



Interim Executive Director's Report

April 13, 2016

Activation of the Louisiana Disaster Housing Task Force

The Louisiana Disaster Housing Task Force (LDHTF) held its initial meeting on Monday, March 13, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. at the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) in response to the flooding and severe storms that hit the state on March 8. The core team members of the LDHTF are the LHC, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP), Office of Community Development – Disaster Recovery Unit (OCD-DRU), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH), Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Louisiana Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (LA VOAD), and American Red Cross (ARC). The home base for the LDHTF will be the (LHC).

To date, 36 parishes have been affected by the recent storms and flooding in the state: Allen, Ascension, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Calcasieu, Caldwell, Catahoula, Claiborne, De Soto, East Carroll, Franklin, Grant, Jackson, La Salle, Lincoln, Livingston, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Richland, Sabine, St. Helena, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Union, Vernon, Washington, Webster, West Carroll and Winn. At the height of the disaster, nearly 18,000 residents suffered a direct effect of the storms and flooding; 6,056 residents had to be rescued by the LA National Guard or the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; and 211 residents were housed in eight (8) shelters across the state. Currently, there are 66 residents housed in three (3) shelters.

The LDHTF began working on a housing plan to tackle housing issues in the parishes affected most by the storms and flooding. The housing stock was scarce before the disaster occurred and now has been significantly impacted. The time frame in which repairs can be completed on the damaged units is considerably longer than initially anticipated. Many units will take 5-6 months to get back online. Residents who were housed in shelters have since doubled up with other family members and friends or moved into hotels temporarily upon receiving Transitional Sheltering Assistance (TSA) from FEMA. TSA for residents currently housed in hotels will expire on Thursday, April 21, 2016.

LHC's staff was effective in contacting the property management companies of the assets in our housing portfolio that are in the disaster declared areas to assess available resources, level of damage and identify vacant units. 374 properties are located in the disaster declared parishes. 429 units were reported as damaged and 70 units are vacant.

Affected residents in the 36 declared parishes were made eligible for financial assistance from FEMA. Residents were able to apply online or in person at the 29 community-based Disaster Recovery Centers (DRC) and three Mobile DRCs across the state. As of April 7, 2016, FEMA has approved: \$64,936,797.63 in Individual and Households Program (IHP) funds of which \$63,199,668.09 has been disbursed; \$51,339,152.74 in Housing Assistance (HA) funds of which \$49,901,556.94 has been disbursed; and \$13,597,644.89 of Other Needs Assistance (ONA) of which \$13,298,111.15 has been disbursed. FEMA inspectors have issued 27,619 inspections, completed 26,505 inspections, and have 1,114 inspections outstanding.

The LDHTF will continue meeting biweekly to discuss several ongoing and pending matters: Shelter Depopulation Efforts, Transitional Sheltering Assistance, Disaster Case Management, and Multifamily Lease and Repair Program.

Contract Updates

Contracts with Property One, Inc. to provide commercial and property management services was executed March 24, 2016. The total contract amount shall not exceed \$40,000 and is in effect for the period commencing February 1, 2016 thru January 31, 2017. The draft of the Construction and Compliance Monitoring Services contract is currently under review by Nan McKay and Associates, Inc. and their sub-contractor. The Legal and Construction Departments are working with them to complete the contract quickly. To date, the Corporation has not incurred expenses, nor has work has been performed as it relates to these services.

Budget Update

As projected in the last report, we continue to make progress on closing the operating deficit. As of March 31, the operating surplus was \$238,210. Current expenditure trends continue to project that revenues will exceed expenses by \$703,382 at the end of the fiscal year.

Staffing

Staffing levels continue to trend downward as we've reduced our total head count by 23% when compared to 136 FTEs on January 1, 2015. As of March 24, 2016, LHC had 105 staff and one pending resignation.

Staff Training and Conferences

Lorman Webinar – PDF Tips and Tricks for Business Professionals

On March 31, 2016, the board committee coordinators participated in a training webinar hosted by Lorman to learn more about the basics of PDF and PDF production. The course focused on methods to become less reliant on paper and encouraged a foundation for business mobility.

Community Development Block Grant Advanced Training

On April 4 – 5, 2016, LHC's staff participated in a three day CDBG Advanced Training course hosted by LHC in partnership with OCD. The training was provided by The Council of State Community Development Agencies. The Division of Administration is covering the cost of the training.

State Housing and Homeless Conference

LHC's staff will participate in the *2016 State Housing and Homeless Conference* hosted by the Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless and Louisiana Housing Alliance. The conference will be held in downtown Baton Rouge at the Hilton on April 13 – 15, 2016.

Economic Development Finance Certification

The National Development Council began a series of four, week-long courses in economic development finance certification hosted by the LHC in conjunction with OCD. LHC staff is participating in the training, which will be spread out over several months. The Division of Administration is covering the cost of this training. The next session, Economic Development 202, will be held at LHC April 25 -29, 2016.

Calendar

- 04/07/16 – Quarterly Meeting of the Housing Transportation Planning and Coordinating Commission
- 04/14/16 – Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for Artspace Bell School Lofts
- National Municipal Bond Summit April 20 – 22, 2016

Funding Notices

- Request for Proposals for Financial Advisory Services **deadline to submit responses is April 18, 2016.**
- Project Based Rental Assistance (811 PRA) Owner Solicitation **open until all units are under contract.**
- Project Based Voucher Program – Permanent Supportive Housing **open until all project based vouchers are allocated.**