

One Year Later: \$5 Billion Assists Louisiana Flood Recovery

Release Date: August 3, 2017

BATON ROUGE, La. — One year ago torrential rains devastated Louisiana communities and tens of thousands of homes and businesses. A presidential disaster declaration made federal help available to individuals and businesses in 22 parishes and local and state government agencies and certain private nonprofits in 26 parishes.

Disaster Recovery Summary:

- **\$5 billion** in federal disaster assistance, low-interest disaster loans and National Flood Insurance Program payments have flowed to Louisiana for recovery and rebuilding.
- More than 83,000 households have been eligible for FEMA disaster help.
- FEMA has approved about **\$772 million** to help survivors. Of that:
 - Survivors have received about **\$146 million**—an average **\$2,200** per household—to pay for somewhere to stay if their home was uninhabitable.
 - Survivors have received **\$458 million**—an average **\$13,100** per household—for home repairs to make them habitable and nearly **\$164 million**—an average **\$3,800** per household—to replace household items and for other essential needs.
- More than **\$2.4 million** in disaster unemployment assistance has gone to certain workers whose employment was affected by the flood.
- The Transitional Sheltering Assistance program sheltered 4,300 households in 401 hotels.
- About 1,200 households have moved out of Manufactured Housing Units and into long-term housing. The state requested MHUs for some survivors—about 4,600 households received them—who were unable to find temporary housing.
 - About 70 percent of remaining families are on schedule with permanent housing plans.



FEMA

Page 1 of 3

- FEMA's Multi-Family Lease and Repair program has funded repairs to 132 rental units for flood survivors.
- **\$1.3 billion** in loans has been approved by the U.S. Small Business Administration for 17,580 homeowners, renters and businesses and businesses affected by the flood.
- FEMA has obligated about **\$436 million** to the state to reimburse local and state

government agencies and certain private nonprofits for eligible emergency response activities and infrastructure projects.

- The amount includes **\$90 million** for temporary facilities and to clean flood debris at schools.
- The state and FEMA have worked with more than 280 applicants in 26 parishes to develop specifications and costs for eligible recovery projects.
- FEMA typically reimburses 75 percent of eligible disaster-related expenses. However, applicants will be reimbursed 90 percent of eligible expenses given the magnitude of the flood.
- More than **29,600** claims have been submitted to the National Flood Insurance Program with more than **\$2.4 billion** paid out to survivors. Policyholders have received an average payment of **\$88,300**.

Recovery through Partnerships

The state, volunteer agencies, FEMA and other federal recovery partners have coordinated solutions to overcome many recovery challenges after the August flood:

- **300 volunteer groups** coordinate with FEMA to provide resources for unmet needs. Volunteer groups are crucial parts of recovery because federal disaster assistance alone cannot make survivors whole again.
- **19 affected Louisiana communities have long-term recovery committees** comprised of nonprofit groups and FEMA liaisons to create recovery solutions and fill in gaps.
- Three faith-based groups have agreements with FEMA for 181 case managers to work directly with survivors on recovery plans and matching needs to available resources.



- The state's Shelter at Home program provided **\$26 million** in FEMA funds for emergency repairs to homes.
- Restore Louisiana's Homeowners Assistance Program is providing U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds to help homeowners with repairs.
- The Louisiana Housing Corporation is offering HUD funds to eligible developers and landlords to increase affordable housing in affected areas.
- The state requested FEMA to initiate the Watershed Resiliency Study. Data will be used to determine ways to manage areas where rivers drain—watersheds—and prevent or reduce infrastructure damage.
- **More than 200 private sector entities** in Louisiana coordinated with FEMA to provide helpful information to more than 625,000 people. This help included how to apply for FEMA help and tips on rebuilding safer, stronger and smarter.



FEMA

Page 3 of 3