

LOUISIANA RECOVERY AUTHORITY

Approval of the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program

April 15, 2009

OVERVIEW: A Resolution to request the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors to provide preliminary approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 33 to Action Plan No. 1 which creates the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program and to authorize staff to publish such Action Plan Amendment for public comment prior to seeking final approval of the Action Plan Amendment.

Whereas, far too many homeowners whose homes were destroyed or damaged by hurricanes have faced challenges and difficulties on rebuilding and repairing their properties;

Whereas, the obstacle that many of these homeowners have not been able to overcome is the securing of sufficient resources to rebuild their homes;

Whereas, federally funded housing programs will soon end and if resources are not made available to Louisiana households facing funding obstacles, many families are at risk of becoming homeless;

Whereas, Long Term Recovery Organizations (LTROs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), and other nonprofits have successfully developed models to secure funding and leverage resources to meet the needs of homeowners and allow them to complete their rebuilding process;

Whereas, these entities offer residents services by:

1. Completing an initial triage that assesses the current need of the households and identifies resources received or still available to support the households' construction costs;
2. Providing construction managers for the households/applicants to work with on-site to determine remaining work to be performed and the associated costs of that work; and
3. Managing households/applicants and contractors or volunteers assigned to jobs and ensuring that costs are reasonable and that the work is quality;

Whereas, the LTROs, CDCs, and other nonprofits combine resources, equipment and materials donations, and group purchasing to reduce repair costs on the homes to facilitate rebuilding;

Whereas, households struggling to complete the rebuilding process receive "one-stop" support from the LTROs, CDCs, and other nonprofits that prevents the duplication of benefits received and ensures that rebuilding projects are completed;

Whereas, the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program will provide funding to nonprofits currently assisting homeowners in their rebuilding process;

Whereas, the program will provide competitive awards/grants to nonprofits and other organizations that have a proven track record in assisting homeowners in meeting gaps in rebuilding resources;

Whereas, awardees/grantees must use program resources in hurricane impacted parishes to pay program delivery costs and to purchase materials to be used in rebuilding homes;

Whereas the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program will provide \$5m in resources to nonprofits to serve deserving households that need additional assistance and resources to complete the rebuilding of their homes; and

Whereas, the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program will provide direct assistance to homeowners impacted by the hurricanes; thereby, allowing them to return to their communities and end months and/or years of displacement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors does hereby provide preliminary approval of Action Plan Amendment No. 33 to Action Plan No. 1 which creates the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board of Directors does hereby authorize staff to publish such Action Plan Amendment for public comment prior to seeking final approval of the Action Plan Amendment.