



## RESOLUTION

**Overview:** A resolution by the Restore Louisiana Task Force recommending to Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards the allocation of \$938,183,120 from the state's Second Appropriation of \$1,219,172,000, towards the Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program; that this allocation be in addition to the previously allocated \$385,510,000 to the homeowner program, for a total homeowner program allocation of \$1,323,693,120; and also recommending that Governor Edwards instruct the Office of Community Development to immediately include the details of the homeowner program into a Second Appropriation Action Plan for submission to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

**WHEREAS**, on September 2, 2016, Governor John Bel Edwards established by Executive Order Number JBE 2016-65, the Restore Louisiana Task Force, directing the members of the Task Force to establish both short and long-term priorities in developing plans for recovery and redevelopment;

**WHEREAS**, these priorities and plans shall focus on the following areas: housing and redevelopment; economic and workforce development; education; infrastructure and transportation; healthcare; fiscal stability; family services; and agriculture;

**WHEREAS**, on September 29, 2016, President Obama signed into law a Continuing Resolution directing \$500 million to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for recovery from disasters in 2016;

**WHEREAS**, HUD allocated \$437.8 million of that \$500 million to the State of Louisiana as a result of the catastrophic and destructive floods that impacted the state in both March and August 2016;

**WHEREAS**, on December 10, 2016, President Obama signed into law the Fiscal Year 2017 Further Continuing Resolution, directing HUD to allocate \$1.8 billion to states that experienced presidentially declared disasters in 2016 but prior to December 10, 2016. These funds are in addition to the \$437.8 million HUD allocated in October 2016;

**WHEREAS**, HUD allocated \$1,219,172,000 of that \$1.8 billion to the State of Louisiana as additional recovery funds as a result of the catastrophic and destructive floods that impacted the state in both March and August 2016;

**WHEREAS**, the total amount allocated of \$1,656,972,000 is less than half the amount the State estimates is required to address unmet disaster recovery needs;

**WHEREAS**, given the significant shortfall in allocated funding, the minimum goals and primary priorities of the Restore Louisiana Task Force for each program area are:

**Housing:**

Enable homeowners currently displaced, as well as those currently in their homes but living in unsustainable shelter conditions, to complete adequate repairs and/or reconstruction in order to return and re-occupy their home on a permanent basis;

Repair or construct an adequate number of affordable rental units to accommodate currently displaced renters within a reasonable proximity of their jobs and schools;

Provide adequate assisted housing solutions for disaster victims who are homeless or are in danger of becoming homeless, as well as for long-term unemployed and extremely low-income renters currently receiving FEMA temporary assistance;

**Infrastructure:**

Provide adequate cost-share assistance necessary to ensure that State and local infrastructure projects funded under FEMA's Public Assistance Program are completed;

**Economic Recovery:**

Provide adequate assistance via grants, loans and technical assistance to prevent otherwise viable small businesses from closing and/or jobs being eliminated due to the disaster;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE RESTORE LOUISIANA TASK FORCE, THAT:

**Section 1:** The Restore Louisiana Task Force recommends to the Governor the following allocation amount and program description for a Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program, that 1) recognizes that additional funds need to be appropriated by Congress in order to address all unmet housing needs of Louisiana's citizens; 2) seeks to implement a comprehensive homeowner recovery program in which allocated funds are distributed in a tiered manner, focusing on helping as many Louisiana citizens as possible to return home, and 3) provides some reimbursement assistance for eligible homeowners who have completed work prior to application to the program:

**Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program: \$938,183,120**

For those homeowners who have not yet started work or are partially complete with repairs at the time of application, assistance must immediately be focused on those homeowners who meet the following criteria:

- Experienced major to severe level of damages (1+ feet of flooding or \$8,000 FEMA Verified Loss)
- Did not have structural NFIP policy at the time of the respective floods (March 2016 or August 2016)
- Have demonstrated ability to fund a completed home, with the applicable amount of CDBG-DR assistance available to them, in addition to other necessary resources

Assistance to homeowners will be provided in the following tiered approach, based upon the homeowner's household income, as it falls within the most recent Area Median Income data:

<b>% AMI</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Households</b>	<b>% of Population</b>	<b>Award Tier</b>
0-120%	25,306	69%	100%
120% +	8,616	24%	50%
Unknown	2,588	7%	50% or 100%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36,510</b>	<b>100%</b>	

Regarding reimbursement, the following criteria apply:

- 100% of eligible pre-award expenses, less duplication of benefits, may be reimbursed to those who have completed partial or full rehabilitation of their homes for households that meet the following criteria: low- to moderate-income; heads of household are elderly and/or a member of the household is a person with disabilities; major or severe damages; no structural NFIP policy; located inside or outside of the floodplain;
- For all populations other than those listed above, 25% of eligible expenses, less duplication of benefits, may be reimbursed to those who have completed partial or full rehabilitation of their homes

**Section 2:** In order to continue expediting the process of federal fund approval, the Restore Louisiana Task Force recommends to the Governor that the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development incorporate and provide appropriate details on the above recommended Homeowner Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Program into its Second Appropriation Action Plan Amendment. The Office of Community Development should then immediately publish the Action Plan Amendment for the federally required 14-day public comment period, and, upon incorporation of all public comments, submit the Action Plan Amendment to HUD as soon as possible, for its review.

PASSED AND UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED on this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017.

APPROVED



Jimmy Durbin, Co-Chair



Jacqui Wines Wyatt, Co-Chair