



Safer, Stronger, Smarter:

Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery Unit

Recovery Snapshot

The State of Louisiana was allocated a total of **\$13.4 billion** via three separate appropriations of disaster recovery Community Development Block Grant funds through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for recovery from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The state created the Louisiana Recovery Authority, now known as the Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery Unit (OCD-DRU), to work in partnership with citizens, local governments, businesses and non-profits, to assist Louisiana in recovering safer, stronger and smarter. To support the continued recovery efforts, OCD-DRU has invested \$11.5 billion in restoring housing and affordable rental units across Louisiana, nearly \$1.4 billion in rebuilding and improving the state’s infrastructure, and over \$300 million in job creation and economic development initiatives.

To date, **Louisiana has expended 96% of its allocated funds.**

OCD-DRU Recovery Programs

Housing - \$11.5 billion

- The storms damaged more than a million housing units in the Gulf Coast region. About half of these damaged units were located in Louisiana. In New Orleans alone, 134,000 housing units — 70% of all occupied units — suffered damage from Hurricane Katrina and the subsequent flooding.
- Through the Road Home Program, more than **\$9 billion** was disbursed to **130,039** homeowners.
- **4,510** Small Rental applicants have received **\$433.9 million**, creating **8,870** rental units – **7,605** of which provide affordable rents to citizens of low to moderate income.
- **154** homes have been repaired through the Nonprofit Rebuilding Pilot Program using **9** nonprofit organizations and **2,668** volunteers.
- Through the Low Income Housing Tax Credit “Piggyback” Program, **59** multi-family developments have been built in **9** parishes creating **7,475** rental units, **4,420** of which offer affordable rental rates.
- **1,861** individuals received more than \$71 million to purchase their first home.
- **8,967** months of rental assistance through the Permanent Supportive Housing Project-Based Vouchers was provided to disabled households.
- **8,267** months of rental, security and utility deposit assistance was provided to households through the Homelessness Supports and Housing Services Program.



Infrastructure - \$1.4 billion

- The flooding caused by the storms produced a level of infrastructure destruction that is unprecedented in United States history.
- Through a constellation of infrastructure rebuilding programs, **314** infrastructure projects have been funded, including the replacement or reconstruction of:
 - 87 – preK - 12 schools
 - 11 - higher education facilities
 - 13 – hospitals or health centers
 - 8 - libraries
 - 10 - public facilities
 - 20 - parks and recreational facilities
 - 52 - water/sewer improvements
 - 42 - street and road improvements
- It is estimated that hurricanes Katrina and Rita destroyed more than \$528 million in fisheries infrastructure in Louisiana’s coastal communities. The Fisheries Assistance Program injected \$25 million into the industry, funding **22** fisheries projects in **9** coastal parishes to improve and expand infrastructure critical to the recreational and commercial fisheries industries, including but not limited to:
 - Docks
 - Icehouses
 - Boat launches
 - Processing and shipping facilities
- The storms caused unprecedented damage to electric and gas systems in the state, particularly in New Orleans. Entergy New Orleans lost service to 100% of its customers. The Ratepayer Mitigation Program provided **\$200 million** to Entergy New Orleans to restore the electric and gas infrastructures and prevent rate increases to the ratepayers; restoring **1.2 million** linear feet of lines and sparing **467,013** New Orleans customers rate increases.



Economic Development - \$317.4 million

- Without homes, thousands of people left New Orleans for other cities. It is estimated that New Orleans lost 190,000 jobs and employment fell by more than 30% from August 2005 to December 2005.
- Through the Tourism Marketing Program, grants were provided to the state Office of Culture, Recreation and Tourism and 14 parishes to purchase advertising, update websites and promote out-of-state tourism post-hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As a result, the number of tourists increased by 90% from 2006 to 2007.
- Through the Business Recovery Grant and Loan Program, **3,482** grants and **1,044** loans were funded through nine community-based nonprofit organizations. This provided immediate financial relief to small businesses in the most impacted areas of the state, particularly those that experienced a decrease in revenue after the storms.



- Through a partnership with the state Department of Economic Development and the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority, **789** bridge loans were provided to **748** businesses around the state. The **\$6.1 million** that was provided leveraged an additional **\$42.5 million**. This provided working capital to viable small businesses that suffered storm-related damages, allowing them to restart and sustain their operations.



- Through the Recovery Workforce Training Program in partnership with the Louisiana Workforce Commission, more than **15,000** workers, including **12,000** of low to moderate income, were trained. More than **7,400** workers were placed into jobs, including nearly **5,000** of low to moderate income. This provided grants to technical and community colleges and non-profit entities to develop and implement workforce training for quality jobs, particularly in storm-affected parishes.



- Through the Technical Assistance to Small Firms Program, more than **6,000** clients were served, including 3,791 businesses and 2,262 entrepreneurs. This helped stabilize and grow businesses in a changed market environment.

- Through the Innovation Loan and Technical Assistance Program, 36 loans were made to small businesses and **21,120** unique technical assistance services provided to nearly **7,000** small businesses. This encouraged private and philanthropic investment and extended greater opportunities to community-based start-ups, early stage and innovative businesses.

- Through the Research Commercialization and Educational Enhancement Program: **258** higher education faculty members were recruited or retained; **1,655** articles were published in, or under consideration by, peer-reviewed publications; **609** technology transfers, patents, disclosures or licenses applied for or received; and **47** businesses started. This helped retain and rebuild the research and educational capacity of storm-impacted areas by developing a strategic path to capitalize on the commercial potential of academic research.

- Through the Project-Based Recovery Opportunity Program, **15** projects have been completed and **101** jobs created. This elevated neighborhood economic development priorities, invested in commercial corridor revitalization, supported key local and state industry sectors, spurred long-term job creation and leveraged private resources with disaster recovery funding.