

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Social Services Block Grant Reallocation Recommendation Approval

April 21st, 2008

OVERVIEW: A resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board to approve and recommend to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval a plan to reallocate \$260,000 of Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds originally budgeted for monitoring and oversight to the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps for the purposes of providing services to FEMA ineligible citizens who require recovery assistance.

Whereas, in the aftermath of the devastating 2005 hurricane season, the United States Congress issued a \$550,000,000 supplemental appropriation of Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds and, on Wednesday, February 8, 2006, the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services announced the distribution of funds among all 50 states and the District of Columbia;

Whereas, the State of Louisiana was allocated \$220,901,534 in supplemental SSBG funds to meet the social service, behavioral health and health care needs of people affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita;

Whereas, the Louisiana Recovery Authority has endorsed the following allocations of supplemental SSBG funds which were approved by the Louisiana Legislature and are being administered by the Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services:

- The Department of Social Services was allocated \$34,507,653
 - \$ 16,429,383 for the provision of Child Welfare Services
 - \$ 14,400,000 for the provision of Child Care Services
 - \$ 3,678,270 for the administration, monitoring and oversight of the entire SSBG allocation to Louisiana
- The Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) was allocated \$101,701,534
 - \$ 80,000,000 for the provision of Behavioral Health Services
 - \$21,701,534 for the provision of Preventive and Primary Care
- The Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSU-HSC) was allocated \$52,567,347
 - \$32,567,347 for the Health Sciences Center
 - \$20,000,000 for the Health Care Services Division
- The Tulane University Health Sciences Center was allocated \$13,000,000

- The Louisiana Family Recovery Corps was allocated \$18,475,000
- The Governor's Office of Elderly Affairs \$650,000

Whereas, FEMA is in the process of closing down all trailer sites in the state and there remain over 300 households within these sites that are not eligible for additional housing assistance.

Whereas, there is widespread anecdotal evidence of additional populations in Louisiana that are ineligible for FEMA services, yet still require a variety of medical and social interventions in order to recovery from the 2005 disasters.

Whereas, the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps aids in the recovery of families by connecting with Louisiana citizens impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and providing the resources they need to get back on their feet, return home and establish a quality of life;

Whereas, \$260,000 in SSBG funds, originally allocated as listed above, will not be required for monitoring and oversight and can be reallocated to the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps to support the immediate needs of Louisiana citizens impacted by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita that were deemed 'ineligible' by FEMA.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend that \$260,000 of Social Services Block Grant funds committed to monitoring and oversight be reallocated to the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps (LFRC) for the purposes of providing services to FEMA ineligible citizens who require recovery assistance. Program services will be defined by the Department of Social Services in consultation with the Louisiana Recovery Authority and the LFRC.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board does hereby recommend that the Social Services Block Grant Reallocation plan be sent to the Governor and the Louisiana Legislature for approval.