

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

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*Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006*

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

**Louisiana Recovery Authority**

***Proposed Action Plan Amendment # 29 (First Allocation)***

**Reallocation of Funds to Building Code Enforcement**

**Public Comment: August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

**September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008**



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Governor**

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**<http://www.doa.louisiana.gov/cdbg/cdbg.htm>**



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## Reallocation of Funds from Technical Assistance to Building Code Enforcement

The purpose of this Action Plan Amendment is to reallocate \$3,300,000 from the Technical Assistance program to the Building Code Enforcement Program. The redistribution of funds is described in the chart. This Amendment does not change any policies, procedures, methods of distribution, or eligibility criteria associated with any of the affected programs, only the total amount of money that is allocated to each program. The Action Plan or Action Plan Amendments that created or revised the policies and procedures of each program still remain as the current policy document(s) for each of these programs. As the recovery effort and rebuilding and certification of the housing stock will continue at a brisk pace in Louisiana with over 95% of Road Home properties having closed, the demand for Code Enforcement assistance from local governments has not waned and is expected to increase. To ensure that bottlenecks do not occur in regards to code enforcement, the State is proposing to extend these activities with this amendment.

PROGRAM	PREVIOUS TOTAL	REALLOCATION	NEW TOTAL
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	\$4,720,000	(\$3,300,000)	\$1,420,000
BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$13,090,000	\$3,300,000	\$16,390,000

### BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM POLICY

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITY	105(a)(3)
ACTIVITY AMOUNT	\$16,390,000

Without special assistance provided to local governments, it is expected that a major impediment to housing development will be the lack of building, electrical and plumbing inspectors and permit processing staff. In addition, architects and builders will need inspectors and plan reviewers to help communities adapt to the new State Uniform Construction Code and to interpret the latest available advisory base flood elevations and DFIRMS required by the Federal Government. Therefore, the State had previously budgeted an initial \$11,390,000. In February of 2008, the State's Department of Public Safety (DPS) and Office of Community Development (OCD) requested that an additional \$1,700,000 be re-allocated for hiring such staff for local government over a number of years, based on the numbers of damaged/destroyed units in each parish. OCD and DPS have concluded that the total additional will be approximately \$5,000,000 and this \$3,300,000 will provide funds for at least 40 field inspectors and plan reviewers, as well as a limited number of support staff. The State will also support the expansion of code enforcement capacity by sponsoring additional training opportunities for inspectors, engineers and architects. While building code enforcement by local authorities will be supported by permitting and inspection fees in the long run, this initial CDBG funding is necessary to immediately expand enforcement capacity to expedite the construction of

safer and stronger homes where the storm impact was most concentrated and building activity will be fervent in coming months.

## **APPENDIX 1 PUBLIC COMMENTS AND STATE'S RESPONSE**

Only one public comment was received on APA 29. It addressed a concern about the redistribution of funds away from the development of affordable housing.

### **Public Comment**

To take money from communities when low and moderate housing is non-existent must not be done. The money must get used for such housing. The community block grant program seems the only way to do such. If the LRA wants to redistribute the money let the LRA start a low income duplex housing project with the money.

### **State Response**

The state agrees that there is a serious need for affordable housing. The state has allocated \$1.2 billion in CDBG funds to the development of new and rehabilitated rental units. A great majority of the projects make available affordable units.

Code enforcement is a critical component of building and repairing lost homes and rental units. The funds reallocated under this program will make available resources to train localities in code enforcement in order to ensure the proper and safe rebuilding and repair of much needed housing.