

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

[Docket No. FR-5051-N-01]

Federal Register / Volume 71, Number 29
Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006

**Louisiana Office of Community Development,
Division of Administration**

Louisiana Recovery Authority

**Action Plan Amendment 16 (First Allocation) –
Reallocation of Planning Funds**

Public Comment: August 10th, 2007
Original Submittal: September 26th, 2007
Revised: October 25th, 2007
November 9th, 2007



Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor

Mitch Landrieu
Lieutenant Governor

Jerry Luke LeBlanc
Commissioner of Administration

Dr. Norman Francis
Chairman, LRA Board

Office of Community Development
1201 North Third Street, Suite 7-270
P.O. Box 94095
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095
<http://www.LouisianaRebuilds.info>



Reallocation of Funds from Technical Assistance to Planning

The purpose of this Action Plan Amendment is to reallocate \$3,000,000 from the Technical Assistance program to the category of Planning. The redistribution of funds is described in the chart below. Additional planning assistance is necessary for local parishes as they do not currently have the capacity to develop and implement long term recovery plans.

Reallocation of Funds from Technical Assistance to Planning

Program	Previous Total	Reallocation	New Total
Technical Assistance	\$12,420,000	(\$3,000,000)	\$9,420,000
Planning	\$9,500,000	\$3,000,000	\$12,500,000

Planning

Eligible Activity	105(a)(12)
Activity Amount	\$12,500,000

GOAL

The Parish Recovery Planning Capacity Building program is intended to address ongoing planning needs resulting from the impact of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita on Louisiana's communities. To help address some of these recovery needs, the Louisiana Recovery Authority together with the Office of Community Development will issue grant applications to the most affected parishes for the funding of additional capacity for local recovery planning staffs.

These funds are to be used specifically for the hiring of additional staff to help manage recovery plans and/or recovery planning projects in the most affected parishes. These funds cannot be used to substitute funding for planners already on staff, nor can it be used to hire staff not working specifically on parish recovery planning. Parishes without any preexisting planning capacity are particularly encouraged to apply.

This grant will be a three year step-down award to parishes. All eligible parishes can be awarded funding for at least one planner over the three year period (based on an average planner salary calculated by the American Planning Association).

ELIGIBILITY

Any of the parishes listed below is eligible to apply for an award up to the maximum predetermined amount set forth. The base amount of \$60,891 represents the average planner salary calculated by the American Planning Association. The award amount represents a calculation of major and severe damage and pre-storm population together with average salary and a maximum yearly award of \$250,000.00 per Parish.

planner cost estimate

Owners - Total (Major & Severe)	SPREAD		Census July 1-05 Benchmark	Base \$ Spread	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total Stream
53,474	24%	Orleans	454,863	250.0	250.0	125.0	62.5	437.5
20,339	24%	Jefferson	452,824	248.9	248.9	124.4	62.2	435.5
13,689	12%	St. Tammany	220,295	121.1	121.1	60.9	60.9	242.9
4,428	10%	Calcasieu	185,419	101.9	101.9	60.9	60.9	223.7
2,079	6%	Terrebonne	107,491	59.1	60.9	60.9	60.9	182.7
13,736	3%	St. Bernard	65,364	35.9	60.9	60.9	60.9	182.7
2,108	3%	Vermilion	55,195	30.3	60.9	60.9	60.9	182.7
3,722	2%	Plaquemines	28,995	15.9	60.9	60.9	60.9	182.7
2,025	1%	Cameron	9,558	5.3	60.9	60.9	60.9	182.7
1,064	2%	Washington	44,623	24.5	60.9	60.9	60.9	182.7
1,037	4%	Iberia	74,388	40.9	60.9	60.9	60.9	182.7
677	6%	Tangipahoa	106,502	58.5	60.9	60.9	60.9	182.7
463	5%	Lafourche	92,179	50.7	60.9	60.9	60.9	182.7
	100%	TOTAL	1,897,696	1,043	1,270	919	795	2,984

Avg Salary

60,891

REQUIREMENTS

Parish planners funded through this program must work directly on the development of locally designated parish recovery plans or projects in a parish planning office or redevelopment/recovery office specifically tied to a CDBG funded project.

Parishes are to use these monies to pay reasonable wages to hire additional recovery planning staff. The predetermined parish allocation is the maximum grant amount the parish can receive. No additional amount will be given to cover additional benefits, etc. The parish must budget their grant amount to cover the total expense of hiring

additional staff. Additionally, the grant award is prohibited from being used to cover administrative costs. These funds are for direct planning services. Parishes are also prohibited from using these funds to supplement existing staff salaries or benefits. This grant program is by no means a long term commitment to funding parish planning staff. The program is intended to be a 3-year immediate recovery and rebuilding commitment. Over the course of the 3-year period, funding will decrease and it is expected that parishes will either budget for the balance of the funds given the previous year or have less staff capacity. Parishes will be asked to identify how they will continue to meet their planning needs as funds decrease.

Additionally, through an application, Parishes must clearly identify the organizational structure of the intended planning agency and how the position(s) these grants fund will fit within that structure. It is also required that parishes identify specific job tasks for these positions in their applications.

For the purposes of this program, a recovery planner is defined as any person hired by a parish governmental entity to produce or further develop a parish recovery plan or any aspect of that plan that leads to the implementation of a CDBG funded project.

Parishes will be required to submit quarterly reports outlining the use of the funds and the recovery work produced as a result.

Technical Assistance

Eligible Activity	105(a)(19)
Activity Amount	\$9,420,000

The OCD will provide assistance to UGLGs to help plan and implement long term recovery strategies. OCD will provide pre-application workshops for local government as well as implementation workshops. Technical assistant programs will be developed to assist in areas where it has been determined that a need exists. Training and materials will be provided to homeowners, inspectors, contractors, etc., to assist them on various topics. One-on-one technical assistance will be provided to those UGLGs experiencing performance problems. \$3,000,000 is being re-allocated from technical assistance activities to planning activities in this Amendment, bringing the total allocation of Technical Assistance to \$9,420,000.

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

This Amendment was posted for Public Comment on August 10th, 2007 and remained available for review and comment through September 10th, 2007 so that the foreign language versions, which were posted on August 30th, 2007, were available for 10 days of Public Comment. This Amendment was also approved by the Louisiana Recovery Authority Board on July 30th, 2007 and the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget on August 14th, 2007. The State received no comments on this Amendment.