



Dec. 20, 2017

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## **Restore La. Now Serving All Qualified Homeowners Affected by 2016 Floods; Awards Top \$122 Million**

*Invited Homeowners Urged to Complete Applications*

**BATON ROUGE, La.** – Louisiana’s Office of Community Development says it has received more than 46,300 survey submissions from flood-impacted homeowners and has invited all who qualify for assistance to complete a formal application.

The achievement represents an important milestone. The survey was opened to homeowners in April 2016. Of the 46,300 responses submitted, the Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program has extended application invitations to more than 38,400 homeowners.

Restore Louisiana uses a two-part process to prevent homeowners from being forced to stop repairs on their home in order to satisfy federal environmental regulations. Responses to an initial survey of damage determines whether homeowners will be invited to formally apply for an award through Restore Louisiana.

The initial survey is still available to flood-affected homeowners who have not responded. It’s available online at [restore.la.gov](http://restore.la.gov) or by phone from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays at (866) 735-2001.

OCD Executive Director Pat Forbes emphasized the need for invited homeowners to complete the Restore Louisiana application before they can receive benefits.

“Completing the application is crucial. It’s how we confirm that homeowners are eligible for the Restore Louisiana program and how we determine the award amount,” Forbes says. “We can’t help homeowners unless they submit their application.”

The homeowner assistance program so far has offered grant awards totaling \$122 million to 4,200 homeowners.

In January, Restore Louisiana begins [a series of outreach events](#) for homeowners. The events are scheduled in flood-impacted communities across the state to help homeowners complete their applications. Program representatives will be available to answer questions, provide information and work directly with homeowners on a first-come, first-served basis.

Construction technical advisors will also be present at each event to explain program options for repairs and reconstruction. A list of material that may be required for an application is available on the Restore Louisiana website at <http://bit.ly/2hTC6G5>.

In addition to these outreach events, housing assistance centers in Lafayette, Hammond, Monroe and Baton Rouge are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Program representatives are available to help homeowners complete surveys and applications, connect with a case manager and provide an overview of options for repairs, reconstruction or reimbursement.

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*The Restore Louisiana Homeowner Assistance Program is an initiative to provide assistance to Louisiana homeowners affected by the floods of 2016. With funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provided via community development block grants, the program is designed to assist qualifying homeowners with recovery efforts and is managed by the Louisiana Office of Community Development. More information is available at <http://restore.la.gov>.*