



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

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Contact: Jessica Kemp

jkemp@louisianahelp.org

225/772.0720

**LOUISIANA DISASTER RECOVERY FOUNDATION ATTRACTS MAJOR FUNDING (\$3.9M)
FROM NATIONAL FOUNDATIONS**

The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation's innovative and impactful approach to recovery philanthropy has been recognized by grants awarded from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (\$1.5M); the Kresge Foundation (\$1M); the Ford Foundation (\$1M), and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (\$400k) in support of LDRF's ongoing efforts.

The Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation (LDRF) would like to publicly thank the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Kresge Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for their generous and timely support of LDRF's recovery work throughout the state of Louisiana. Such substantial support from large national funders signals the value of LDRF's innovative work and its demonstrable positive impact on Louisiana residents and quality of life. LDRF embraces its role as a social justice philanthropy and is honored to serve as a trusted intermediary for major funders seeking to invest in sustainable betterment for the state.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's \$1.5M grant will support LDRF's Humanity for the Homeless Initiative and activities of LDRF's Neighborhood Organizing and Planning Fund.

Homelessness has more than doubled since Hurricane Katrina and funding for temporary living arrangements and rental assistance are set to expire over the coming months, threatening an even greater increase in homelessness. LDRF's **Humanity for the Homeless Initiative** seeks to address homelessness by working with stakeholders to collect relevant data, develop effective policy and build the capacity of local nonprofit organizations to provide shelter and long-term solutions to the financial vulnerability of homeless and near-homeless families and individuals.

LDRF's **Neighborhood Organizing and Planning Fund** enables neighborhood groups throughout the New Orleans area to effectively organize, collaborate, and advocate for a shared recovery agenda. The recent grants to LDRF will support the next critical phase of this work, during which neighborhood groups will refine and present organic visions for the future of their communities in New Orleans' Master Planning process. The process of including organized, native, neighborhood wisdom in the rebuilding plans presents an opportunity to model inclusive city planning for the rest of the nation.

The Kresge Foundation's \$1M grant to LDRF will provide general operating support as well as funding for LDRF's Humanity for the Homeless Initiative (described above), the Neighborhood Organizing and Planning Fund (described above), the Small Business Development Fund and the Equity and Inclusion Campaign.

LDRF's **Small Business Development Fund** provides resources to assist small businesses – especially those owned by minorities, women and disadvantaged persons – in both urban and rural parishes affected by disaster. The fund makes grants to nonprofit intermediaries committed to equitable economic development that bring stability and sustainability to small businesses and micro-entrepreneurs and position them for growth by providing back-office support, business and marketing plans, and loan packaging. LDRF's advancement of small businesses creates quality jobs and facilitates the provision of the goods and services upon which recovering communities rely.

The Equity and Inclusion Campaign is an initiative of LDRF that coordinates regional leaders to impact policy at the federal level. Recognizing that the magnitude of the problems faced by the Gulf Coast region far outstrips the institutional and economic capabilities of any single state or community, the Campaign works to realize lasting outcomes of economic and social justice in the Gulf Coast by situating recovery issues within a multi-state framework through which we can jointly pursue mutual objectives with federal policymakers. Coordinating grassroots leadership from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, the Equity and Inclusion Campaign is a nonpartisan policy advocacy and public messaging campaign advocating for the fulfillment of the federal commitment to confront persistent poverty and inequity during the recovery process.

The Ford Foundation's \$1M grant to LDRF will provide general operating support, funds for the Neighborhood Organizing and Planning Fund (described above) and support for LDRF's Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund.

LDRF's Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Fund is a collaborative fund supporting disaster preparedness, relief, recovery and betterment. Having confronted the systemic challenges of poverty throughout the course of the Foundation's relief and recovery work over the past 3 ½ years, LDRF's strategy for future endeavors reflects the clear knowledge that vulnerability to disaster correlates directly with issues of poverty. The fund will benefit state and regional efforts that engage and empower displaced and returning residents and work towards the equitable and inclusive recovery of disaster-ravaged communities. Out of disaster times, the Disaster Preparedness and Response Fund will invest in creating systems that work to alleviate the vulnerability and desperation that exacerbate the impact of disaster in low-wealth and marginalized communities.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's \$400,000 grant will provide support for LDRF's relief and recovery efforts specifically connected to destruction and hardship associated with Hurricane Gustav.

Through a newly-modified, expedited grantmaking process and its strong grassroots network, LDRF was able to disburse \$400,500 in relief dollars to assist Louisiana residents immediately following hurricanes Gustav and Ike – the largest grant total of any private foundation in the region. However, there is still much work to be done: though many relief systems moved more efficiently than they did following Katrina, several outlying and low-lying communities did not receive relief services in a timely fashion; some communities were not reached by adequate services and remain in dire need of basic necessities and resources for repairs. The W.K. Kellogg Foundation's grant will enable LDRF to continue its critical recovery work, investing in community leadership and the nonprofit sector throughout the state to help Louisiana residents return to their homes, small businesses and community life, and begin the process of becoming better prepared for a better future.

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.