



Executive Director's Report

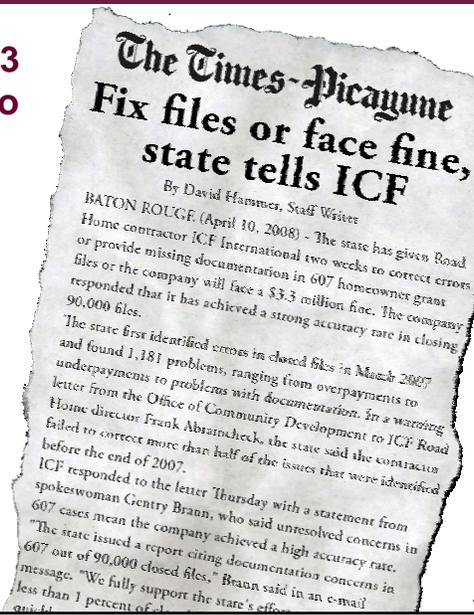
Monday, April 21, 2008



State Threatens ICF With Fine

State May Withhold \$3 Million in Payments to ICF International

If ICF, the state's Road Home contractor, does not correct state-identified compliance and documentation findings in 607 closed applicant files by Thursday, April 24, 2008, the state will withhold \$5,495 for each applicant file with a remaining finding.



Inspecting the Road Home Contract

LRA calls for Inspector General to look into the Road Home contract

AP
Inspector General to investigate Road Home contract

The Times-Picayune
Monday, March 17, 2008
LRA chief seeks probe of raise for Road Home firm
BATON ROUGE -- The Jindal administration has asked the state inspector general to investigate the process behind former Gov. Kathleen Blanco's granting a raise to the firm running the state's much-criticized Road Home grant program.
Paul Rainwater, executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority, confirmed Monday that he sought the inquiry of ICF International with Gov. Bobby Jindal's urging. Inspector General Stephen Street has agreed, Rainwater said.
The inspector general's activities would come in addition to an inquiry by the Legislative Auditor Steve Theriot's office.
The Times-Picayune reported last week that ICF, the Virginia firm Blanco selected to administer the state's primary source of aid for displaced homeowners, could receive up to \$912 million for its work, a 20 percent increase over the \$756 million cap under the company's

THE DAILY ADVERTISER
Monday, March 17, 2008
tiny widens Road Home contract
Inspector General now calling it of company
The Louisiana said Monday that the contract the private state's Road Home program for victims and Rita. Street told he shared the who had the book at

Inspecting the Road Home Contract

Amendment 7 to ICF contract:

Steps taken:

- ✦ Asked Legislative Auditor to review process
- ✦ Review of unit cost associated with contract
- ✦ Requested Inspector General to investigate process
- ✦ Met with Inspector General last week to discuss process and coordination
- ✦ Met with Legislative Auditor last week to discuss progress

Path Forward:

- ✦ Once process is completed, the LRA will look for ways to save money in the contract
- ✦ LRA and OCD are committed to an assessment and revamp of the Road Home appeal process
- ✦ LRA will initiate Customer Satisfaction survey to create transparency about the quality of customer service by ICF





Louisiana Land Trust Update

- ✦ Recent monitoring visit showed lack of accountability and some contract issues
- ✦ State may have to repay HUD for ineligible costs
- ✦ LRA has committed to work with Board of Directors and the Executive Director to clear up any issues
- ✦ LRA will be providing additional technical assistance
- ✦ Not a synchronized process; LRA has committed staff to work with parishes to develop disposition plans and a timeline for when the parishes will receive the properties
- ✦ Goal: Save money by creating a decentralized process so that parishes can manage, maintain, redevelop and sell properties

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LRA and OCD Staffs to Merge



In the coming months, the staffs of the LRA and OCD's Disaster Recovery Unit will merge into one unit. LRA's Executive Director has been tasked to manage OCD DRU as well as LRA staff.

The goal is more cohesive management of programs created through the LRA and implemented by the OCD DRU.

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Reconfiguring the size of the LRA Board

The 2008 Louisiana legislature will consider a bill during its regular session to reduce the LRA Board of Directors from 33 to 17 members

- If approved, the board would be made up of:
- 13 two-year term members appointed by the Governor,
 - The Speaker of House,
 - Speaker Pro Tempore,
 - President of the Senate and
 - President Pro Tempore

Last week, the House Appropriations Committee approved the bill.

If passed, HB622 will take effect upon the signature of the Governor.

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Positive Press

Over the past month, the LRA has been the subject of several positive articles and editorials from various news media

AP THE ADVOCATE

The Times-Picayune

THE DAILY ADVERTISER

The Times-Picayune

Editorial: A Fairer FEMA

Local governments have often clashed with FEMA over public assistance grants to repair storm-damaged buildings, streets and other public works, and those disagreements have slowed the flow of money, hampering recovery.

To make matters more frustrating, when local officials objected to a decision, the same FEMA office that made the original call was in charge of analyzing the appeal.

Different staffers were involved, but state and local officials still questioned the objectivity of the process, and there's a reasonable concern.

Fortunately, FEMA

the way it handles

Office will no longer

state and local gov-

office in Denton, Tex,

making the final de-

FEMA also is going

an oral appeal as well

formalized previously

logistics: FEMA repre-

applicants may have

case through a teleco-

FEMA has commit-

grants - an amount

resolution of those

critical to recovery.

Officials with the U.

Office of Homeland

the changes, which they believe will speed up what has been a

cumbersome process. FEMA's willingness to address concerns

about impartiality is encouraging.

"Perception is reality, and we'd like to remove that perception

completely," said Jim Stark, a ranking FEMA administrator for

Gulf Coast activities.

LRA Executive Director Paul Rainwater says that FEMA and

local governments are going to work through issues instead of

pointing fingers. The resolution of this issue is a positive step

in that direction.

"LRA Executive Director Paul Rainwater says that FEMA and local governments are going to work through issues instead of pointing fingers. The resolution of [the FEMA public assistance appeals process] is a positive step in that direction."



Recent Recovery Milestones

PA Express Pay

Streamlined system of Public Assistance payments reduces payment of GOHSEP invoices submitted after March 1 from 45-60 days to 10-14 days.

The result - \$102 million was paid out in March. That's a nearly 70 percent disbursement rate with an average wait of just six days.



Port Sulphur Volunteer Fire Dept, Plaquemines Parish

Prioritizing First Responders

LRA and GOHSEP prioritized first responders in Public Assistance program, including fire, police and criminal justice.

Already, the program has resolved issues with firefighters' overtime – a \$1.5 million accomplishment.

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Recent Recovery Milestones



State Payouts for FEMA Public Assistance Program Surpass \$3 Billion

Louisiana has paid more than \$3.1 billion to more than 1000 Public Assistance applicants, paying on 13,362 project worksheets since the storms of 2005.

In Orleans, St. Bernard, Jefferson, St. Tammany and Plaquemines Parishes, payments have more than doubled for long-term permanent rebuilding work, which includes repairs to roads, schools and public buildings.

In Southwest Louisiana, Cameron Parish has seen increases in payments of three times for permanent rebuilding work in the last year.

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Recent Recovery Milestones

Removing Marine Debris From Louisiana's Waterways

FEMA has assured initial funding for a \$400-500 million marine debris removal program run by the Department of Natural Resources

Louisianians can report marine debris at www.louisianamarinedebris.com

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Transitional Housing Update

FEMA seeks to empty nearly 20,000 temporary trailers in Louisiana before the start of hurricane season on June 1st. (2,918 units at group and commercial sites and 16,248 units on private sites).

Steps Taken:

- ✦ Received initial \$250,000 from FEMA to provide short-term case management services for Katrina-impacted residents. Waiting to hear word on additional \$550,000 request.
- ✦ Working with FEMA to identify bottlenecks and fund long-term case management program for Katrina and Rita-impacted residents in need
- ✦ Reallocation of SSBG funds to Louisiana Family Recovery Corps for case management for those ineligible for federal assistance up for approval today.
- ✦ Developing Comprehensive Housing Strategy with federal and state partners.

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Recent Recovery Milestones



Road Home Serves More than 106,000 Homeowners

To date, the program has closed more than 106,000 grants, approving \$6.2 billion in payments.

Work to rewrite the appeals process continues.

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Recovery Milestones

State Moves Forward with Homeowner Elevations through the Road Home

Louisiana has distributed the first checks in the renewed payout of home elevation funds. Most eligible homeowners will receive a flat \$30,000 grant through the Road Home Program.

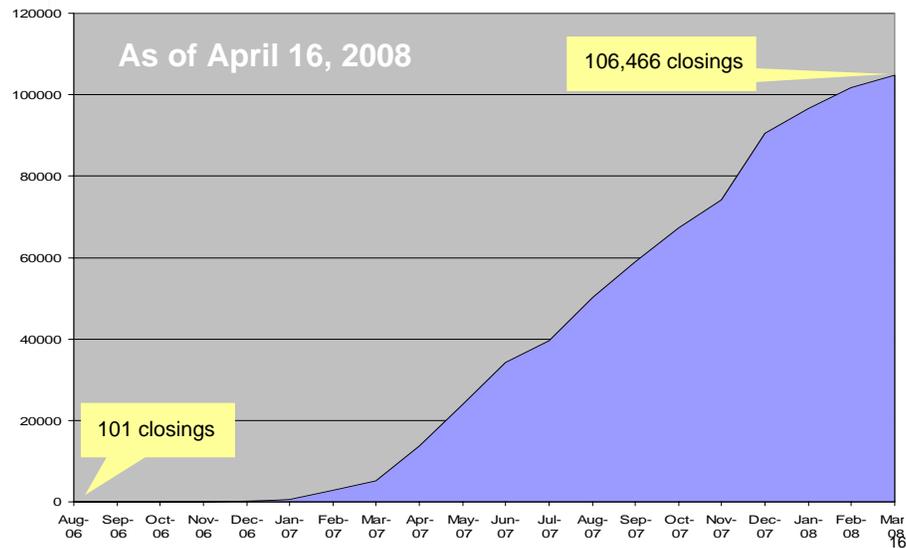
Homeowners could also be eligible for an additional \$30,000 through a future state Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.





Pace of Road Home Closings

Total Number of Road Home Grant Closings by Month for 2007/08



Current Program Data

As of April 16, 2008

Total Applications Received	229,409
Initial Appointments Held	166,093
Benefits Calculated	159,706
Benefit Options Letters Sent	151,662
Benefit Options Selected:	
Number of Option One Selections	120,292
Number of Option Two Selections	10,109
Number of Option Three Selections	2,814
Total Benefit Options Letters Returned by Homeowners	138,558
Files Transferred for Closing	124,281
Closings Scheduled	836
Closings Held	106,466

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