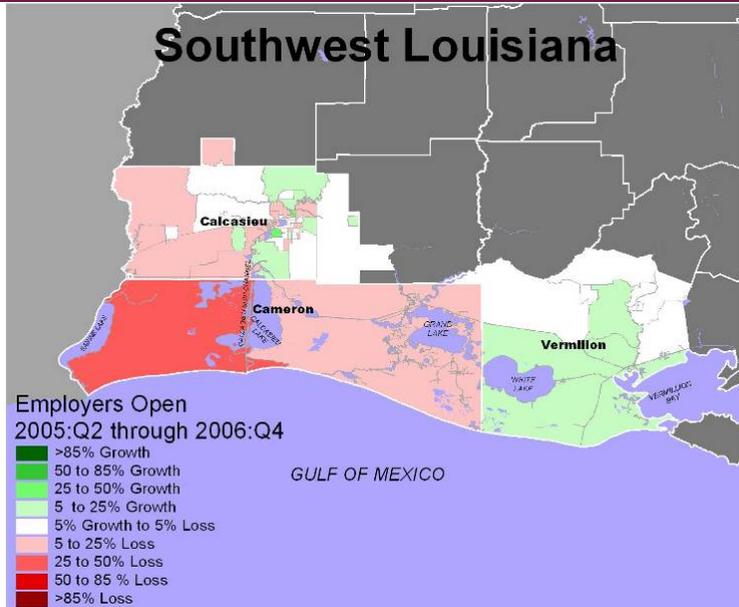
Employment growth in SE Louisiana



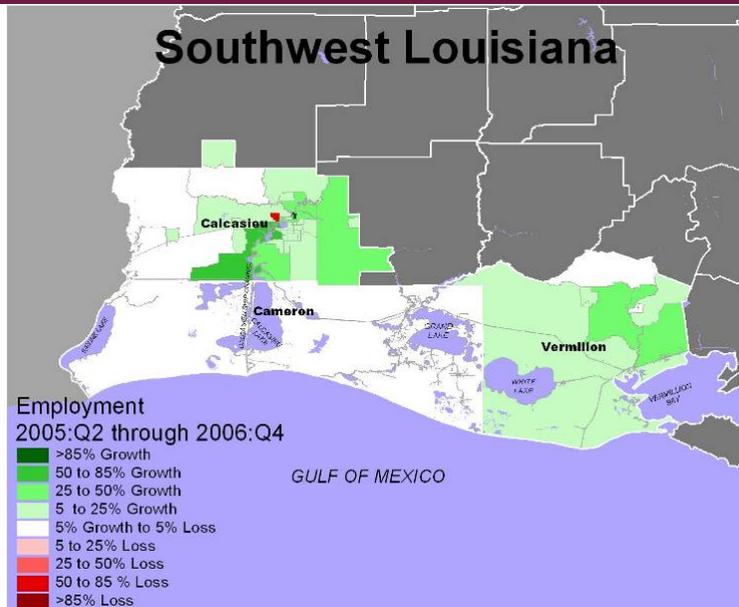
43



Firm growth in SW Louisiana



Employment growth in SW Louisiana





Critical reform to the SBA



U.S. Small Business Administration

Small Business Disaster Response and Loan Improvements Act, S. 163

- Passed by bipartisan support in the Senate.
- Co-sponsors: Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La and Senators John Kerry, D-Mass., Chairman of the Small Business Committee, and Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, the committee's Ranking Member.
- Bill will improve the loan process for business owners and homeowners following a disaster to make sure that the SBA is able to expedite loans immediately after a disaster. It also includes a provision to help small businesses in the Katrina, Rita and Wilma disaster zones compete for federal contracts by making the disaster areas a Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HUBZone) for two years.

46



Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program

Businesses owners across South Louisiana have benefited from the state's Recovery Grant and Loan program.



47

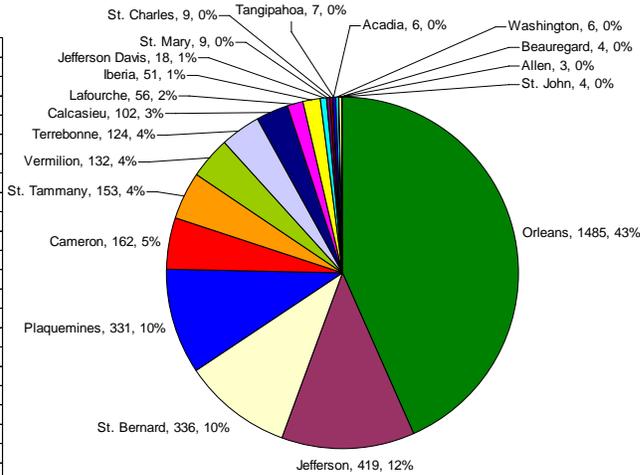


Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program

Grants by Parish

In the first round \$62.7 million was awarded to 3,469 recipients.

Qualifying Parish	Total
Orleans	1485
Jefferson	419
St. Bernard	336
Plaquemines	331
Cameron	162
St. Tammany	153
Vermilion	132
Terrebonne	124
Calcasieu	102
Lafourche	56
Iberia	51
Jefferson Davis	18
St. Mary	9
St. Charles	9
Tangipahoa	7
Acadia	6
Washington	6
St. John	4
Beauregard	4
Allen	3
Livingston	1
Lafayette	1



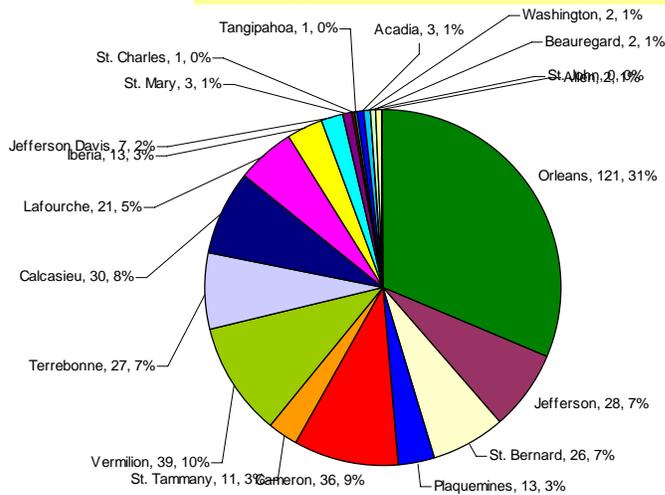
48



Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program

Loans by Parish

Approximately 350 small businesses received approximately \$27 million in loans.



49



Bringing Back Tourism

The “Forever New Orleans” campaign is one of several funded by the Tourism Marketing Program.



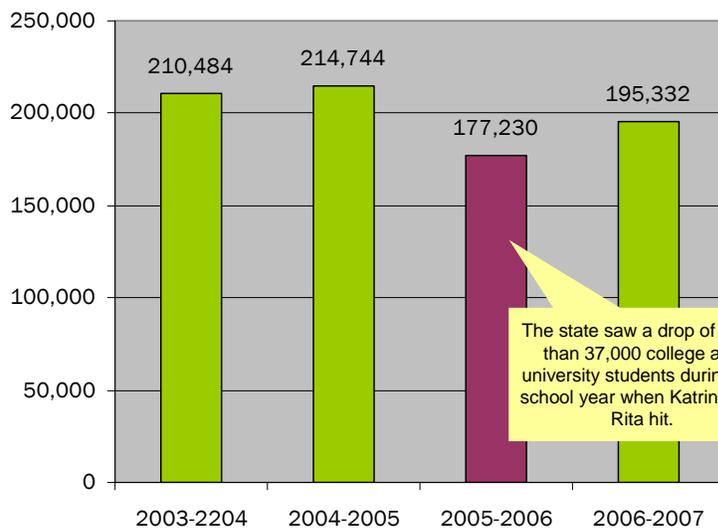
FOREVER NEW ORLEANS

50



College and University Enrollment Statewide

Katrina and Rita initially displaced more than 84,000 Louisiana college students.



51



Revitalizing Research

The Research Recovery & Educational Enhancement program will dedicate \$28.5 million to invest in the research capacity of universities impacted by the hurricanes to draw from models such as Georgia Research Alliance.

“Louisiana is in good shape to make a move now, because of growing entrepreneurial spirit, strong research capabilities at the universities and surplus government funds.”



Brooks Keel,
LSU vice chancellor for research and economic development



RC/EEP Proposal Submissions

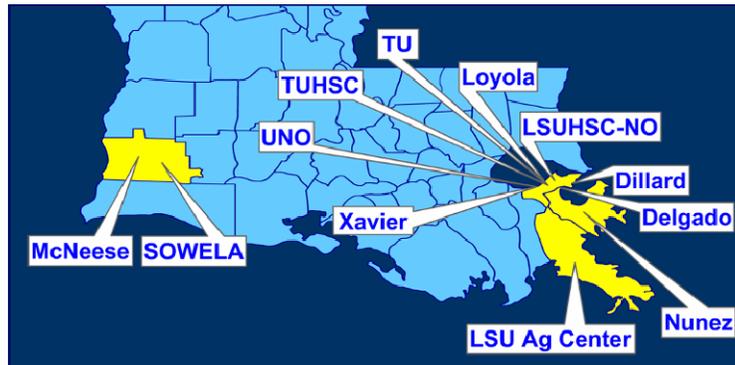
Lead Institution*	# Submitted	Amount Requested
Dillard	2	\$5,047,708
LSU Ag Center	1	\$915,146
LSUHSC-NO*	2	\$12,363,750
Loyola	3	\$11,978,282
McNeese	1	\$4,995,897
Tulane*	3	\$21,354,606
TUHSC	3	\$19,931,484
UNO*	2	\$5,273,824
Xavier	2	\$6,751,749
TOTAL	19	\$88,612,446

* Two proposals were submitted by co-lead institutions: LSUHSC-NO/TUHSC and Tulane/UNO. These proposals and funds requested are aggregated with TUHSC and Tulane's totals, respectively.



RC/EEP Funding Recommendations

Geographic breakdown of awards:



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SEEDS-LA



- Under the LRA and the Board of Regents' Research Recovery & Educational Enhancement program, McNeese State University and SOWELA Technical Community College will partner to run the Support for Educational and Economic Development in Southwest Louisiana (SEEDS-LA) program.
- The program will serve a five-parish area of Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis.

55



Recovery Workforce Training Program

\$38 million program, managed by the Louisiana Workforce Commission to create workforce training & placement programs that meet the needs of businesses in sectors critical to the recovery and rebuilding of the affected areas

Recovery Workforce Sectors:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Construction
- Cultural Economy
- Health Care
- Oil and Gas
- Transportation



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Recovery Workforce Training Program

The RWTP projects underway. Two projects in healthcare and welding launched in July:

•The HearTS (Healthcare Recovery Training System) program kicked off July 15 at Abbeville General Hospital. The program is an initiative of the Southwest Louisiana Area Health Education Center (SWLAHEC) that will train and place nearly 1000 healthcare professionals in hurricane affected parishes.

•The Louisiana Immersive Technologies Enterprise, or LITE, will participate in a three-year workforce development partnership involving the Lafayette Economic Development Authority, The Lafayette Workforce Investment Board, and the Louisiana Technical College Region 4. LITE has been awarded a grant from the CDBG Recovery Workforce Training Program (RWTP) to develop a virtual reality welding trainer system



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Affected K-12 Schools

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita heavily affected 12 school districts in the state. More than 96,000 students were initially displaced by the storms.

	New Orleans		St. Bernard	
	Pre-Katrina	Post-Katrina	Pre-Katrina	Post-Katrina
Schools	126	55	14	2
Classroom Teachers	3,809	1,121	628	212
Students	65,349	25,448	8,872	3,764

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Public Assistance Program Overview

DATA AS OF: September 9, 2007

Dollars Eligible			
	Rebuilding	Recovery	Overall
Statewide	\$2,291,812,387	\$2,766,152,951	\$5,057,965,339
Southwest LA	\$170,502,540	\$85,544,189	\$256,046,729
Dollars Paid			
Statewide	\$617,878,982	\$1,989,585,686	\$2,607,464,668
Southwest LA	\$60,480,619	\$73,985,290	\$134,465,909

By comparison ...

August 2006			
World Trade Center	\$238,352,667	\$2,176,913,679	\$2,428,492,762

More than twice as much has been invested in permanent repairs under the PA than after Sept. 11 in New York – and there are billions to go.

Current PA expenditures in Louisiana for Katrina and Rita now equal total PA expenditures in New York after Sept. 11.

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Public Assistance Projects

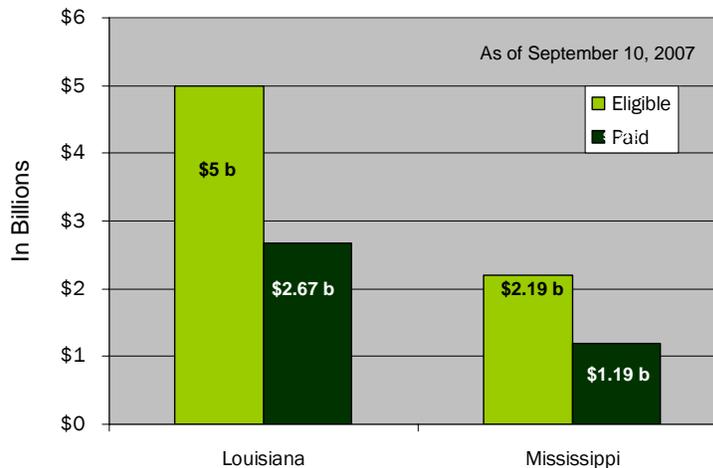


More than 20,000 project worksheets will be filed in Louisiana through the public assistance program to rebuild permanent infrastructure as the Superdome and South Cameron Memorial Hospital.

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Comparison of La. & Miss. PA programs



The impact of Katrina in Louisiana and Mississippi now exceeds \$7 billion in PA dollars.

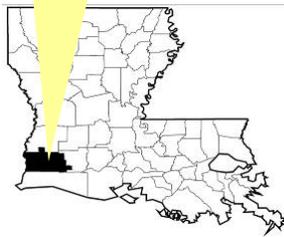
61



PA dollars by Parish – Calcasieu

Calcasieu parish

Total Paid	\$59,755,035
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Category	Eligible	Paid
Debris Removal	\$16,863,243	\$14,482,293
Emergency Protective Measures	\$26,320,526	\$26,737,878
Road Systems and Bridges	\$1,098,431	\$827,019
Water Control Facilities	\$0	\$0
Buildings, Contents, and Equipment	\$28,617,086	\$13,777,154
Utilities	\$1,496,174	\$800,538
Parks, Recreational, and Other	\$6,292,940	\$3,130,153
TOTAL	\$80,688,400	\$59,755,035

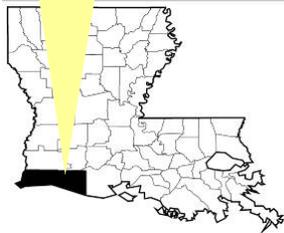
62



PA dollars by Parish – Cameron

Cameron parish

Total Paid	\$34,145,823
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Category	Eligible	Paid
Debris Removal	\$1,070,140	\$359,959
Emergency Protective Measures	\$9,300,641	\$5,806,077
Road Systems and Bridges	\$5,404,032	\$2,391,491
Water Control Facilities	\$582,903	\$105,266
Buildings, Contents, and Equipment	\$87,612,287	\$21,749,779
Utilities	\$3,594,312	\$3,257,764
Parks, Recreational, and Other	\$8,104,034	\$459,485
TOTAL	\$115,668,349	\$34,145,823

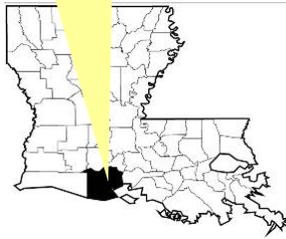
63



PA dollars by Parish – Vermilion

Vermilion parish

Total Paid \$18,785,182



Category	Eligible	Paid
Debris Removal	\$798,872	\$721,960
Emergency Protective Measures	\$12,367,030	\$8,967,375
Road Systems and Bridges	\$590,951	\$423,284
Water Control Facilities	\$250,104	\$252,896
Buildings, Contents, and Equipment	17,997,594\$	\$7,288,491
Utilities	\$2,522,675	\$1,012,070
Parks, Recreational, and Other	\$178,273	\$179,106
TOTAL	\$34,705,499	\$18,785,182

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Waiving the Stafford Act Match

Disaster	State (s)	FEMA spend per capita	100 % federal cost share?
 Sept. 11	New York	\$390	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Hurricane Andrew ('92)	Florida & Louisiana	\$139	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Hurricane Iniki ('92)	Hawaii	\$234	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
 Hurricanes Katrina & Rita ('05)	Louisiana	\$6,700	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

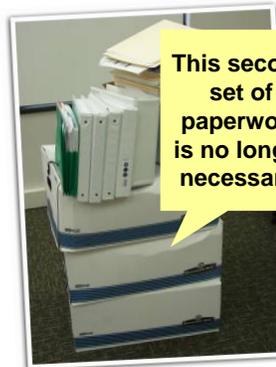
Thank you, 110th Congress

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Eliminating red tape

In order for the state to use CDBG funds as match for the FEMA PA program, an 1.3 million documents would have been required. Thanks to action from Congress to waive the federal match requirement, this extra paperwork requirement was eliminated.



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Marine Debris Threatens Fisheries Sector



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Funding for Fisheries



Sen. Landriau and LRA board and staff members visited Plaquemines parish to speak with representatives of the fisheries industry and call for the U.S. Department of Commerce and NOAA to reconsider their proposal to make fisheries allocations fair.

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Calling for Stafford Act Reform

The Times-Picayune published an opinion piece from LRA Executive Director Andy Kopplin that outlined changes needed to the Stafford Act to cut the red tape that hinders rebuilding in catastrophic situations.

The Times-Picayune

Stafford Act breeds paperwork, stalls real work

Andy Kopplin
Friday, September 07, 2007

On his visit to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Charter School in the Lower 9th Ward, President Bush said the school gives us an opportunity to herald excellence.

Sadly, the school's gleaming renovation, as one national report described it, is no testament to the effectiveness of the Stafford Act — the federal law that governs FEMA and its rebuilding programs after a disaster.

Instead, it is evidence that in order to rebuild, state and local officials must risk millions of dollars to get around the Stafford Act's Byzantine requirements.

Bringing back the 12-year-old school that had water up to its rooftop took \$6.4 million. To date, FEMA has paid less than a third of that.

To get the work done in a timely fashion, the state of Louisiana advanced funds and took the risk that the cost of most repairs would someday be reimbursed.

This completed project is the exception post-Katrina, as state and local governments along the Gulf Coast stretch their resources to bankroll billions of dollars in reconstruction work while awaiting FEMA's final verdict on the costs it will cover.

Similar issues have delayed critical repairs to the sewage treatment system in St. Bernard Parish, as well as the Mahalia Jackson Center for the Performing Arts in Armstrong Park.

As children begin a new school year at King Charter School, thousands of hard-working government employees and contractors will create project worksheets that attempt to document the precise dollar value of what was lost when our federal levees failed.

They will literally go classroom by classroom, desk by desk and pencil by pencil in our schools, being sure to deduct deferred maintenance and insurance penalties before configuring estimates on more than 20,000 separate project worksheets that will be filed through FEMA's public assistance program in the coming months and years.

They will forward these reams of paper to higher-ranking bureaucrats, who will haggle over the estimates before forwarding recommendations to top officials at the Department of Homeland Security for final approval.

If those approved estimates are too low, more rounds of haggling will ensue as architectural and engineering estimates and actual contractor bids are used to justify the real costs of rebuilding.

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FEMA/Stafford Act Reform Needed

- The Stafford Act did not contemplate the magnitude of the Katrina and Rita hurricane catastrophes.
- The Stafford Act requires local governments to rebuild the past rather than build the future.
- The Stafford Act requires a huge recovery bureaucracy at the federal, state and local level to meet the particular requirements of the act.

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Stafford Act Catastrophe Annex

- Automatic 100 percent federal cost share
- Automatic appropriations of Community Disaster Loans for local governments.
- Lump sum settlement authority to get FEMA money quickly
- Relief for 25 percent penalty for "alternate" projects.
- Pay for damaged contents using approximation
- Consolidate Project Worksheet reimbursement for project management
- Deferred maintenance should not be deducted where building was previously functional
- Should not be a reimbursement program, like FEMA and CDBG

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Best Justification for Stafford Act Reform?

If the Stafford Act works so well, why don't federal agencies use it for rebuilding their infrastructure?

They don't!

In Louisiana, the Congress directly appropriated:

- \$550 million for a new VA Hospital
- \$140 million to rebuild Jackson Barracks
- \$2 million to rebuild the New Orleans Jobs Corps facility

No insurance deductibles, no reductions for deferred maintenance, no PW's, no haggling—just the funds needed to rebuild stronger, safer, and smarter.

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LRA Calls for LSU-VA partnership

Kim Boyle, a member of the LRA's board and chair of the LRA's Health Care committee testified before Congress on August 1 about the importance of a partnership between the Medical Center of Louisiana – New Orleans and the Veteran's Administration:

“Uncertainty about health care access has slowed the recovery, undermining public confidence about returning home. Business owners will not bring investments and employees to a city without available health care services.

Let me be very clear—the joint venture between the state and the VA represents a recovery project that has no peer. Building the VA hospital in downtown New Orleans is the best option for the people of our city and surrounding region.”

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LSU-VA partnership



The Veteran's Administration announced in August its preference for a new hospital in downtown New Orleans.



Hurricane Katrina Anniversary

LRA Board Members and staff members participated in various anniversary events held in New Orleans to commemorate the second anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.





Support for Louisiana

The Times-Picayune

August 29, 2007

Treat Us Fairly, Mr. President

Nobody wants to have to compete for disaster relief. But that is what Louisianians have had to do in the two years since Hurricane Katrina struck. Despite massive destruction caused by the failure of the federal government's levees during Katrina, despite the torment caused by FEMA's slow response to the disaster, despite being hit by a second powerful hurricane less than a month later, Louisiana has had to plead to be treated fairly by our leaders in Washington.

President Bush and Congress have sent us billions in aid -- from \$10.4 billion in grants for housing and infrastructure to \$95 million for higher education to \$108 million in business tax credits.

This community is grateful for the help. But Louisiana's losses were dramatically higher than any other state's and thus deserving of greater compensation. In reality, Mississippi has gotten a larger share of federal aid.

Donald Powell, the president's point man for recovery, downplayed the comparisons with Mississippi. "Tell me exactly what you need, and I'm happy to sit down and listen," he said. "But the evidence has to be based upon the need, not a comparison."

That is easily done. Our needs are real and quantifiable.

Louisiana had three times more damaged homes and seven times more severely damaged homes than Mississippi. Universities in this state had three times as many students displaced and had four times the losses of Mississippi's campuses. Louisiana fisheries suffered almost 75 percent of the damage done by Katrina, and our hospitals lost 97 percent of the hospital beds closed by the storm.

Yet in every case, Mississippi ended up with a disproportionate share of aid. Housing grants, for instance: Mississippi got \$5.5 billion in Community Development Block Grant money for its 61,000 damaged homes. Louisiana, with 204,000 damaged homes, got \$10.4 billion. If the aid were given out proportionately, this state would have gotten twice that much.

We hope that President Bush and Congress remember that imbalance when they consider Louisiana's request for \$4 billion to keep the Road Home Program in the black.

Our neighbors on the Gulf Coast were hit hard by Katrina, no doubt about it. And Mississippians needed the help of the federal government to rebuild and recover. No one who has suffered from devastation would argue otherwise. All Louisiana wants is to be treated fairly. But that hasn't happened.

Some people point to the clout of Mississippi's congressional delegation as the reason. Others say that Louisiana's reputation for political chicanery has hurt us.

Frankly, neither should be an issue. The people of Louisiana are no less deserving of disaster aid because their representatives are newer to Congress or because some of the people we trusted to lead us turned out to be scoundrels.

As President Bush returns today to mark the second anniversary of Katrina, this is what Louisianians need him to remember:

We are Americans who have suffered a great tragedy. We have worked tirelessly for two years to revive this beloved place and reconstruct our lives. And we ought to get no less help from our government than any other victims of this disaster.

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Promoting Energy Efficiency

The U.S. Secretary of Energy on August 9 recognized the LRA for promoting energy efficiency in Louisiana. Chair of the LRA's Long Term Planning Task Force Donna Fraiche, Board Member John Brewster and Executive Director Andy Kopplin accepted the award on behalf of the LRA

"The chance to rebuild much of the physical infrastructure that has been lost, puts New Orleans in a position to lead in many new areas, with improved designs and better technologies. I applaud the Louisiana Recovery Authority for its commitment to promoting energy efficiency at a time when rebuilding with the safest, most cost-effective and durable technologies is so critical."

Energy Secretary Samuel W. Bodman

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FEMA Alternative Housing Pilot Program

From trailer park to livable community

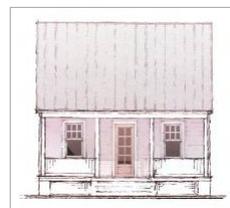


- Congress appropriated \$400 million to DHS to support alternative housing pilot programs in the 5 hurricane-impacted states of 2005 (TX, LA, MS, AL, FL).
- FEMA awarded Louisiana \$74.5 million for Louisiana Cottages, which will be built by Cypress Cottage Partners under a contract with the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency, will produce more than 500 units in different sites across South Louisiana.

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FEMA Alternative Housing Pilot Program



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