

Office of Community Development

Disaster Recovery Unit

State of Louisiana

Division of Administration

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State Accepting Public Comments on Funding for Isaac-Recovery School Board Public Facilities in St. John the Baptist Parish

BATON ROUGE – The State of Louisiana is accepting public comments on a Partial Action Plan that allocates \$5 million to the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board to address unmet Public Facilities needs following Hurricane Isaac. This funding is a subset of the parish's previously allocated total of \$32,674,000 in Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds.

As a result of Hurricane Isaac, flooding of up to three feet resulted in extensive damages to East St. John High School and Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School, both of which are public schools under the St. John the Baptist School Board's jurisdiction.

Damage estimates at the schools totaled \$39,343,292.14. After reducing the total by the amount of claims paid out through the National Flood Insurance Program, the School Board is responsible for a FEMA Public Assistance Cost-Share of 25 percent of the total costs, or \$9,189,236.95.

Partial Action Plan 7 allocates the \$5 million subset to the parish School Board for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the schools due to damage from the 2012 storm. The Parish Council has submitted its proposal to the state for the use of the funding via Resolution P15-35, dated Oct. 22, 2013.

The program will be administered by the St. John the Baptist Parish School Board. Overview, technical assistance and guidance will be provided by the state's Office of Community Development-Disaster Recovery Unit. OCD-DRU will enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the School Board on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish to obligate funds under Louisiana's PL 113-2 CDBG-DR allocation.

The formal public comment period for Partial Action Plan 7 begins today, Wednesday, March 16, 2016, and runs until 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 29, 2016. A copy of the plan can be requested by calling 225.219.9600. After accepting public comments, the state will submit the plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for final federal approval.

Members of the public can submit comments several ways:

- Using the online form at http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action_Plans.aspx ;
- Emailing them to ocd@la.gov;
- Mailing them to Disaster Recovery Unit, P.O. Box 94095, 70804-9095, Attn: Janice Lovett; or
- Faxing them to the attention of Janice Lovett at 225.219.9605.

The funds are part of the \$66.4 million in Community Development Block Grant dollars that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development allocated to the State of Louisiana for recovery from Hurricane Isaac. The City of New Orleans, Jefferson Parish and St. Tammany Parish all received separate, individual allocations from HUD. Of the \$66.4 million, the state has allocated \$32.7 million to St. John the Baptist Parish and \$16.9 million to Plaquemines Parish for their Hurricane Isaac recovery efforts.

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 lead for long-term disaster recovery, 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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