

State Emergency Operations Center
State of Louisiana
Joint Information Center

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GOVERNOR



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One Month Mark for the Louisiana Shelter at Home Program

Baton Rouge, LA (September 28) – The Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) continues helping people return home with temporary repairs through the Louisiana Shelter at Home Program. An estimated 150 thousand homes in Louisiana received damage during the massive August 2016 flood event. The Shelter at Home Program enables eligible individuals or families whose homes were damaged to take shelter in their own homes while they rebuild.

“Governor John Bel Edwards listened to the public’s call for this type of help following the flood,” said GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom. “Shelter at Home is not meant to be the final step for a homeowner. It will provide you with a chance to stay in your home while you decide on long range plans and make final repairs. Registration for this historic program started one month ago. Shelter at Home is only one of the emergency housing solutions available to the public, but this unique approach will likely benefit thousands focused on staying home.”

“The goal is to keep our communities whole while we all work on this tremendous recovery process,” said Governor John Bel Edwards. We are working daily to continue to make the program even more responsive to homeowners’ needs and provide the maximum amount of recovery help available under FEMA funding guidelines.”

The program evaluates each applicant’s home. If \$15,000 of work in that home can create a safe, secure, habitable place for the family to live while they continue their permanent home rebuilding, then that applicant may be eligible for this program. Contractors and subcontractors involved in the program will perform initial work such as mucking out the house, basic electrical restoration, installing a basic water heater, removing wet wall insulation, and providing up to \$500 in basic cooking or refrigerating

appliances. This work will be provided at no out-of-pocket cost to the eligible homeowner. This assistance is independent of and will not affect determination of any Individual Assistance grant from FEMA. These essential emergency cleanup and minor repairs will help families get a jumpstart on their full recovery and live in at least a portion of their home, while they continue to finish the big task of making permanent repairs to their home.

Program Summary:

Applications: 19,839

Initial Inspections: 4,913

Work Orders Issued: 3,745

Construction Complete: 285

Construction Underway: 324

There are currently more 1,500 personnel hired through the Shelter at Home program. Most of those workers are Louisiana residents. 91 Louisiana companies or vendors are part of the program. Two contractor job fairs have been held in order to keep state companies informed about Shelter at Home. A third job fair is scheduled in New Orleans Wednesday evening.

Find out more about the program at www.shelterathome.la.gov or calling 1 (800) 927-0216.

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Monitor DOTD's www.511la.org website for updated road closure information. Look for advisories from your local authorities and emergency managers. You can find the latest information on the state's response at www.emergency.la.gov. GOHSEP also provides information on Facebook and Twitter. You can receive emergency alerts on most smartphones and tablets by downloading the new Alert FM App. It is free for basic service. You can also download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getagameplan.org.