

**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

Proposed Action Plan Amendment # 29 (First Allocation)

Reallocation of Funds to Building Code Enforcement

August 8th, 2008



**Bobby Jindal
Governor**

**Mitch Landrieu
Lieutenant Governor**

**Angele Davis
Commissioner of Administration**

**David Voelker
Chairman, LRA Board**

**Office of Community Development
301 Main Street, Suite 600
P.O. Box 94095**

Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9095

<http://www.LouisianaRebuilds.info>

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Reallocation of Funds to Building Code Enforcement **2**

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.