



# **Mississippi Development Authority**

## **Homeowner Assistance Program**

Modification #11  
Program Funding Reallocation

## **CDBG Disaster Recovery Program**

September 2, 2008

**Mississippi Development Authority  
Partial Action Plan  
For  
Homeowner Assistance Program  
Funding Reallocation**

**Overview**

This Action Plan pertains to the additional use of the \$5.058 billion allocation in CDBG funding from HUD as part of the \$5.48 billion federal appropriation through the Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109-148). These monies have been designated by Congress for “necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in the most impacted and distressed areas related to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, or Wilma.”

In addition, this Action Plan pertains to the additional use of the \$423,036,059 allocation in CDBG funding from HUD as part of the \$5.48 billion federal appropriation through the Emergency Supplemental Appropriation Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery, 2006 (Public Law 109-234). These monies have been designated by Congress for “necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of infrastructure in the most impacted and distressed areas related to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, or Wilma.”

**Purpose**

As meeting the housing needs of Mississippi’s post-Katrina recovery composes more than \$3.8 billion of the state’s entire \$5.4 billion CDBG recovery allocation, the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) seeks to ensure its ongoing CDBG-sourced direct housing recovery initiatives are fully funded to meet homeowner assistance demand as continuously defined by eligibility determinations.

Toward that goal, MDA will reprogram \$181,464,059 of its CDBG recovery package from four other CDBG funded recovery initiatives to the Homeowners Assistance Program (HAP) (*See Table 1*).

As the HAP Program matured, MDA’s Disaster Recovery Division made several specific policy decisions designed to broaden availability and awareness of HAP, which provides direct grants to qualifying individual homeowners whose homes were either damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina’s unprecedented storm surge.

**Table 1 - Reallocation of Existing Programs to Homeowners Assistance Program**

<b>Description</b>	<b>Current Program Allocations/Action Plans</b>	<b>Reallocation of Funds to HAP</b>	<b>Proposed Program Allocations</b>
Homeowners Assistance Program - Phase I \$3M Initial plan; (\$150M) ED Plan Amend4, Mod1; (\$700M) Phase II Mod 4;(\$600M) Port of Gulfport Amend 5; (\$25M) Hancock Co. LTR Amend 7	\$ 1,525,000,000	\$ 10,326,303	\$ 1,535,326,303
Homeowners Assistance Program - Phase II \$700M Mod4; (\$25M)Hancock Co. LTR Amend 7; (\$241M) Long Term Workforce Amend 6	\$ 434,000,000	\$ 171,137,756	\$ 605,137,756
	<b>\$ 1,959,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 181,464,059</b>	<b>\$ 2,140,464,059</b>
Water/Wastewater (DEQ) \$33,075,000 Amend 2; \$553M Mod 2; \$55M 2nd supplemental funding	\$ 641,075,000	\$ (60,000,000)	\$ 581,075,000
Port of Gulfport \$600M Amend 5	\$ 600,000,000	\$ (30,000,000)	\$ 570,000,000
Economic Development Reallocation \$350M Amend 4 (\$335M ED, \$5M Tourism & \$10M Planning Grants)	\$ 350,000,000	\$ (67,818,000)	\$ 282,182,000
Community Revitalization \$150M Amend 4; \$150M Mod 1	\$ 300,000,000	\$ (17,600,000)	\$ 282,400,000
State Administration \$162.7M Initial plan	\$ 162,700,000	\$ (5,100,000)	\$ 157,600,000
Unallocated	\$ 946,059	\$ (946,059)	\$ -
	<b>\$ 2,054,721,059</b>	<b>\$ (181,464,059)</b>	<b>\$ 1,873,257,000</b>

**Eligible Activities**

Eligible activities will be consistent with those identified in the Homeowners Assistance Program action plan and related amendments. The summary of those include assisting property owners and other applicants in the rehabilitation of the four identified counties of Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, and Pearl River.

**National Objectives**

This amendment is designed to be consistent with the primary objective of providing funds for local projects with activities that meet one of the following national objectives of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended:

- Benefits to Low/Moderate Income Persons
- Slums or Blight
- Urgent Need

### **Complaint Referral**

Complaints alleging a specific violation of a statutory requirement, including Congressional inquiries, received by HUD at the Headquarters, Regional, or Field Office level will be forwarded to the appropriate State office for the response.

### **Appeals**

MDA will continue to utilize the appeals policy as set forth in the HAP action plan.

### **Environmental**

In consultation with HUD, the HAP programs I and II are compensation grants, and the State has determined through its environmental review that these actions are categorically excluded and not subject to the related laws.

### **Citizen Participant Plan**

MDA will solicit public comments on this Action Plan.

### **Public Comments**

Mississippi Development Authority released a press release announcing the availability of the plan for public comment. MDA placed the draft plan of on its website at [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org) on September 2, 2008. Comments could be faxed to 601.359.4003, or e-mailed to [publiccommentltwf@mississippi.org](mailto:publiccommentltwf@mississippi.org). The deadline for submitting comments is September 5, 2008 at 5pm Central time.

As required by the regulations, a summary of any comments or views received (the number shown in parentheses) by the September 5 deadline along with our responses are as follows:

- **In support of the modification and the reallocation. Urging MDA to further expand the eligibility requirements to assist as many homeowners as possible, including those with wind damage and also to reallocate funds for use by the Long Term Recovery groups and other case management agencies. (1)**

Response:

The Homeowner's Assistance Program Phase II grants are specifically targeted to those homeowners with low to moderate income, those with disabilities and the elderly. Almost 7,000 applicants have already received assistance through this phase of program.

There are other programs (the Small Rental Assistance and Public Housing Programs) that are part of the overall Hurricane Katrina relief effort that will provide assistance to renters with low to moderate incomes. Information on these programs is available on the MDA website at [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org).

- **Requesting whether or not this allocation is going to help the remaining people who have been repeatedly denied a grant and still in distress and information on how and when to apply for these additional dollars. (1)**

Response:

The Mississippi Development Authority prepared detailed public action plans, approved by HUD to detail the eligibility requirements for the Homeowner's Assistance Program. Unfortunately, some applicants were not able to meet these eligibility requirements. However, this particular action plan deals with the allocation of additional funds into the Homeowner's Assistance Program, which is not the subject of this public comment.