

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

Allocations, Waivers, and Alternative Requirements for Grantees Receiving Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Funds in Response to Disasters Occurring in 2016  
*The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2017, The Further Continuing and Security Assistance Appropriations Act, 2017 and The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 114-223, 114-254 and 115-31)*

Federal Register Docket No.

FR-5989-N-01, FR-6012-N-01 and FR-6039-N-01, FR-6136-N-01

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DISASTER RECOVERY UNIT



**STATE OF LOUISIANA  
ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 19 (SUBSTANTIAL)  
FOR THE UTILIZATION OF  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS  
IN RESPONSE TO THE GREAT FLOODS OF 2016**

Public Comment Period: September 7, 2022 – October 4, 2022

Submitted to HUD: October 24, 2022

HUD Approved: December 12, 2022

**John Bel Edwards**  
Governor

**Billy Nungesser**  
Lieutenant Governor

**Jay Dardenne**  
Commissioner of Administration



## **A. Summary of Changes**

The purpose of Action Plan Amendment 19 is to reduce the allocations of multiple programs, using those funds to increase the budget for the Middle Market Loan program and create a new affordable rental housing program. Further clarification will be provided for the Flood-Ready Workforce Development program, including a program name change to PRO Louisiana. The increase to the Middle Market Loan program is intended to provide more gap assistance for construction that will continue to benefit LMI renters. A new affordable rental housing recovery program is critical to the ongoing recovery of impacted communities, and it will help to stabilize the housing stock of the impacted areas.

This APA is considered substantial, as it involves the movement of more than \$5,000,000.00 and creates one new program.

## B. Total CDBG-DR Allocations

State of Louisiana Total CDBG-DR Allocations				
	Previous Allocation	Change	Revised Allocation	Percent Change
<b>Total Allocation</b>	<b>1,708,407,000.00</b>		<b>1,708,407,000.00</b>	
<b>Respire Louisiana Homeowner Programs</b>				
Homeowner Assistance Program	1,066,716,475.00	(7,000,000)	1,059,716,475.00	-1%
RLHP Flood Insurance Assistance Program	1,000,000.00	-	1,000,000.00	0%
RLHP Interim Housing Assistance Program	7,000,000.00	(1,000,000)	6,000,000.00	-14%
<b>Rental Housing, Housing Assistance and Hhomelessness Prevention Program</b>				
Neighborhood Landlord Rental Program	36,085,427.26	-	36,085,427.26	0%
Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase II	7,561,331.82	-	7,561,331.82	0%
Neighborhood Landlord Program Phase III	14,301,124.92	-	14,301,124.92	0%
Multifamily Rental GAP Program	21,015,518.00	-	21,015,518.00	0%
Piggyback Program	73,040,006.00	-	73,040,006.00	0%
Permanent Supportive Housing Program	5,000,000.00	-	5,000,000.00	0%
Rapid Rehousing Program	18,000,000.00	(7,000,000)	11,000,000.00	-39%
Resilient and Mixed Income Piggyback Program	108,000,000.00	-	108,000,000.00	0%
Neighborhood Stabilization Housing Initiative	-	-	-	
Soft Second Program	6,000,000.00	-	6,000,000.00	0%
Safe Haven Program	4,000,000.00	-	4,000,000.00	0%
Louisiana Military Dept - Affordable Rental Housing	10,000,000.00	-	10,000,000.00	0%
Cypress at Ardenale - Affordable Rental Housing	-	8,000,000	8,000,000.00	100%
Rural Bond Bundle Program	15,000,000.00	-	15,000,000.00	0%
OCD CDBG Homeownership (OCHO) Pilot Program	5,000,000.00	-	5,000,000.00	0%
Middle-Market Loan Program (MMLP)	16,000,000.00	17,000,000	33,000,000.00	106%
Fast GAP A Program	15,000,000.00	-	15,000,000.00	0%
Fast Gap B (Rental Affordability Preservation) Program	17,368,652.00	-	17,368,652.00	0%
<b>Restore Louisiana Economic Recovery and Revitalization Programs</b>				
Small Business Loan Program	39,306,474.00	-	39,306,474.00	0%
Small Business Technical Assistance Program	-	-	-	0%
Farm Recovery Program	19,741,171.00	-	19,741,171.00	0%
<b>Restore Louisiana Infrastructure and Public Services</b>				
Infrastructure Program (PA Match)	115,000,000.00	(10,000,000)	105,000,000.00	-9%
First Responders Public Services Program	1,691,140.00	-	1,691,140.00	0%
<del>Flood Ready Workforce Development Program</del> PRO Louisiana Workforce Development	3,500,000.00	-	3,500,000.00	0%
<b>Administration and Planning</b>				
Watershed Modeling and Planning	21,600,800.00	-	21,600,800.00	0%
Regional Capacity Building Grant	3,200,000.00	-	3,200,000.00	0%
Administration and Planning	58,278,880.00	-	58,278,880.00	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,708,407,000.00</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,708,407,000.00</b>	<b>0%</b>

## C. Proposed Use of Funds

1. Homeowner Assistance Program – Restore Louisiana Homeowner Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and Reimbursement Program

<b>Eligible Activity</b>	<b>Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, Buyouts, and Acquisitions, (42 U.S.C. 5305(a)(4)); HCDA Sections 105 (a)(1), 105(a)(3-4), 105(a)(7-8). Housing Incentive, as identified in Federal Register Docket No. FR-5989-N-01. Also eligible are elevation expenses related to rehabilitation and reconstruction activities and reimbursement of eligible rehabilitation and reconstruction activities.</b>
<b>National Objective</b>	<b>Urgent need or benefit to low- to moderate-income persons</b>
<b>Previous Program Budget</b>	<b>\$1,066,716,475.00</b>
<b>Budget Change</b>	<b>(\$7,000,000.00)</b>
<b>Revised Program Budget</b>	<b>\$1,059,716,475.00</b>

**Budget change summary:** The state has determined that after reducing the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program budget by \$7,000,000.00, sufficient funds will be available to serve all eligible households.

2. RLHP Interim Housing Assistance Program – Restore Louisiana Homeowner Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and Reimbursement Program

<b>Eligible Activity</b>	<b>Interim mortgage assistance, rental assistance to displaced homeowners, HCDA Sections 105(a)(8), FR-5989-N-01, 81 FR 83254</b>
<b>National Objective</b>	<b>Urgent need or benefit to low- to moderate-income persons</b>
<b>Previous Program Budget</b>	<b>\$7,000,000.00</b>
<b>Budget Change</b>	<b>(\$1,000,000.00)</b>
<b>Revised Program Budget</b>	<b>\$6,000,000.00</b>

**Budget change summary:** The state has determined that after reducing the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program budget by \$1,000,000.00, sufficient funds will be available to serve all eligible households.

3. Rapid Rehousing Program - Rental Housing, Housing Assistance and Homelessness Prevention Program

<b>Eligible Activity</b>	<b>HCDA Section 105(a)4, 105(a)8</b>
<b>Nation Objective</b>	<b>Benefit to low- to moderate-income persons and urgent need</b>
<b>Previous Program Budget</b>	<b>\$18,000,000.00</b>
<b>Budget Change</b>	<b>(\$7,000,000.00)</b>
<b>Revised program Budget</b>	<b>\$11,000,000.00</b>

**Budget change summary:** The state has determined that after reducing the Rapid Rehousing Program budget by \$7,000,000.00, sufficient funds will be available to serve all eligible applicants.

4. Middle-Market Loan Program - Rental Housing, Housing Assistance and Homelessness Prevention Program

<b>Eligible Activity</b>	<b>Acquisition of Real Property, HCDA Sections 105 (a)(1) Clearance, Rehabilitation, Reconstruction, and Construction of Buildings (Including Housing), HCDA Section 105(a)(4) New Housing Construction, as identified in Federal Register Docket No. FR-5989-N-01</b>
<b>National Objective</b>	<b>Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons</b>
<b>Program Budget</b>	<b>\$16,000,000.00</b>
<b>Budget Change</b>	<b>\$17,000,000.00</b>
<b>Revised Program Budget</b>	<b>\$33,000,000.00</b>

**Budget change summary:** The state created the Middle-Market Loan Program in APA 16 to provide gap financing to support the rehab and/or construction of multi-family buildings that serve a range of household incomes, with the goal of using higher-cost units to generate deeper affordability for LMI renters. The budget is being increased by \$17,000,000. The additional funds will further support the construction or rehabilitation of affordable housing units.

5. Infrastructure (PA Match) Program - Restore Louisiana Infrastructure and Public Services

<b>Eligible Activity</b>	<b>Non-federal share 105(a)(9)</b>
<b>National Objective</b>	<b>Urgent need, benefit to low- to moderate-income persons, elimination of slums and blight</b>
<b>Program Budget</b>	<b>\$115,000,000.00</b>
<b>Budget Change</b>	<b>(\$10,000,000.00)</b>
<b>Revised Program Budget</b>	<b>\$105,000,000.00</b>

**Budget change summary:** The state has determined that after reducing the Infrastructure (PA Match) Program budget by \$10,000,000.00, sufficient funds will be available to serve all participating projects.

## D. New Program Allocation and Description

### Cypress at Ardendale - Affordable Rental Housing Program

**Unmet Need:**

In 2016, Louisiana had two separate events that qualified for appropriation under Public Law 114-223. The state experienced severe storms and flooding in both March (Disaster Number 4263) and August (Disaster Number 4277) of 2016 – collectively referred to as the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding – resulting in 56 of the state’s 64 parishes receiving a federal disaster declaration. From the March event, more than 16,462 homes have Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Verified Loss and 5,222 renters have FEMA Verified Loss (FVL), for a total of 21,684 households. The National Weather Service designated the August flooding event that dropped an unprecedented 7 trillion gallons of rainwater in South Louisiana as a “1,000-year” rainfall event. It resulted in the flooding of more than 68,380 homes with FVL and 23,248 renters with FVL, for a total of 91,628 households. The August storm claimed 13 lives. During the October 10 Congressional Session, state government officials, including Gov. John Bel Edwards, traveled to Washington D.C. and worked collaboratively with Louisiana’s Congressional Delegation to secure long-term disaster recovery resources in response to DR-4263 and DR-4277. Working with limited

disaster loss unmet need information, Louisiana’s delegation proposed a relief package of nearly \$3.8 billion. This package focused primarily on housing needs, as the state has prioritized housing as its most urgent and pressing recovery concern following the two flooding events.

<b>Eligible Activity</b>	<b>HCDA Sections 105(a)(4), Clearance, demolition, removal, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of buildings and improvements, and financing public or private acquisition for reconstruction or rehabilitation, and reconstruction or rehabilitation, of privately owned properties</b>
<b>National Objective</b>	<b>Benefit to low- and moderate-income persons</b>
<b>Program Budget</b>	<b>\$ 8,000,000.00</b>
<b>Geographic Eligibility</b>	<b>Disaster-declared East Baton Rouge Parish impacted by the 2016 Severe Storms and Flooding</b>
<b>Administering Entity</b>	<b>The State of Louisiana or its subrecipient(s)</b>

**Program Summary:** This Affordable Rental Housing Program (EBR\_A) will provide up to \$8,000,000.00 funding for the Cypress at Ardentale Affordable Rental housing project in East Baton Rouge Parish. This project aligns federal funding streams that are invested in transforming an approximately 1.6-square mile area of two overlapping neighborhoods (Smiley Heights and Melrose East) at the heart of North Baton Rouge. The vision for this community is to develop a holistic, integrated revitalization plan that transforms Smiley Heights, Melrose East, and Ardenwood Village into a community of opportunity and choice for the people who live there. The existing affordable Ardenwood Village housing will be preserved by the construction of a new, mixed-income community adjacent to the existing community, where the residents of Ardenwood Village will be able to move upon completion.

This program will address the long-term housing recovery needs of low- to moderate-income Louisiana families in flood-impacted East Baton Rouge Parish. With affordable housing always in demand in the flood-impacted communities, this program is similar in its goals to the Flood Piggyback Program and the Flood Resilient Mixed-Income Piggyback Program in that it seeks to construct quality affordable housing stock so desperately needed by LMI individuals and families in all flood-impacted communities.

Funding may be through a combination of loan and grant structure as determined appropriate by the state. Funding for the housing development itself will be through repayable surplus cash loans similar to the multifamily housing programs referenced above. Area infrastructure improvements, if any, serving the community that are not constructed as part of the housing development may be through a grant agreement to the responsible political subdivision.

## **E. Existing Program Name Change**

### **PRO Louisiana – Workforce Development**

**Summary of change:** The state re-branded the Flood-Ready Workforce Development program to PRO Louisiana. The program will be expanded beyond the Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program to which it is currently providing resources. The program will target high-demand **Professional Resilience Occupations**, which will further benefit the residents of Louisiana by providing training resources to eligible entities. The program will not only have a positive impact on the struggling industries in Louisiana, but with a focus on resiliency, the program also will bring local resources to areas that are still recovering from disasters.

## F. Public Comments

Per the state's initial Action Plan, this Amendment is considered substantial as it as it substantially amends program budgets and adds new programs and beneficiaries. The formal public comment period for the amendment begins Wednesday September 7, 2022 and runs until 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 4, 2022. Citizens and organizations can comment on this amendment via:

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

The plan is available in Vietnamese and Spanish to reach the limited English proficiency citizens in the impacted areas. Citizens with disabilities or those who need other technical assistance can contact the OCD office for assistance via the methods listed above.

## G. Appendix

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

I have been trying to find get accepted into affordable housing since 2014. On first I was denied due to the fact of my age. When I became of age I filled out multiple applications during the section 8 window frame opening however. Again, still no response and no up date for the 2 and 3rd time I decided to keep documentation on when I officially applied! As a single parent I didn't understand how could I be refused low income housing separately and individually even when I was able to bring some kind of income in! Because me not be able to have a chance to be approved and to actually be on the program to help improve a better life for me and my kid. This has created an unmeasurable amount of hurt and anger towards the affordable home low income program. I feel that im not privileged to ever be fit for y'all's program. This feeling has been placed in my heart to know that surely that low income housing has failed to support,help,deny and even try with Mothers and Women such as me. I pray that for the future for our kids and for the love GOD be poured down up in to y'all's system so that y'all can have a heart for women that is trying to create a better life for themselves and children! The feeling is irreplaceable, unmovable and very unmatched. It does not level up to the equal opportunity right that y'all are supposed to enforce and promote thank you and GOD BLESS.

### **OCD RESPONSE:**

Thank you for your comment on the proposed action plan amendment for the Floods of 2016, APA #19. The Louisiana Office of Community Development will include your comment and our response when we submit the plan to HUD for federal approval. There is a housing locator service that can be accessed via this web address, <https://www.lahousingsearch.org/>.