



**State of Louisiana**  
Division of Administration  
**Office of Community Development**  
**Disaster Recovery Unit**

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**HUD approves close out plan for Louisiana's Road Home Program**

*Feds approve OCD-DRU's request to allow interim housing expenses,  
additional construction assistance for non-compliant grantees*

BATON ROUGE – In a joint effort to provide additional assistance to Road Home participants and ultimately close out the program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has approved the Office of Community Development-Disaster Recovery Unit's proposal to provide additional remedies for homeowner grantees who remain non-compliant under program guidelines.

The plan, officially called Action Plan Amendment 65, allows still non-compliant Road Home grantees to eligibly claim interim housing expenses incurred while their homes were being rebuilt after Hurricane Katrina, and provides additional construction assistance under certain conditions.

APA 65 builds on previous modifications to the program made in APA 58, which amended policies for homeowners who had diverted grant proceeds to pay for unmet needs due to circumstances beyond their control.

"Hurricanes Katrina and Rita were unique, not just in the scope of their devastation but also in the nature and range of recovery issues that had to be addressed in the aftermath," OCD-DRU Executive Director Pat Forbes said. "These policy changes continue the Road Home program's goal of housing recovery for affected citizens, while also adhering to regulatory requirements of this federally-funded program. The allowance for interim living expenses expands opportunities for road home recipients to become compliant."

After the storms, insurance policies and various federal programs provided temporary housing costs or actual alternative housing options, but those resources had limited timeframes in which they were available.

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When those temporary housing programs ended, it is understandable that a homeowner might be uncertain if sufficient funds existed to complete the work necessary to return home and might consume resources on interim housing.

To be eligible for additional construction assistance for interim housing expense, the grantee: must be an Option 1 recipient or the legal heir of the original grant recipient; must not have resided in a FEMA trailer during the period of interim housing claimed; must not have had ownership interest in the interim housing location; must not have reoccupied the damaged property; and if in receipt of a Section 8 housing voucher, will only receive the amount of rent required of the grantee, thus reducing the voucher assistance.

APA 65 also allows homeowners participating in rehabilitation or reconstruction programs who have not yet reoccupied their homes because they need funding that exceeds the \$150,000 cap, to be eligible for such funding in the form of a shared equity agreement. This agreement requires repayment of the additional funding to the state upon sale of the house.

These measures are intended to provide additional resources for existing Road Home Program grant recipients to return home and become compliant with the program. The plan does not provide for new Road Home applicants to enter the program, nor does it provide additional compensation grants or reimbursement for interim housing expenses incurred when property has been repaired and occupied.

Road Home and Liaison staff will continue to work with homeowners to help them determine their best path forward, and they will now have additional tools. To date, The Road Home Program has achieved the following milestones:

- 130,055 homeowners have had their benefits calculated and of those, 130,041 (99.99%) homeowners have closed on their Road Home grant with disbursements totaling \$9,003,961,467. The average award is \$69,239.
- 119,240 (92%) of these homeowners have decided to stay and rebuild in Louisiana. Rebuilding resources provided to Option 1 homeowners total \$8,081,622,658. The average award is \$67,776.
- 61,628 additional disbursements have been closed for a total of \$1,711,395,743. The average additional disbursement is \$27,770.
- 54% of all Road Home dollars (\$4,871,165,774.47) have been provided to 56,088 low to moderate income households. The average award is \$86,848.63.
- 46,141 homeowners have received \$2,126,334,128 in Additional Compensation Grants (ACG) to supplement their recovery needs.
- 30,030 elderly applicants have closed for a total of \$2,404,077,252. The average award is \$80,056.
- 17,591 disabled (self-reporting) applicants have closed for a total of \$1,306,582,601. The average award is \$74,276.
- BRGA funding has been provided to 487 homeowners totaling \$16,076,994.
- IMM funding has been provided to 25,727 homeowners totaling \$192,719,391.
- 68,204 of the 116,709 applicants monitored through this period have been found to be compliant. 35 of the 38 work-in-progress parishes have greater than 40% compliancy.
- 32,392 applicants have received elevation disbursements, totaling \$942,967,929.

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Road Home participants interested in learning more about these additional remedies are encouraged to call the Road Home program at 1-888-ROAD-2-LA (1-888-762-3252) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST, Monday through Friday. Participants may also schedule appointments with liaisons for guidance in the compliance process. The Road Home program will also begin mailing out notification letters in the near future to those program participants who remain non-compliant with the program.

*The Disaster Recovery Unit within the Office of Community Development is dedicated to helping Louisiana's citizens recover from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac. As the state's central point for hurricane recovery, the OCD-DRU manages the most extensive rebuilding effort in American history, working closely with local, state and federal partners to ensure that Louisiana recovers safer, stronger and smarter than before.*

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