



**LOUISIANA DISASTER  
RECOVERY FOUNDATION**  
*Louisiana's Fund for Louisiana's People*

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**LDRF Provides Robust Philanthropic Response to Gustav and Ike**

**The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation (LDRF), Louisiana's only statewide foundation, used innovative strategy to disburse largest number of philanthropic grant dollars to vulnerable communities across the state immediately following Gustav and Ike (\$400,500 to date); LDRF has committed a total of \$1 million to immediate relief needs in Louisiana.**

In preparation for Hurricane Gustav, LDRF implemented an expedited grantmaking process, identifying nonprofit organizations best positioned to serve the most vulnerable communities and providing them an opportunity to pre-apply so resources could be immediately electronically transferred once need was verified in the wake of the storm. In this way, LDRF was able to disburse \$400,500 – the largest grant total of any Louisiana foundation – immediately following Gustav, and then Ike. Grants were awarded to 17 nonprofit organizations directly serving families and individuals with limited resources who had not been served or were underserved by government relief agencies. LDRF is pleased with the results of this new approach to emergency grantmaking and is working to refine best practices in order to standardize this procedure for future disaster situations.

In the days following both Gustav and Ike, LDRF staff members have been in the field visiting impacted communities, and maintaining close contact with grantees to assess the storms' impact and identify pressing recovery needs. LDRF has found that, though many relief systems have moved more efficiently than they did following Katrina, several outlying and low-lying communities did not receive relief services in a timely fashion and some communities have not yet been reached by adequate relief services and remain in dire need of basic necessities.

LDRF has discovered that communities in Terrebonne, Lafourche, Cameron, Iberia, St. Mary and Vermilion Parishes do not have adequate access to FEMA relief stations, which are more than 35 miles away for some residents who have no access to fuel and are unable to travel anyhow because of washed out and flooded roads. Those who have been able to reach relief stations have found that the grocery cards provided are of little use when there are no grocery stores open for miles. LDRF is continuing to reach out to these vulnerable communities to provide timely and responsible aid, while documenting lessons learned, seeking new partners for support and further developing its long-term preparedness strategy.

**The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation (LDRF) is a private foundation established by former Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco on Sept. 6, 2005 and the recipient of the \$24.4 million Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund. LDRF's mission is to transform the disaster caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita into an unprecedented opportunity for a new Louisiana -- providing resources for the relief, recovery and betterment of all its people by ensuring access and opportunity in rebuilding their communities and culture.**