SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

Housing Assistance Council
June 17th, 2019

On July 13th, Louisiana marked their first hurricane of the season. Hurricane Barry started as a Category 1 Hurricane but weakened to a tropical storm when making landfall near Intracoastal City, Louisiana. Despite shrinking in power, much of Louisiana and Mississippi remained under flash flood watches, as well as parts of Arkansas, eastern Texas, western Tennessee and southeastern Missouri. More than a foot of rain was reported north of Lake Charles, Louisiana, and evacuations were prompted when levees on the Mississippi River was overtopped by water. Additionally, more than 50,000 Louisiana homes and businesses were without power three days after the storm initially hit.

The following guide provides information for individuals and families dealing with direct housing loss and damage from Hurricane Barry. For more information, please see HAC’s report: Picking up the Pieces: Restoring Rural Housing and Communities After a Disaster available for free online at http://www.ruralhome.org/storage/documents/publications/rrreports/disaster_guide.pdf.

If your house is inaccessible or currently uninhabitable, emergency, transient housing will likely be made available to provide immediate shelter for those in need. Organizations and resources available to assist with emergency transient housing in previous similar disasters include the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Church World Service, Mennonite Disaster Service, and state and city run emergency shelters aimed at housing victims of Hurricane. If you are in need of emergency, transient housing, you can text SHELTER and your Zip Code to 43362 (4FEMA) to find where the shelter closest to you is located.

In the past, FEMA has made available temporary assistance funding available for residents of counties affected by hurricanes. Temporary assistance can include grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster. To see if you are eligible for funding, you can apply online at http://www.disasterassistance.gov/ or call FEMA’s toll-free helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA(3362). When applying, make sure to have a pen and paper as well as the following information: your social security number, current and pre-disaster address, a telephone number where you can be contacted, insurance information, total household

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3 Please see FEMA’s webpage, for more information. Available online at: http://www.fema.gov/.
income, a routing and account number from your bank if you are interested in having disaster assistance funds transferred directly into your bank account, and a description of your losses that were caused by the disaster.

Tips

Please keep in mind the following safety protocols for hurricanes and flooding:

• Only call 911 if you have an immediate need for medical attention or evacuation assistance.

• If you can't get through to 911 on first try, keep calling.

• DO NOT DRIVE through high water and DO NOT DRIVE AROUND BARRICADES! Just 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away.

• DO NOT WALK through flood waters. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down. 4

• If your home floods, STAY THERE. You are safer at home than trying to navigate flooded streets on foot.

• If floodwaters rise around your car but the water is NOT MOVING, abandon the car and move to higher ground. Do not leave the car and enter MOVING water.

• STAY AWAY from streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning.

• MOVE important items – especially important documents like insurance policies - to the highest possible floor. This will help protect them from flood damage.

• DISCONNECT electrical appliances and do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water. You could be electrocuted.

This flooding event is a reminder that all residents in this area should carry flood insurance. Contact your insurance agent for more information about purchasing flood insurance or visit the National Flood Insurance Program at www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program or call 1-888-379-9531. Please keep in mind that new insurance policies take 30 days to go into effect

If your home has experienced damage, remember to check the outside of your home before you enter. Look for loose power lines, broken or damaged gas lines, foundations cracks, missing support beams, or other damage. It may be safest to ask a building inspector or contractor to check the structure before you enter. Do not force jammed doors open, as they may be providing needed support to the rest of the home. Sniff for gas to ensure there are no natural or propane gas leaks. If you do have a propane tank system, make sure to turn off all valves and contact a propane supplier to check the system before you use it again. Check floors and ceilings to ensure they are not sagging from water damage. This can be especially hazardous. Take photographs of any damage as you may need them for insurance claims or FEMA claims later on. 4

Resources

Apply for FEMA Assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

FEMA Disaster Assistance Helpline answers questions about the help offered by FEMA, how to apply for assistance, or the information in your account.

Toll-free helpline: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362)
For hearing impaired callers only:
1-800-462-7585 (TTY)
1-800-621-3362 (Video Relay Service)
Operators are multilingual and calls are answered seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. ET

American Red Cross Disaster Service: For referrals and updates on Red Cross shelter services in your area, locate a local Red Cross office through: http://www.redcross.org/find-help or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

The Red Cross helps disaster victims by providing safe shelter, hot meals, essential relief supplies, emotional support and health services like first aid. Trained Red Cross workers often meet one-on-one with families to develop individual plans and identify available resources to help aid recovery.

State and Local Housing Agencies

Each state has at least one agency that administers state and federal programs to promote decent affordable housing for low-income individuals. Typically, these agencies and authorities administer some aspects of state or federal programs.

Below is a list of relevant organizations in states impacted by Hurricane Barry.

State Housing Agencies

Louisiana
Louisiana Housing Corporation
2415 Quail Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
Phone: (225) 763-8700
Fax: (225) 763-8710
http://www.lhc.la.gov

Mississippi
Mississippi Home Corporation
735 Riverside Drive
Jackson, MS 39202-1166
Phone: (601) 718-4642
Fax: (601) 718-4643
http://www.mshomecorp.com
Arkansas
Arkansas Development Finance Authority
900 W Capitol Ave Ste 310
Little Rock, AR 72201-9708
Phone: (501) 682-5900
Fax: (501) 682-5939
http://www.arkansas.gov/adfa

Texas
Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs
221 E 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701-2410
Phone: (512) 475-3800
Fax: (512) 469-9606
http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us

Tennessee
Tennessee Housing Development Agency
502 Deaderick Street, Third Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: (615) 815-2200
Fax: (615) 564-2700
http://www.thda.org

Missouri
Missouri Housing Development Commission
920 Main Street, Suite 1400
Kansas City, MO 64105-2017
Phone: (816) 759-6600
Fax: (816) 759-6638
http://www.mhdc.com

Department of Housing and Urban Development State Field Offices

Louisiana
Hale Boggs Federal Building
500 Poydras Street
9th Floor
New Orleans, LA 70130
Phone: (504) 671-3001
Mississippi
Dr. A. H. McCoy Federal Building
100 West Capitol Street
Room 910
Jackson, MS 39269-1096
Phone: (601) 965-4757

Arkansas
Little Rock Field Office
425 West Capitol Avenue
Suite 1000
Little Rock, AR 72201-3488
Phone: (501) 918-5700

Texas
Fort Worth Regional Office
801 Cherry Street, Unit #45
Suite 2500
Fort Worth, TX 76102
Phone: (817) 978-5600

Tennessee
John J. Duncan Federal Building
710 Locust Street, SW 3rd Floor
Knoxville, TN 37902-2526
Phone: (901) 544-3367
Memphis Field Office
200 Jefferson Avenue
Suite 300
Memphis, TN 38103-2389
Phone: (901) 544-3367

Missouri
St. Louis Field Office
1222 Spruce Street
Suite 3.203
St. Louis, MO 63103-2836
Phone: (314) 418-5400

Rural Development State Offices

Louisiana
Dr. Carrie Castille, State Director
3727 Government Street
Alexandria, LA  71302
Voice: (318) 473-7920
Fax: (844) 325-6949
www.rd.usda.gov/la

Mississippi
John Rounsaville, State Director
Federal Building, Suite 831
100 West Capitol Street
Jackson, MS  39269
Voice: (601) 965-4316
Fax: (601) 965-4088
www.rd.usda.gov/ms

Arkansas
David Branscum, State Director
Federal Building
700 West Capitol Avenue, Room 3416
Little Rock, AR  72201-3225
Voice: (501) 301-3200
Fax: (855) 747-7793
www.rd.usda.gov/ar

Texas
Edd Hargett, State Director
Federal Building, Suite 102
101 South Main Temple, TX  76501
Voice: (254) 742-9700
Fax: (844) 496-8123
www.rd.usda.gov/tx

Tennessee
Jim Tracy, State Director
3322 West End Avenue, Suite 300
Nashville, TN  37203-1071
Voice: (615) 783-1300
Fax: (855) 776-7057
www.rd.usda.gov/tn

Missouri
Jeff Case, State Director
601 Business Loop 70 West
Parkade Center, Suite 235
Columbia, MO  65203
Voice: (573) 876-0976
Fax: (855) 830-0684
www.rd.usda.gov/mo
State Emergency Management Agencies

Region IV (Mississippi and Tennessee)
Federal Emergency Management Agency
3003 Chamblee Tucker Road
Atlanta, GA 30341
Main Number: 770-220-5200
Fax Number: 770-220-5230

Region VI (Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas)
Federal Emergency Management Agency
FRC 800 North Loop 288
Denton, TX 76209-3698
Regional Office Main Number: 940-898-5399
Louisiana Recovery Office Main Number: 225-242-6000

Region VII (Missouri)
Federal Emergency Agency
221 Ward Parkway
Kansas City, MO 64114
Main Number: 816-283-7061