

Disaster Recovery Initiative
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**Louisiana Office of Community Development,
Division of Administration**

Louisiana Recovery Authority

Action Plan Amendment No. 35 (First Allocation) – *Modifications to Local Government Infrastructure Program*

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Local Government Emergency Infrastructure

Eligible Activity **105(a1) Acquisition**, (a2) Public Facilities, **(a4) Clearance**,
(a9) Payment of Non-Federal Share, **(a12) Planning and Capacity Building**,
Special Economic Development (a17), **202 Housing Rehabilitation** and (a8)
Provision of Public Services.

National Objective Low to moderate income, elimination of blight, urgent need

The purpose of this Amendment is to add Acquisition and Clearance, Planning and Acquisition, as well as Special Economic Development, Housing Rehabilitation, as eligible activities to the Local Government Infrastructure Program, which was created in the State of Louisiana's original Action Plan for the Use of Disaster Recovery Funds and amended in Action Plan Amendments 2, 10, and 25. Additionally, the State is proposing a change in method of distribution of funds.

Originally, this program was developed to provide local governments with the required non-federal match for FEMA public assistance program grants, then added non-federal match for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds and for work performed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service in removing hurricane debris from drainage features in rural areas of the state, as previously detailed in Action Plan Amendments 2, 10 and 25.

The program was also designated for repairs and enhancements that are ineligible under the FEMA PA grant program, including but not limited to uninsured and underinsured damages, insurance deductibles and improvements for code compliance, if they are determined to be critical to continued delivery and or protection of vital public services by state and local government entities in accordance with criteria established by the LRA. These criteria shall take into account the areas where the hurricane damages were most severe.

In 2007, former President Bush granted a 100 percent waiver of match requirements for FEMA projects. With the elimination of the need to match FEMA Public Assistance (PA) projects and the availability of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program match credits from other sources, one of the original purposes of the program was eliminated. There are still many public infrastructure recovery and rebuilding needs that are not covered by other recovery programs.

The Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) continues to track, monitor and identify these disaster-related gaps in community recovery and ways to address these gaps in order to revitalize and restore communities and neighborhoods, while making them more resilient to future storm events.

To address these funding gaps, the LRA has determined that CDBG funds from the Local Government Infrastructure program should be used to facilitate neighborhood and community recovery by assisting specific public entities in their continued rebuilding.

As such, the available funds in this program will be dedicated to projects in the hurricane-affected zones that address specific recovery needs, as listed below, and that are either not eligible for other disaster programs, or for which there is insufficient funding in existing programs to address these critical needs. The determination of which projects will be funded under this program will be made by the Governor's Office based on analysis by the LRA staff. The LRA

has identified the following four broad program areas for which there is insufficient funding in existing programs to address these critical needs.

- Critical Services – Including, but not limited to: public utilities, first responders, healthcare, community services
- Higher Education – Public institutions of higher education
- Economic Development – Large-scale initiatives to create and/or retain jobs
- Blight Elimination -- Demolition and slab removal of blighted properties that are not eligible for FEMA PA funding

Expenditures from the Local Government Infrastructure program must meet the following guidelines:

1. Projects demonstrate that they are not eligible for PA or any other source of funds;
2. That the funding to be provided is for cases of critical needs based on their meeting criteria developed by the LRA for the use of these limited funds;
3. That the funding be provided to projects within parishes which have adopted the latest available base flood elevations of the FEMA Flood Recovery Guidance, unless exceptions are granted by the LRA based on reasonable alternatives where safety is not minimized;
4. That the funding be provided within parishes or communities which have adopted, implemented or are in the process of implementing the new statewide building code standards adopted in the 2005 1st Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature;
5. That the projects receiving funding follow the best design for delivery of services in light of the population shifts and changed circumstances of many Louisiana communities; and
6. That each infrastructure project considers and/or proposes a mitigation plan to minimize damage in the event of future floods or hurricanes.

As stated in the initial action plan, each project funded will meet one of the three national objectives. Until applications are received and service areas and beneficiaries are known, the specific national objective cannot be determined.

This activity is considered to be a low risk activity. Monitoring will be performed by the Office of Community Development staff in accordance with the Infrastructure Monitoring Plan.