



RESOLUTION

Overview: A resolution by the Restore Louisiana Task Force recommending to Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards that he instruct the Office of Community Development to prepare and submit an Action Plan to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development outlining an Economic Development Assistance Program budgeting \$12 million of the \$437.8 million in Disaster Community Development Block Grant funds appropriated by Congress, and also meeting all federal requirements under the Federal Register Notice associated with the funds.

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, the Restore Louisiana Task Force, at its meeting on November 18, 2016, unanimously approved a resolution recommending that a Homeowner Assistance Program budgeting \$405,800,000 of the \$437.8 million in Disaster Community Development Block Grant funds appropriated by Congress be included in the state's Initial Action Plan;

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

Section 1: The Restore Louisiana Task Force recommends to the Governor that the State of Louisiana, Office of Community Development outline in its Initial Action Plan and, upon approval by HUD, implement the following Economic Development Assistance Program options:

I. Restore Louisiana Small Business Loan and Grant Program: in which the state will contract with community development organizations to implement and administer a lending program to flood-impacted small businesses for recovery related expenses.

II. Restore Louisiana Small Business Technical Assistance Program: in which business technical assistance services will be provided by entities implementing the loan and grant program, or by a separate technical assistance provider, to eligible businesses.

III. Restore Louisiana Small Business Bridge Loan Program: in which the state will provide banks with a guarantee against losses for short-term bridge loans made to businesses during the initial 12-18 months after the floods, as such bridge loans provide immediate capital while businesses seek long-term assistance, such as flood insurance, SBA loans and other long term financing.

Section 2: Due to limited funding in the initial Congressional appropriation, the Restore Louisiana Task Force recommends to the Governor that from the initial appropriation \$12 million (inclusive of administration and program delivery expenses) be budgeted for the above Economic Development Assistance Programs, and to prioritize impacted businesses meeting each of the following criteria, with the ability to expand the criteria if funds are still available once the program budget has been accomplished :

- Were operating prior to the respective March or August floods;
- Have 50 or less employees, a minimum annual revenue of \$25,000 and a minimum of 1 (one) full-time or equivalent employee;
- Were directly impacted by the floods, as documented by physical or financial loss;
- Provide essential goods or services, such as grocery stores, pharmacies, health clinics, gas stations, child-care providers and others; and
- Are located in flood-impacted parishes with the caveat that 80 percent of the allocation will be spent on activities located in the six (6) most-impacted parishes of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Livingston, Ouachita and Tangipahoa, and the remaining 20 percent of the allocation will be allotted to the remaining flood-impacted parishes.

PASSED AND UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED on this the 2nd day of December 2016.

APPROVED

Jimmy Durbin, Co-Chair

Jacqui Vines Wyatt, Co-Chair