

ALABAMA STATE–COMMUNITY RECOVERY TASK FORCES

Housing
Meeting Notes
January 30, 2012

ATTENDEES

NAME	AGENCY & INFORMATION	NAME	AGENCY & INFORMATION
Rocky Milliman	ADECA LTCR	Shane Bailey	ADECA Surplus Property
Stephanie Southerland	ADECA LTCR	Bob Johnson	Habitat Tuscaloosa
Corlis Floyd	ADECA LTCR	Jack Green	CAPNA
Rich Bradley	FEMA Voluntary Agency Liaison		
Via telephone:			
Michael German	HUD, Director-B'ham Field Office	Bob Haywood	FEMA
Nick Sims	United Way of Central AL	Alicia Reed	AEMA
Donald Brooks	USDA RD	Geneva King	HUD
Greg Price	HUD Public Housing		

AGENDA ITEMS

Welcome

- Rocky Milliman, LTCR Coordinator, called the meeting to order and welcomed those present.

Introduction of FEMA Partner

- Bob Haywood is the FEMA representative assigned to Alabama’s LTCR office and will be joined in late February by seven other staff members assigned to support Alabama communities in the long term recovery process.

Accept Meeting Notes

- The notes from the Housing TF November 17, 2011, meeting were approved as written.

Updates to Current Programs & Support Being Provided to the Communities

- In November, Congress appropriated \$100 million in CDBG funds to support the long term disaster recovery across the country.
- HUD was given the authority to allocate up to \$300 million more in additional CDBG funds that would go towards providing assistance to “impact/distressed areas.”
- The allocation for the State of Alabama totals \$55.566 million. Out of that, 80 percent of \$24,697,966 is targeted to Jefferson, Marion, Tuscaloosa and/or DeKalb Counties
- Checks have been presented as follows: City of Tuscaloosa, \$16,634,000; Jefferson County, \$7,847,000; and City of Birmingham, \$6,386,000.

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- Steps will have to be taken by the state/cities before the grants can be obligated, i.e., an action plan submitted identifying how the money will be used and certification of capacity to manage the funds.
- A notice for public review will be out shortly. Hopefully, a waiver will be approved setting the review time for a week instead of 30 days, thus allowing HUD to get the money dispersed sooner.
- David Roarke of HUD's Community Planning and Development Office is going to training in Texas in February and will learn all the prerequisites for administering the grants.
- Phil Campbell has opened bids on one site for 22 units and has a letter to proceed in hand. Bids for the other 22 housing units were to be opened last week.
- Hackleburg has received bids and will be breaking ground for the rebuilding of the 20 units that were totally destroyed. Decisions whether to repair or totally demolish and rebuild other units that were partially destroyed are still pending. Contracts for rebuilds should be in place within the next 30 days.
- Habitat believes its capacity to rebuild in Tuscaloosa is 50 units per year.
- If other non-profits assist with the rebuilds, the capacity could be 75 to 100 units per year.
- In order to get a better understanding of unmet needs with respect to housing, a "community specific housing study" is needed for the areas outside of Tuscaloosa and Jefferson County. This will be a major focus for FEMA's Disaster Assistance Managers.
- CAPNA is working with Cullman, Morgan, Lawrence, Marion, and Franklin Counties to assess unmet needs.
- According to CAPNA, Cullman County needs to be included in housing studies as well. Currently CAPNA is preparing a girth package involving 74 homes. In addition, approximately 790-800 individual assistance requests have unmet needs.
- Marion and Franklin Counties have a current need for approximately 300 homes.
- A meeting at NARCOG is scheduled for Monday to discuss CDBG grant funding for Cullman.
- FEMA plans to host some kind of "kick off" meeting in the various communities once the DAEs arrive.
- A request was made that someone from the non-profit community (representing the IAs) be made a part of any discussions that might be held with respect to the application and award process of HUD's CDBG funding. Shabbir Olia of ADECA's Community and Economic Development Division will be heading up the application and award process on behalf of the state.

FEMA's Role in the Recovery

- In addition to providing an in-house Disaster Recovery Coordinator, FEMA will provide:
 - A Research Coordinator to assist communities in identifying funding sources for projects
 - A Communications person to promote ongoing communications between and among communities and state/federal agencies
 - 5 Long Term Community Recovery Managers that will live and work in the communities of Cordova, Hackleburg, Holt, Phil Campbell and Rainsville and help in all aspects of organizing for the recovery implementation phase by fine tuning project descriptions, etc., to accelerate funding

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- Initial service commitment of FEMA staff is for 6 months. After six months, the status of all the recovery projects will be evaluated to determine if FEMA's service commitment for technical assistance needs will be extended.

Contractor's Role in Recovery

- Through the RFP process, a contractor is being solicited to support long term recovery
- The contractor will act primarily as an advisor and assist each community/county with economic development, strategic planning, etc.

Next Meeting

- A tentative date for the next meeting is March 1. Meeting notices will be emailed approximately 7 to 10 days prior to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.