



Federal Priorities
September 11, 2007



Housing

Continue the restoration of homeowner and workforce housing

- Fill the funding gap in the Road Home Homeowner Assistance Program
- Guarantee the use of Hazard Mitigation funds for the Road Home
- Secure comprehensive workforce housing assistance, starting with:
 - S 1668, the Landrieu-Dodd bill
 - HR 1227, the Waters-Frank bill
 - HR 1427, the Federal Housing Reform Act
- Stabilize the property insurance market with federal intervention



Flood and Coastal Protection

Secure rebuilt Louisiana with adequate flood and coastal protection

- Enact Water Resources Development Act conference report (S 1228, HR 1495)
- Secure waiver of or funding for Louisiana's 35% cost share for additional expenses to restore New Orleans flood protection to 100-year protection level

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Eliminating Red Tape

Cut through arcane bureaucracy by reforming the Stafford Act

- Create a catastrophic annex and implement other reforms to the Stafford Act to reduce red tape and streamline its Public Assistance program to better support the repair and reconstruction of our damaged schools, roads and bridges, fire and police stations, hospitals, etc.

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Assistance for those in crisis

Help families in crisis

- Immediately enhance behavioral health services, including mental health and addictive disorders, with a special focus on the student population
- Targeted homelessness solutions for areas most impacted by the storms
- Provide 3,000 new vouchers for permanent supportive housing (PSH) for people with disabilities and the frail elderly
- Expand direct assistance to returning families through the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps

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Health Care

Restore health care access for all

- Provide immediate deployment to the affected areas of mental health and other health care professionals through the United States Public Health Service to address shortfalls
- Enhance recruitment and retention of nurses and allied health professionals
- Expand access to care at the community level by securing flexibility to use existing funds for physician and clinic uncompensated care services
- Help hospitals address post-Katrina labor costs with Medicare wage index adjustment
- Support medical schools and hospitals that train physicians with an extended exemption from the traditional three-year rolling cost average that does not recognize post-disaster circumstances

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Economic Development

Bolster economic recovery

- Enact pending small business assistance legislation:
 - HR 1468, disaster relief for small businesses
 - HR 1361, the RECOVER Act
- Enhance existing GO Zone tax incentives
- Increase the state's allocation of GO Zone bonds and New Markets Tax Credits
- Address the acute domestic labor shortages in all economic sectors through enhancement of available immigrant labor programs in the GO Zone

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Long-term planning

Locally driven rebuilding with a long-term vision

- Provide additional infrastructure funds for the implementation of local and regional long-term plans, which have been designed by Louisiana citizens as the blueprints for a safer, stronger and smarter Louisiana

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Fisheries

Assist in the recovery of Louisiana's commercial and recreational fisheries

- Provide adequate and equitable resources for the recovery of our commercial and recreational fisheries, including direct support to fishers and seafood processors as well as infrastructure
- Ensure that FEMA tasks the Coast Guard by mission assignment or interagency agreement with the responsibility for conducting a comprehensive marine debris removal program as was done in Alabama and Mississippi
- Provide sufficient funding for NOAA to complete their Gulf Coast Survey work along the entire Louisiana coast