

DISASTER RECOVERY INITIATIVE  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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Allocations, Waivers and Alternative Requirements for Grantees Receiving Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds in Response to Disasters Occurring in 2011, 2012 and 2013  
*The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2)*  
Federal Register Docket No. FR-5696-N-03

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-DISASTER RECOVERY UNIT

**STATE OF LOUISIANA PROPOSED PARTIAL ACTION PLAN No. 7  
FOR THE UTILIZATION OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS  
IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE ISAAC**

Public Comment Period: March 16 – March 29, 2016

Submitted to HUD: April 6, 2016

Approved by HUD: June 9, 2016

**John Bel Edwards**  
Governor

**Billy Nungesser**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Jay Dardenne**  
Commissioner of Administration

## I. Overview

This Partial Action Plan No. 7 allocates and obligates \$5,000,000 to the St. John the Baptist School Board as a subset of St. John the Baptist Parish's previously allocated \$32,674,000. This funding allocation and obligation, in accordance with the parish's unmet needs assessment as outlined in the state's Master Action Plan, is necessary to address unmet Public Facilities needs in St. John the Baptist Parish following Hurricane Isaac.

Program	Total Allocation	% of Allocation	Obligation for Partial Action Plan No. 7
St. John the Baptist Parish	\$27,674,000	43.0%	\$0
St. John the Baptist Parish School Board	\$5,000,000	7.8%	\$5,000,000 (Public Facilities)
Plaquemines Parish	\$16,953,000	26.3%	\$0
FEMA Cost-Share	\$5,886,000	9.1%	\$0
State Administration, Planning and Program Delivery	\$3,320,000	5.2%	\$0
Hazard Mitigation Cost-Share Assistance Program	\$3,021,084	4.7%	\$0
Homeowner Rehabilitation Program	\$1,425,000	2.2%	\$0
Parish Recovery Priority Projects	\$1,100,000	1.7%	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,379,084</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

## II. Program Description

Hurricane Isaac caused overland flooding and tidal surge in St. John the Baptist Parish of up to three feet, resulting in extensive damages to East St. John High School and Lake Pontchartrain Elementary, public schools under the St. John the Baptist School Board's jurisdiction. Damages at both schools included, but was not limited to, all VCT flooring, drywall, baseboards, electrical, network, alarm systems and HVAC systems. High temperatures and humidity following Hurricane Isaac, combined with a lack of air conditioning, caused significant mold growth on all vertical and horizontal surfaces.

The current estimate of costs to repair damages to both schools totals \$39,343,292.14. After the deduction for claims paid with NFIP Insurance, St. John the Baptist School Board is responsible for a FEMA Public Assistance Cost-Share of 25% of the total costs, which is \$9,189,236.95. To address these unmet recovery needs and to satisfy part of the Cost-Share, the Parish Council, in submitting its proposal for the use of CDBG-DR Isaac funding, identified the need to reconstruct and rehabilitate the schools and allocated \$5,000,000 from its overall CDBG-DR Isaac allocation to the school board to assist with the recovery of the schools via Resolution P15-35, dated October 22, 2013.

**Eligible Activities:** 105(a)(2,4,5,8,9)

**National Objective:** Low-and Moderate Income Benefit, Urgent Need

**Activity Allocation:** \$5,000,000

**Activity Obligation:** \$5,000,000

## III. Overview and Delivery

The proposed program will be administered through the St. John the Baptist School Board, with overview, technical assistance and guidance provided by the state through OCD-DRU. OCD-DRU will enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the St. John the Baptist School Board, on behalf of St. John the Baptist Parish, to obligate funds under Louisiana's PL 113-2 CDBG-DR allocation.

**IV. Monitoring**

OCD-DRU will monitor St. John the Baptist Parish School Board in accordance with the contracts and the OCD-DRU Monitoring Plan.

**V. Overall Grant Impact**

This Partial Action Plan No. 7 allocates and obligates \$5,000,000 as a programmatic subset of the previous \$32,674,000 allocation the state made to address unmet needs in St. John the Baptist Parish.

**Obligation/Allocation Changes to St. John the Baptist Parish Allocation**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Obligated in Partial Action Plan No. 7</b>
Homeowner Rehabilitation Program	\$11,549,820	-
Small Rental Rehabilitation Program	\$1,919,662	-
Housing Elevation Program	\$2,500,000	-
Homebuyer Assistance Program	\$2,981,438	-
Demolition and Clearance Program	\$350,000	-
Small Business Grant and Loan Program	\$3,334,880	-
School Board	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
Admin.	\$163,370	-
TBD	\$4,874,830	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,674,000</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>

**VI. Public Comment**

A. This Partial Action Plan is considered substantial as it allocates \$5,000,000 and creates a new program, per the allowable activities described in the Master Action Plan. The formal public comment period for the plan was Wed., March 16, 2016 through Tues., March 29, 2016 at 5 p.m.

Citizens and organizations could comment on this amendment via:

- The OCD-DRU website, [http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action\\_Plans.aspx](http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action_Plans.aspx);
- Emailing them to [ocd@la.gov](mailto:ocd@la.gov);
- Mailing them to Disaster Recovery Unit, P.O. Box 94095, 70804-9095, Attn: Janice Lovett; or
- Faxing them to the attention of Janice Lovett at (225) 219-9605.

The plan was translated into Vietnamese and Spanish to reach the limited English proficiency citizens in the impacted areas. Citizens with disabilities or those who need other technical assistance could contact the OCD-DRU office for assistance via the methods listed above.

**B. Summary of Public Comments and State’s Response**

Two public comments were received. Both comments expressed concerns about using taxpayer funds to pay for conditions that existed at East St. John High School and Lake Pontchartrain Elementary

School prior to Hurricane Isaac. The commenter referenced problems with alarm systems, intercoms, HVAC systems, tiles, high temperatures, humidity and mold.

St. John the Baptist Parish School Board acknowledged that the age of East St. John High School (36 years) contributed to maintenance problems that have been addressed. St. John the Baptist Parish School Board also acknowledged that Lake Pontchartrain Elementary School experienced above-average mechanical issues, and that these issues were attributed to faulty design and construction. St. John the Baptist Parish School Board stated that they won a lawsuit over these issues and utilized those funds to correct the problems. OCD-DRU has determined that the specific activities to be funded with this cost-share meet CDBG-DR eligibility requirements.