



**Executive Director's Report
July 30, 2008**



Welcome New LRA Board



**David Voelker
Chairman**

Appointed Members

- Rene Cross
- Jas Gill
- Andy Guinn
- Tom Henning
- Ray Lasseigne
- Patricia Schuster Leblanc
- Walter Leger
- Chet Morrison
- Sean Reilly
- John E. Smith

Ex-officio Members:

- Rep. Karen Carter Peterson
- Sen. Joel Chaisson II
- Rep. Jim Tucker
- Sen. Sharon Weston-Broome

**The streamlined LRA Board of Directors consists of
13 appointed members and four ex-officio officers.**



State Fines ICF \$1 million



In July, the state fined ICF International, the contractor that runs the Road Home program, more than \$1 million for failing to meet agreed-upon contractual performance measures relating to homeowner closings and the resolutions of files.

The fines included:

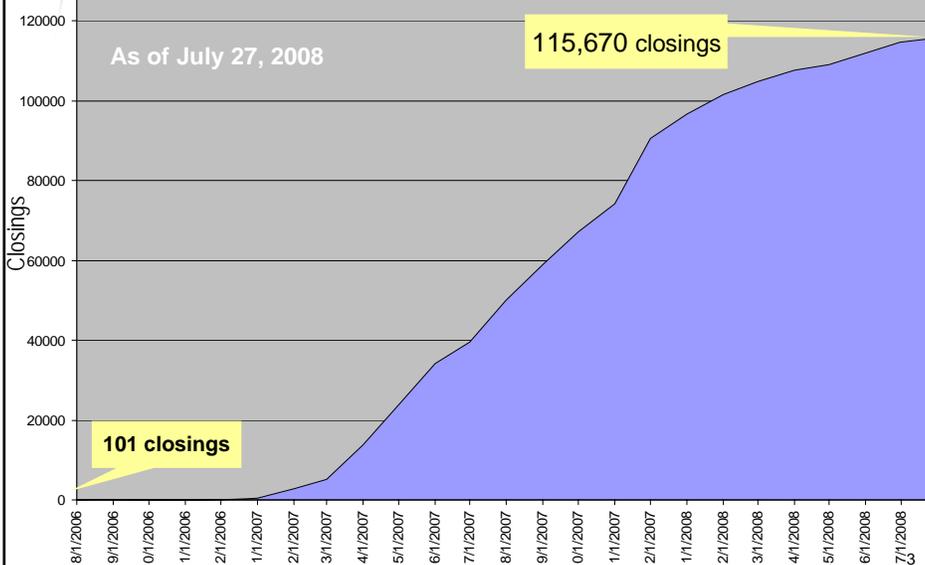
- \$692,500 for failure to close 116,000 Road Home cases by June 30, 2008;
- \$356,879 for failure to meet performance metrics relating to resolutions in July 2007.

The state is reviewing data to determine if ICF met other performance measures and if additional penalties are necessary.



Pace of Road Home Closings

Total Number of Road Home Grant Closings by Month





Current Program Data

As of July 27, 2008

Total Applications Received	229,409	} Final
Initial Appointments Held	166,093	
Benefits Calculated	160,210	
Benefit Options Letters Sent	152,054	
Benefit Options Selected:		
<i>Number of Option One Selections</i>	124,129	
<i>Number of Option Two Selections</i>	10,089	
<i>Number of Option Three Selections</i>	2,840	
Total Benefit Options Letters Returned by Homeowners	142,013	
Files Transferred for Closing	121,927	
Closings Scheduled	253	
Closings Held	115,670	

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Home Elevation Programs

29,959 homeowners have returned forms indicating interest in the Road Home Elevation Incentive. More than 16,000 want to know more about the HMGP Elevation Award.

The programs each provide up to \$30,000 for elevation of site built homes and \$20,000 for mobile homes, depending on prior Road Home award amounts.

The state has paid out \$123.8 million in elevation awards to 5,220 homeowners. That's an average grant of \$23,718.

(As of July 11, 2008)





Comprehensive Housing Strategy

Steps Taken:

- Narrowed immediate focus to four goals:
 - Transition Households to permanent, sustainable housing solutions,
 - Increase availability of low-income housing,
 - Increase availability of workforce housing,
 - Effectively communicate available housing and housing resources.

Next Steps:

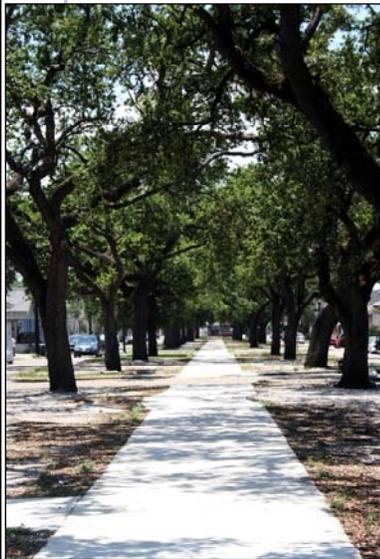
- Fill gaps in reporting on state programs and affordable housing availability.
- Meet with stakeholders in early August to begin finalizing strategy.



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Long Term Community Recovery



The St. Roch Pathway, built with \$119,128 in LTCR funds, was completed last November.

State Approves \$125 Million in LTCR Projects for New Orleans, Lake Charles

The first projects using LTCR funds were approved in May for New Orleans. Projects include:

- ✦ Theater and Performing Arts District
- ✦ 25 Streetscapes throughout city
- ✦ Five planning projects

This week, the state approved a project in downtown Lake Charles – the demolition of the old Sears building to make way for a new hotel.

There are also ten projects pending in Jefferson Parish.

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Economic Development

Business Recovery Grant and Loan Phase II

\$80 million is available from the state in combination grants and zero-interest loans to Louisiana businesses affected by the 2005 hurricanes. The application period ended July 18.

In phase I, \$62 million in grants were distributed to more than 3,400 Louisiana businesses. 88% went to firms with fewer than 10 employees.



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Rita Task Force Reactivated



The reactivated Rita Task Force met in Lake Charles in June. The Task Force, made up of state and local leaders from Louisiana and Texas, will tackle issues facing southwest Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita.

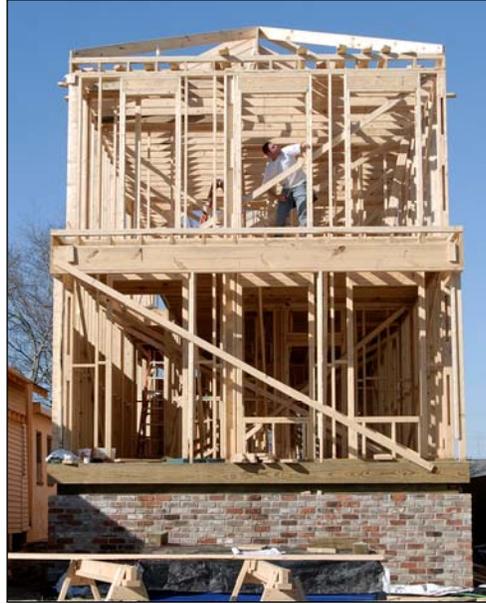
After the Task Force meeting, Governor Bobby Jindal spoke about "Get A Game Plan," the state's hurricane and emergency preparedness campaign.

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Louisiana's Top Infrastructure Priorities

- **Charity Hospital**
 - **St. Bernard Demolitions**
 - **First Responders**
 - **Higher Education**
- Marine Debris Removal**



Priorities – Charity Hospital



Step Taken:

- State engineering documents proving our damage estimates sent to FEMA

Next Step:

- U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Mike Leavitt designated as federal point-of-contact for all issues involving Charity Hospital.



Priorities – St. Bernard Parish Demolitions

Steps Taken:

- FEMA has agreed to pay for Phases I and II, which will demolish slabs on approximately 1,500 properties.

Next Step:

- An announcement about the slab demolitions will be coming shortly.



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Priorities – First Responders

Steps Taken:

- The state, FEMA and General O'Dell, President Bush's recovery czar, are working toward setting and meeting goals for returning first responders to facilities.

Next Steps:

- A pot of CDBG funds will be reallocated to cover gaps between obligated Public Assistance funds and actual costs for repairing police, fire, EMS, etc, infrastructure.





Priorities – Higher Education

Steps Taken:

- Met with chancellors of higher education institutions in southeast Louisiana, including UNO, SUNO, Delgado and Nunez. Discussions centered on FEMA ineligible costs.

Next Step:

- Designating CDBG funds to fill gaps and fund FEMA ineligible repairs.



Priorities - Marine Debris Removal



Steps Taken:

- An extensive outreach campaign is underway to identify and map marine debris in Louisiana waters (www.louisianamarinedebris.com).
- 60 south Louisiana Wal-Marts will post information/flyers and teach Outdoors Department employees to educate the public about marine debris.
- The U.S. Coast Guard continues to map reported marine debris.

Next Step:

- First removals of reported marine debris.

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Public Assistance Program

Louisiana's FEMA Public Assistance Program

	Eligible \$	Paid \$
Recovery	\$3.15 billion	\$2.44 billion
Rebuilding	\$3.57 billion	\$1.03 billion
Total	\$6.72 billion	\$3.47 billion

As of June 30, 2008

In April 2008, Louisiana's PA Rebuilding funds surpassed Recovery funds. Allocation of Rebuilding funds to Louisiana is expected to rise.

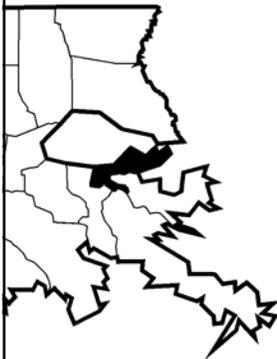
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Public Assistance Program

One Year Change

	Eligible funds	Paid funds
July 13, 2007	\$4.82 billion	\$2.41 billion
July 7, 2008	\$6.74 billion	\$3.49 billion
One Year Change	\$1.92 billion (40%) ↑	\$1.08 billion (45%) ↑



In one year, Orleans Parish has experienced the most change in Public Assistance dollars.

Orleans is eligible for \$2.02 billion and has been paid \$873 million. That's an increase of 54% eligible and 83% paid since last July.

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Public Assistance Express Pay

Since the Express Pay program started in early March, it has put an additional \$236 million on the streets.

The state has paid 1,066 Reimbursement Request Forms through Express Pay, averaging a seven-day response.

(As of June 30, 2008)

Public Assistance Funds are used for:

- Debris Removal
- Emergency Protective Measures
- Roads and Bridges
- Water Control Facilities
- Public Buildings & Equipment
- Public Utilities



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Recently Approved Public Assistance Projects

Funds Allocated to Rebuild Plaquemines Parish Docks

Buras, Venice, Pointe-a-la Hache and Empire boat harbors will be repaired with \$7.9 million in Public Assistance funds.



East New Orleans Regional Library Books Public Assistance

\$4.1 million will go to repair a New Orleans library destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.



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