

## **LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY**

### **Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program Action Plan Amendment Approval Resolution**

**September 14, 2006**

**Overview:** Resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board to approve, and recommend to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval, the Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program Action Plan Amendment No. 5 for Disaster Recovery Funds. Action Plan Amendment No. 5 provides Community Development Block Grant Funds to the Louisiana Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program that will be used to restore and expand the economic impact of the science & technology research programs within Louisiana higher education institutions in the areas most severely impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Whereas, \$332.5 million of Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG) have been allocated to the economic development category to be utilized to stimulate short-term and long-term economic recovery in the state;

Whereas, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita severely impacted scientific research and education at higher education institutions in the impacted areas;

Whereas, years of research was destroyed along with much of the infrastructure that made such research possible;

Whereas, higher education institutions continue to struggle to regain their economic strength and rebuild their research infrastructure;

Whereas, Action Plan Amendment No. 5 allocates CDBG funds to the Research and Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program (RC/EEP) to assist the state in retaining and rebuilding the research and educational capacity of the areas impacted by the storms;

Whereas, through the RC/EEP, CDBG funds will be used to develop a strategic plan and create a pilot program to spur research commercialization and educational enhancement;

Whereas, the goals of the RC/EEP will be to: (1) restore the capacity of research and educational programs, including the tools researchers and educators need to continue their work; (2) invest in research talent and (3) develop and implement a strategic plan to determine existing research and educational strengths and the best path for capitalizing on the economic potential of these assets;

Whereas, \$28.5 million of CDBG funds will be used to promote long-term recovery by increasing research in key subject areas with commercial potential and developing

economic opportunities in the impacted areas, as well as enhancing the quality and availability of undergraduate and graduate education and training in targeted disciplines;

Whereas, a strategic plan will be developed by a firm under the direction of the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Recovery Authority in partnership with representatives of higher education institutions, private sector leaders, government officials, and other stakeholders which will outline the ongoing investments that will be required by the state and the private sector to ensure that research universities reach their full potential as a catalyst for technology-based economic development;

Whereas; under the RC/EEP, CDBG funds will be used to retain and attract top research faculty, to identify current assets and develop additional capacity needed to facilitate further development and transfer of technologies, and to redevelop and grow the scientific pipeline to support the different levels of workforce needed by the research institutions and companies that will grow in Louisiana; and

Whereas, the RC/EEP will serve to restore and build upon the research assets of Louisiana's higher education institutions and will initiate a coordinated strategy for tapping the commercialization potential of these assets that are critical to the future economy of the regions within the state impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby approve the Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program Action Plan Amendment No. 5 for Disaster Recovery Funds.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend the Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program Action Plan Amendment No. 5 for Disaster Recovery Funds to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval.