



**Executive Director's Report  
Paul Rainwater**

**February 26, 2009**



# National Economic Stimulus Package

## Recovery Provisions for Louisiana

### Arbitration Panel

- Expedite recovery projects from hurricanes Katrina and Rita that have been held up
- The panel will have sufficient authority to award or deny disputed Project Worksheets

### Hazard Mitigation

- Allow homeowners who paid out of pocket for hazard mitigation to be reimbursed under Road Home, regardless of meeting FEMA's March 16, 2008 deadline

### Community Disaster Loans

- Waives the \$5 million cap to local governments affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike
- Loans will provide communities with much-needed funds for fire fighting, law enforcement, sanitation and other municipal operations



# National Economic Stimulus Package

## Recovery/Rebuilding Provisions for Louisiana

### **Agricultural/Rural Community Relief**

- Louisiana will receive up to \$200 million of \$752 million
- Farmers who had not purchased coverage can now pay a nominal administrative fee to qualify for the Supplemental Revenue (SURE) Program, the agricultural relief program created in the 2008 Farm Bill
- Approximately 50% of the state's farmers had not purchased necessary coverage to qualify for a SURE payment

### **Army Corps of Engineers Projects**

- Louisiana estimated to receive as much as 10% of \$4.6 billion
- Work includes include flood protection, inland waterway locks and dams, navigation projects and coastal restoration
- Corps is still preparing a list of eligible projects



# National Economic Stimulus Package

## Housing Provisions for Louisiana

- **\$73.5 million** to enable local public housing agencies to address a national \$32 billion backlog in capital needs, especially those improving energy efficiency in aging developments
- **\$39.7 million** to enable state and local government – in partnership with community-based organizations – to acquire, construct and rehabilitate affordable housing and provide rental assistance to poor families
- **\$53.6 million** to the Louisiana Housing Finance Agency – through a partnership with the Louisiana Association for Community Action Partnerships – for weatherization assistance  
*Funds go to low-income families and may support attic, wall, floor, duct and pipe insulation, cleaning air conditioners and replacing old refrigerators*



# Washington Update

## During trip to Washington Feb. 12-18:

- Briefed members of Louisiana Congressional delegation on status of recovery efforts
- Took part in, “Hurricane Recovery Funds for Gulf Coast Communities,” a roundtable discussion to discuss FEMA’s slow response to recovery work in Louisiana
  - House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chaired by Congressman John Mica of Florida and Co-Chaired by Congressman Joseph Cao
- Met with HUD and Homeland Security officials



# Washington Update

Testified Feb. 25 before the U.S. House  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

– Subcommittee on Economic Development,  
Public Buildings and Emergency Management  
at the hearing,

**“Post-Katrina Disaster Response and  
Recovery: Evaluating FEMA’s Continuing  
Efforts in the Gulf Coast and Response  
to Recent Disaster”**



# Obama Administration

## Top Priorities with FEMA/Recovery in the New Administration

- Full funding from FEMA for Charity Hospital
- 100 percent federal match for Gustav and Ike
- Assistance for agriculture recovery
- Scope alignment for Public Assistance Projects

### **Successes:**

- Office of the Federal Coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding extended through September
- HUD agreed to a six-month transition period for citizens in the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP)



# DHAP – Katrina/Rita

- 16,903 families currently enrolled
- Six-month transition period ends September 1, 2009
- Low-income, elderly and disabled residents will have more time to move into housing using Housing Choice Vouchers
- HUD has now made vouchers available to families earning up to 50% of the area's median income
- Needs of families not eligible for vouchers are unknown
  - Some percentage of the ineligible population will be able to safely transition off of the subsidy
  - According to HUD's data, only 3,000 of the total DHAP population are "low risk"



# DHAP – Katrina/Rita

## Challenges

- Case management
- Affordable housing development
- In disaster-impacted parishes, there are not enough affordable rental units to meet the demand of households in DHAP Katrina/Rita, Temporary Housing Units (THUs) and Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA)



# Gustav and Ike Update

as of Feb. 13, 2009

## Individual Assistance

### Gustav

**440,821 registered in  
53 declared parishes**

#### ***Housing Assistance***

- 38,929 approved
- 172 pending
- \$152,552,789 distributed

#### ***Other Needs Assistance***

- 57,191 approved
- 306 pending
- \$49,470,816 distributed

### Ike

**53,832 registered in  
20 declared parishes**

#### ***Housing Assistance***

- 10,165 approved
- 38 pending
- \$49,532,848 distributed

#### ***Other Needs Assistance***

- 5,192 approved
- 53 pending
- \$9,362,236 distributed

### **Gustav and Ike Debris Removal**

Removed to date: **10 million cubic yards (99%)**

Remaining debris: **106,452 cubic yards**



# Gustav/Ike Housing Assistance

## FEMA Housing Update:

**8,887** - Households with damages greater than \$10,000 *(based on FEMA IA Damage Inspections)*

**772** - FEMA Temporary Housing Units approved

**325** - FEMA Temporary Housing Units on the ground

**18** - Parishes where the FEMA Temporary Units have been placed

as of Feb. 13, 2009



*Flooding caused by Hurricane Gustav in Grand Caillou in lower Terrebonne Parish*



# Public Assistance Update

	Applicants	Projects	Obligated	Paid
<b>Katrina</b>	2,161	17,902	\$6.98 billion	\$ 3.76 billion
<b>Rita</b>	931	4,463	\$568 million	\$ 401 million
<b>Gustav</b>	1,072	830	\$295 million	\$9.23 million
<b>Ike</b>	408	269	\$31 million	\$273,582

## Public Assistance Express Pay\*

As of Feb. 12, 2009, the Express Pay program has processed **3,768 RRFs** paying out **\$708,264,009** to applicants.

Average payment time is currently **4 days**.

*\*will also use Express Pay for Gustav and Ike projects*



# Public Assistance Update

## Work by Category in Public Assistance

Category	Funded Projects	Obligated	Paid
Debris Removal	910	\$1.2 billion	\$899 million
Protective Measures	6,270	\$2.08 billion	\$1.75 billion
Road Systems	439	\$113 million	\$32.6 million
Water Control Facilities	121	\$58 million	\$11 million
Public Buildings & Equipment	11, 889	\$3.35 billion	\$1.01 billion
Public Utilities	907	\$318 million	\$220 million
Parks/Other	1,139	\$135 million	\$42.75 million
State Management Costs	24	\$83.5 million	\$74.3 million
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,699</b>	<b>\$7.34 billion</b>	<b>\$4.04 billion</b>

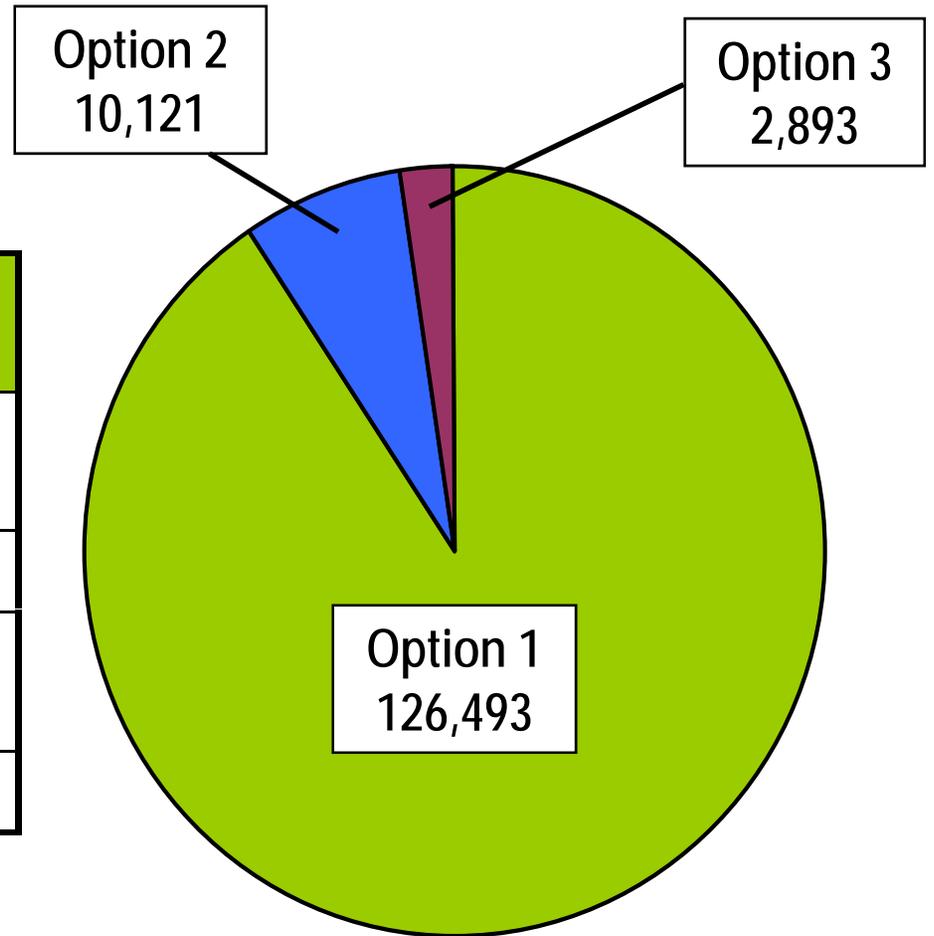
**Total Project Worksheets Written, to include Versions = 45,627**



# Road Home Update

Recent Road Home Program Data		
Total Benefit Option Letters Returned	144,199	
Total Closings Held	122,509	\$7.8 B
Additional Disbursements	29,294	\$779.8 M
Elevation Only Grants	624	

as of Feb. 16, 2009



**Applicant Selections**



# Road Home Appeals

## ICF Appeals

Cases in Appeals Department:

- **15,252** processed
- **14,684** resolved
- **568** cases remain

## State Appeals

Cases in State Appeals:

- **2,950** received
- **899** in progress
- **1,843** closed or denied
- **208** approved

The average length of time to process a state-level appeal is 75 days.

## Results of Resolved ICF

Appeals Cases:

- 5,130 (35%) additional funds awarded

- Average award of \$26,620.

- 652 (4%) award reduction

- Average reduction of \$16,432.

- 4,607 (31%) no change to award amount

- 4,295 (29%) Reviewed for eligibility determination

- 1,538 approved

- 2,757 denied

*as of Feb. 13, 2009*



# CDBG/Road Home Elevations



*A home in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward of New Orleans elevated through the Road Home Elevation program*

As of 2/13/09:

- **31,847** homeowners interested in and eligible for elevation program
- **24,820** elevation disbursements awarded
- **\$717.3 million** disbursed
- **2,145 (\$61.7 million)** elevation disbursements at closing companies



# HMGP Elevations

as of 2/13/09

- **20,668 people interested**
- **1,035 files being worked**
- **519 homeowner meetings completed**
- **3 homeowner midpoint payments made totaling \$39,431**



*An elevated home in Lakeview*



# HMGP Updates

- Developing an **IT system** for program delivery  
**(RFP is at Office of Contractual Review)**
- Exploring different options to **increase the ability of staff to move homeowners through the program:**
  - LSU student workers to assist with administrative tasks
  - Temp service personnel to assist with answering phones, assembling property folders and administrative tasks
- **RFPs pending for**
  - Technical Assistance
  - Call Center
  - Inspections



# Louisiana Land Trust

## ***LLT Transfer Timeline***

Demolition management company is in place

Working with parishes to identify properties for demolition

### ***New Orleans:***

- Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) between City of New Orleans, LLT and OCD signed by Mayor Nagin
- Finalizing all signatures by the end of the week
- NORA has 37 properties ready for transfer
- NORA and LLT are reviewing a priority list of 200 properties in need of demolition before transfer
- Approximately 3,800 have received environmental clearance

### ***St. Tammany Parish:***

- Documents being revised by OCD



Louisiana Land Trust

### ***St. Bernard Parish:***

- CEA signed by all parties
- Finalizing use of properties before transferring

### ***Jefferson Parish:***

- CEA signed by all parties
- Waiting to develop use of all properties before transferring

### ***Terrebonne Parish and Cameron Parish:***

- CEA signed by all parties

### ***Calcasieu Parish:***

- Has decided to develop a full disposition plan; will be voted on at today's meeting



# Sold Homes Program

## **On Jan. 23, HUD approved the state's request to bring more Road Home applicants into the Sold Homes Program**

- Extends the timeframe until Aug. 29, 2007
- Previous deadline was Aug. 29, 2006
- Applicants must still have applied to the program before the July 31, 2007 application deadline and completed their first appointment by Dec. 15, 2007
- Affects an additional 832 applicants
- \$100 million has been budgeted for the Sold Homes Program
- These applicants were contacted by the Road Home and their applications are now being processed



# Small Rental Program

- Active awardees 5,866
- Rental closings 404
- Rental award amount \$32.28 million
- Units produced 936
- Affordable units produced 631

The Small Rental Program has produced 2-bedroom units in New Orleans that are now renting for as little as \$490 a month and 3-bedroom units for as little as \$680 a month.

All of these units are complete and occupied.

as of Feb. 23



# Small Rental Challenges and Changes

## Challenges:

- Applicants cannot receive upfront financing from the program
- Difficult to obtain construction financing in current market
- 25% of commitment letters are not accepted
- 1,171 of 4,903 commitment letters mailed out are not returned

## Changes:

- Direct funding rehab program for active awards
- No outside financing needed in most cases
- No interest, no payment, forgivable loan



# LIHTC/CDBG Piggyback Program

- Total projects awarded: 57
- Total units awarded: 8,185
- Total award amount: \$596 million
  
- Projects closed/under construction: 24
- Units under construction: 3,831
- Dollars closed: \$311 million
- Dollars expended: \$152 million

as of Feb. 19

*200 Carondelet (right) in New Orleans will feature 190 mixed-income units when it comes online in March.*





# LIHTC/CDBG Piggyback Program



*(r to l): Tommy LaTour, Walter Leger, Robin Keegan and LHFA Director Milton Bailey at the C.J. Peete groundbreaking in January.*

- **695 units** available by March
- **Four grand openings** scheduled next month
  - Three in New Orleans and one in Abbeville (Vermilion Parish)*
- **First draw** by the developer of C.J. Peete made for \$5.58 million
  - Funds represent the first Piggyback dollars in the Big 4 redevelopments in New Orleans*
- Anticipate over **1,800 units** online by June 2009
- A total of **3,200 units** online by **Dec. 31, 2009**



# Alternative Housing Pilot Program

504 total units

## **New Orleans – 287 units**

- 100 single-family units in Algiers
- 100 units on infill sites in various neighborhoods
- 27 single-family units in Westwego
- 60 units as infill sites in Treme Neighborhood
- Construction expected to begin in April

## **Jackson Barracks - 93 units**

- Infrastructure complete in March
- Single-family construction began this month
- Multi-family construction begins in March
- Construction complete by August

## **Baton Rouge – 42 units**

- Construction started earlier this month
- Poured 25 slabs
- Construction complete by July

## **Lake Charles – 82 units**

- Construction expected to begin in April



*Concrete is poured the week of Feb. 9 at the Hidden Cove construction site in Baton Rouge. There will be 42 Katrina Cottages at the site by the end of July.*



# ICF Transition Team

**ICF Transition Team is procuring RFPs and recommending contractors for**

- **IT**
- **Homeowners**
- **Small Rental**
- **Piggyback**
- **HMGP**



# ICF Transition Team

## **IT and Homeowners**

The state announced Feb. 26 that **Hammerman and Gainer, Inc. (HGI)** was awarded the Homeowners contract and **CGI Technologies & Solutions** was awarded the IT contract

## **Small Rental**

RFPs deadline was Feb. 6  
Oral interviews completed Feb. 18

## **Piggyback**

RFPs deadline was Feb. 19  
Oral interviews conducted week of Feb. 23

## **HMGP**

RFPs deadline is March 9