



BOBBY JINDAL
GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
Governor's Office of Homeland Security
and
Emergency Preparedness

MARK A. COOPER
DIRECTOR

September 8, 2008

Louisiana Parish Presidents
& Parish OEP Directors

RE: State and Federal Assistance Available to Communities Affected by Hurricane Gustav

Dear Local Leader:

The State of Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is happy to provide you with vital information on aid programs which may be available as a result of Hurricane Gustav. In response to inquiries from parishes not covered in the current Presidential Declarations, the following information outlines the Emergency Declaration that Louisiana currently has, and those parishes that are currently covered:

- 1) On August 29, 2008, a Presidential Emergency Declaration was granted to all 64 parishes for Category B – Emergency Protective Measures – and for Direct Federal Assistance (DFA).
- 2) On August 29, 2008, a request was made for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for all 64 parishes for Category A – Debris Removal – and for 54 parishes for Individual Assistance.
- 3) On September 2, 2008, a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration was granted for 34 parishes for both Category A and Individual Assistance. Those parishes are: Acadia, Allen, Ascension, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Evangeline, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson Davis, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, Sabine, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Vernon, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana.
- 4) On September 3, 2008, Governor Jindal made a request for reconsideration to add those parishes requested and not granted in the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration in the August 29, 2008 request for the Category A and Individual Assistance programs.
- 5) On September 4, 2008, a response was received from FEMA which added two additional parishes – St. Tammany and Tangipahoa – to the Individual Assistance program. No other parishes were added to the Category A request.

Let me assure you, after results from Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) teams become available (details on scheduling PDA teams are below) Governor Jindal and GOHSEP have every intention of resubmitting those parishes that have not been included in the Category A and Individual Assistance declarations.

The enclosed informational documents contain detailed descriptions of federal programs which may be available. Some of the programs that have been activated from Hurricane Gustav are:

PDA TEAMS

Joint State, FEMA and Small Business Administration (SBA) Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) teams for Individual Assistance are already beginning to schedule site visits with local parish Emergency Preparedness offices. It is critical that parishes identify the extent of damages in their parishes prior to the arrival of the teams.

Public Assistance (PA) teams consist of State and FEMA personnel with a local point of contact to guide them through the parish to predetermined damage sites and meet with the eligible applicants (local municipalities, parish, schools, fire, hospitals, etc). PA teams look at the eligible applicants damaged facilities, debris and emergency protective measures (shelters, fire and police overtime, etc.). With this information, the PA team determines a dollar amount for each Category of work and determines whether or not the total is over the parish threshold (\$3.11 x the most recent census population). This information is used by the Governor to support a request for Public Assistance (Categories C – G) and for add-on's to the current declarations.

Individual Assistance (IA) consists of FEMA, State, and SBA personnel. This team validates residential damage and assesses the number of affected homes, minor damage, major damage, and destroyed homes in the parish.

Assistance for Affected Individuals and Families May Include *as Required*:

The following is a summary of key federal disaster aid programs that may be made available *as needed and warranted* under President Bush's major disaster declaration issued for Louisiana.

- Operation **Blue Roof** is a temporary repair program for Louisiana homeowners who have damage to their roofs as a result of the storm. Plastic sheeting is installed over the damaged area by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers contractors, in a program provided by FEMA. A Blue Roof is generally good for 30 days, and is designed to provide temporary protection from the elements until the homeowner can make permanent repairs with a qualified professional. To qualify and sign up for the program, call 1-888-ROOF-BLU (1-888-766-3258). Certain criteria must be met.
- Unemployment payments up to 26 weeks for workers who temporarily lost jobs because of the disaster and who do not qualify for state benefits, such as self-employed individuals. *(Source: FEMA funded; state administered)*
- Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence; \$40,000 for personal property, including renter losses. Loans available up to \$1.5 million for business property losses not fully compensated by insurance. *(Source: U.S. Small Business Administration)*
- Loans up to \$1.5 million for small businesses that have suffered disaster-related cash flow problems and need funds for working capital to recover from the disaster's adverse

economic impact. This loan in combination with a property loss loan cannot exceed a total of \$1.5 million. (Source: U.S. Small Business Administration)

- Loans up to \$500,000 for farmers, ranchers and aquaculture operators to cover production and property losses, excluding primary residence. (Source: Farm Service Agency, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture)
- The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has activated procedures under its transitional sheltering initiative that allows eligible Gustav evacuees who are displaced from and are expected to be out of their home for an extended period of time to stay in hotels or motels until it is safe for them to return home. FEMA will pay for the lodging through the use of an authorization system directly to hotels and motels. A list of participating hotels is available online at www.gustav-evac.com. Evacuees first need to apply for federal assistance through FEMA either online at www.fema.gov or by calling the FEMA toll free number at **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, TTY **1-800-462-7585**. Eligible evacuees must fit the following criteria:
 - FEMA must be able to verify the identity of the evacuee;
 - The primary residence of the evacuee must be in one of the parishes that have been declared a disaster area for individual assistance (please, contact the toll-free number to be certain);
 - FEMA must be able to verify occupancy; and
 - The evacuee cannot return to or re-occupy his/her primary residence.
- Other relief programs: Crisis counseling for those traumatized by the disaster; income tax assistance for filing casualty losses; advisory assistance for legal, veterans benefits and social security matters.

Assistance for the State and Affected Local Governments Can Include as Required:

- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for removing debris from public areas. (Source: FEMA funded, state administered)

How to Apply for Assistance:

- Those in the parishes designated for assistance to affected residents and business owners can begin the disaster application process by registering online at www.fema.gov or by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)** or **1-800-462-7585 (TTY)** for the **hearing and speech impaired**. The toll-free telephone numbers are available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (local time) Monday through Sunday until further notice. Applicants registering for aid should be prepared to provide basic information about themselves including their name, permanent address, phone number, insurance coverage and any other information to help substantiate losses.
- Application procedures for local governments will be explained at a series of federal/state applicant briefings with locations to be announced in the affected area by recovery officials. Approved public repair projects are paid through the state from funding provided by FEMA and other participating federal agencies. GOHSEP personnel are available and ready to conduct applicant briefings at your request.

FEMA coordinates the federal government's role in preparing for, preventing and mitigating the effects of, responding to, and recovering from all domestic disasters, whether natural or man-made, including acts of terror.

HAZARD MITIGATION

Hazard Mitigation refers to sustained measures enacted to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural hazards and their effects. In the long term, mitigation measures reduce personal loss, save lives, and reduce the cost to the nation of responding to and recovering from disasters. Funding for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is made available to State's based on a "sliding scale" formula based on the percentage of the funds spent on Public and Individual Assistance programs for each Presidentially-declared disaster. The formula provides 15 percent of the first \$2 billion of estimated aggregate amounts of disaster assistance; 10 percent for the next portion of amounts between \$2 billion and \$10 billion; and 7.5 percent for the next portion of amounts greater than \$10 billion. FEMA pays up to 75 percent of the project cost. Although it need not be in cash, either the State or the applicant(s) covers the remaining 25 percent. In-kind services and materials can be used. Jurisdictions are normally allowed to submit applications for grants to the State within six months of the disaster. Typical projects include drainage and elevations of flood prone structures.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE: CATEGORY C – G

Projects eligible for Public Assistance funding include facilities for transportation, water control, utilities, and recreation, and are listed below by the categories defined by FEMA.

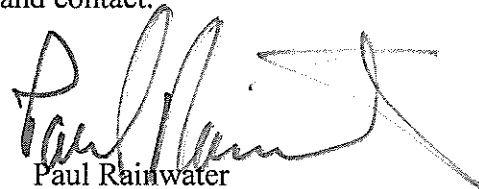
- Category C: Roads, bridges, and associated features, such as shoulders, ditches, culverts, lighting and signs.
- Category D: Water control facilities, including drainage channels, pumping facilities, and the emergency repair of levees. Permanent repair of flood control works is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Category E: Buildings including their contents and systems.
- Category F: Utility distribution systems, such as water treatment and delivery systems, power generation facilities and distribution lines, and sewage collection and treatment facilities.
- Category G: Public parks, recreational facilities and other facilities, including playgrounds, swimming pools and cemeteries.

See the attached FEMA document for additional details relating to all of the FEMA Programs.

When you are ready for a visit from our PDA team, please advise the GOHSEP office through your Regional Coordinator of your desired date, location and contact.



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