

**Disaster Recovery Initiative
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

**Public Law 109-234
The Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on
Terror, and Hurricane Recovery**

**Louisiana Office of Community Development/Disaster Recovery Unit,
Division of Administration**

**Katrina/Rita Action Plan Amendment No. 15 (Second Appropriation) – Creation of Local
Government Infrastructure Program**

Public Comment Period: January 12, 2011 – January 18, 2011

Submitted to HUD: January 24, 2011

HUD Approved: March 10, 2011



**Bobby Jindal
Governor**

**Jay Dardenne
Lieutenant Governor**

**Paul Rainwater
Commissioner of Administration**

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Substantial Action Plan Number 15:

Creation of Local Government Infrastructure Program and the subsequent transfer of funds within the second allocation

Eligible Activity: Section 105 (a)

National Objective: Presumed by Activity

Activity Amount: \$40, 657,000 (transfer of funds within the second allocation)

The purpose of this amendment is to allow for the creation of the *Local Government Infrastructure Program (ILOC)* in the second allocation of the funds granted to Louisiana in response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The same provisions of ILOC will be maintained as stated in the initial Action Plan approved in the first allocation. This request is an extension of the original ILOC program objectives to the Katrina/Rita second allocation to continue to meet the ongoing critical recovery needs of public entities and other qualifying entities. The Action Plan Amendment also requests the transfer of \$40,657,000 from the Small Rental Program to the ILOC program in allocation two.

The program is essential for addressing repairs and enhancements that are ineligible under the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) grant program. These included but were not limited to: uninsured and underinsured damages, insurance deductibles and improvements for code compliance, if they are determined to be critical to continued delivery and or protection of vital public services by state and local Government entities in accordance with criteria established by the Office of Community Development/Disaster Recovery Unit (OCD-DRU). These criteria also took into account the areas where the hurricane damages were most severe.

As such, this amendment shall create the Local Government Infrastructure program in Action Plan Number Two to address projects in the hurricane affected zones that meet specific recovery needs, as listed below, and that are either not eligible for other disaster programs, or for which there is insufficient funding in existing programs to address these critical needs. The determination of which projects will be funded under this program will be made based on analysis by the OCD-DRU staff. OCD-DRU has identified the following four broad program areas for which there is insufficient funding in existing programs to address these critical needs.

- Critical Services- including but not limited to: public utilities, first responders, healthcare, community services
- Higher Education- public institutions of higher education
- Economic Development- initiatives to create and/or retain jobs
- Blight Elimination- demolition and slab removal of blighted properties that are not eligible for FEMA PA funding

Expenditures from the Local Government Infrastructure Program must meet the following guidelines:

- Project demonstrates that they are not eligible for PA or any other source of funds;
- That the funding to be provided is for cases of critical needs based on their meeting criteria developed by OCD-DRU for the use of these limited funds;

- That the funding be provided to projects within parishes which have adopted the latest available base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance, unless exceptions are granted by OCD-DRU based on reasonable alternatives where safety is not minimized;
- That the funding be provided within parishes or communities which have adopted, implemented or are in the process of implementing the new statewide building code standards adopted in 2005 1st Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature;
- That the projects receiving funding following the best design for delivery of services in light of the population shifts and changed circumstances of many Louisiana communities; and
- That each infrastructure project considers and/or proposes a mitigation plan to minimize damage in the event of future floods or hurricanes.

As stated in the original creation of the Local Government Infrastructure Program in Action Plan Number One, each project funded will meet one of the three national objectives; however, until applications are received and service areas and beneficiaries are known, the specific national objective cannot be determined.

Monitoring

This activity is considered to be a low risk activity. Monitoring will be performed by the Office of Community Development/Disaster Recovery Unit staff in accordance with the Infrastructure Monitoring Plan.

Public Comment

In adherence to the public comment period, this Amendment may be obtained via the Internet at:

<http://doa.louisiana.gov/cdbg/DRactionplans.htm>, or by contacting: Paul Catrou, Office of Community Development, Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804-9095. The Proposed Action Plan Amendment will be published in Vietnamese and Spanish translations at the same website.

Written comments on the proposed Action Plan Amendment will be accepted for seven days from the date it is posted. Comments may be submitted beginning today and must be received no later than 5:00 PM (CST) on January 18, 2011.

Comments may be sent to the attention of Paul Catrou at the above address or sent via facsimile to (225) 219-9605 to the attention of Paul Catrou. Comments may also be submitted via email at ocd@la.gov or through the online form at <http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/cdbg/dractionplans.htm>.

Appendix 1 – Summary of Public Comments and State’s Response

The proposed Action Plan Amendment was published for Public Comment on January 12, 2011 through January 18, 2011.

The State received six (6) comments indicating the request for additional funds to be put towards the research commercialization and educational enhancement program (RC/EEP). The State appreciates the support for this program and has taken these comments under consideration for future funding. The State continues to review the success of this program. The established priority programs stated in APA 15 are primarily targeted to local government critical needs in public infrastructure. Funding for continued economic development programs will be factored into additional funds that may become available.