



Contact: June Johns  
504-833-1881

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
October 12, 2005

## **BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE OFFERED**

**Metairie, LA** — In an effort to aid area businesses with recovery efforts in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the Jefferson Parish Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) has compiled the following list of available assistance for companies:

### **APPLY FOR DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE**

- **Business Recovery Center.** The first Business Recovery Center in the New Orleans region has opened at 5210 West Esplanade in Metairie; phone: 504-833-2008. Initially, hours of operation will be weekdays from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Operating hours will be adjusted based on the needs of the business community. Representatives from the Small Business Administration (SBA), Small Business Development Centers (SBDC), certified public accountants, State Insurance Commission, Louisiana Department of Labor, Louisiana Economic Development and JEDCO will be on hand at the center to assist Jefferson Parish businesses with Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts. A second Business Recovery Center will be housed in JEDCO's existing West Bank office at 5201 Westbank Expressway in Marrero, which will open October 17. These Business Recovery Centers are being developed by **JEDCO, Jefferson Parish, the Jefferson Parish Business Council** and the **Jefferson Chamber of Commerce**.
- **Louisiana Economic Development (LED)** is working with state and federal government to identify sources of bridge funding and financing, including loans for impacted businesses. Impacted businesses are encouraged to complete the disaster assistance request forms found at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) to start the application process for federal disaster loans administered by the **Small Business Administration (SBA)**.

— MORE —

## BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE OFFERED/Page 2

- **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)** offers Business Physical Disaster and Economic Injury loans. **Business Physical Disaster Loans** can be used to repair or replace disaster damages to property owned by businesses of all sizes. Non-profit organizations are also eligible. **Economic Injury Disaster Loans** can be obtained for working capital to help small businesses and cooperatives through the recovery period. **Note:** This agency provides loans, *not* grants. For further details, visit [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) or call 1-800-659-2955.
- **Louisiana Association of Business & Industry (LABI)** has set up a disaster fund with the goal of providing small grants to qualifying businesses. To apply or to make a donation to this fund please go to [www.labi.org](http://www.labi.org).
- **Louisiana Bankers' Association (LBA)** offers a comprehensive **list of banks and bank Web sites** for information on business loans. Please refer to [www.lba.org](http://www.lba.org).
- **Entergy** is offering grants to non-profits and individuals through its **Power of Hope** fund. Grants for nonprofit organizations providing direct service to hurricane victims will range from \$10,000 - \$20,000. Grants of \$1000 - \$10,000 per household are also being awarded to individuals to cover costs such as housing and home repair, transportation and job placement or training. For details, log onto [www.powerofhope.com](http://www.powerofhope.com) or call 1-888-355-8168.

### FIND NO-COST HOUSING FOR DISPLACED WORKERS

- **FEMA** is assisting employers seeking housing for their displaced workers. **Note: employees** must register with FEMA at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) so that each is issued an official identification number. **Jefferson Parish** company representatives can e-mail JEDCO's Jerry Bologna at [jbologna@jedco.org](mailto:jbologna@jedco.org) for assistance with obtaining **no-cost** travel trailers for displaced workers. (If your Southeastern Louisiana company is not in Jefferson Parish you will need to contact the state directly at [laskowski@la.gov](mailto:laskowski@la.gov).) **Note:** Companies must provide water, sewer and electrical hookups.

### OBTAIN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS

- Businesses interested in providing disaster recovery work should register at [www.accesslouisiana.com](http://www.accesslouisiana.com).
- Businesses can contact the six prime contractors selected by FEMA and the U.S. Corp of Engineers regarding sub-contractor work. These companies are listed below:

## BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE OFFERED/Page 3

- **Bechtel National** – [supplier.bechtel.com](http://supplier.bechtel.com) – Selected by FEMA to access and provide for emergency needs including identifying and readying available rental units, vacant housing complexes and open space for FEMA travel trailers and temporary housing.
- **CH2M Hill** – [projects.ch2m.com/FEMA%5FPublic/](http://projects.ch2m.com/FEMA%5FPublic/) - Coordinating through FEMA in Baton Rouge with expansion plans for Montgomery, Alabama, to identify housing solutions and to coordinate logistics and ensure essential operational services, including electricity, water and sewer.
- **Dewberry** – [disastersubcontractors@dewberry.com](mailto:disastersubcontractors@dewberry.com) – Contracted by FEMA to inspect houses and public infrastructure and is recruiting additional qualified engineers and specialists, especially those who have been personally affected or who have lost their jobs.
- **Fluor Enterprises** – [fluor.com/about/supplier.asp](http://fluor.com/about/supplier.asp) - Seeking suppliers of goods and services for government projects. As one of the world's largest engineering procurement, construction and maintenance services organizations, they procure a large volume of industrial goods and services.
- **KBR/Halliburton** – [halliburton.com/kbr/kbrsuppliers/supplierRegistration.jsp](http://halliburton.com/kbr/kbrsuppliers/supplierRegistration.jsp) - Contracted with the U.S. Navy to provide power restoration, emergency roof repair and debris removal at three facilities that were damaged, performing damage assessments at other Navy facilities and performing de-watering activities in the Greater New Orleans region.
- **Shaw Group** - [shawgrp.com/hurricanerecovery/submitvendorinfo.aspx](http://shawgrp.com/hurricanerecovery/submitvendorinfo.aspx)  
Contracted by the Army Corps of Engineers for construction and related services, including pumping of floodwater from the city of New Orleans, and by FEMA to provide support services, including housing assistance for displaced residents.
- **FEMA** contracting opportunities can be reviewed at [www.fema.gov/ofm/business.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/ofm/business.shtm).  
**Note:** Any requests from businesses to contract directly with FEMA for products or services should go to **Richard Spillane**, FEMA contract officer. He would prefer to be contacted by e-mail at [richard.spillane@dhs.gov](mailto:richard.spillane@dhs.gov). If computer/e-mail is not available, he can be reached at 504-202-4762. The following information will be **required**:
  - Company name
  - Contact information including address, phone and cell phone numbers, and e-mail address
  - Detailed description of services and/or products provided**Note: According to Spillane, 90 percent of the contracts are going to Louisiana businesses.**

## BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE OFFERED/Page 4

- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Mississippi Valley Division** in Vicksburg, Mississippi is coordinating disaster and recovery efforts of Hurricane Katrina. Visit <http://www.usace.army.mil> and click on “Hurricane Katrina Contract Support” for contracting and sub-contracting opportunities and to make disaster relief equipment available.
- **Commerce Department** offers interested contractors a chance to sign up with the agency at [www.rebuildingthegulfcoast.gov](http://www.rebuildingthegulfcoast.gov). The site offers information geared toward helping smaller, disadvantaged firms bid for Katrina contracts.
- **National Emergency Resource Registry of the Department of Homeland Security** Web site at [www.nerr.gov](http://www.nerr.gov) lists resources available from organizations, agencies and corporations.
- **Louisiana Association of Business & Industry (LABI)** offers information on procuring government contracts related to rebuilding areas that were devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Please consult the Web site [www.labi.org](http://www.labi.org).

### ACQUIRE JEFFERSON PARISH PERMITS

- Business owners and residents who have sustained damage exceeding \$2500 must apply for the appropriate permits prior to proceeding with repairs. To apply for a permit, contact the Jefferson Parish Department of Inspection and Code Enforcement at 504-736-6959 (East Bank) or 504- 364-3512 (West Bank).
- To verify that a contractor or construction company is licensed in Jefferson Parish, call Inspection and Code Enforcement at 504-736-6961.
- A post-disaster building permit can be obtained at **Jefferson Parish’s West Bank Office of Inspection and Code Enforcement**, 400 Maple St. in Harvey. Hours of operation: Mondays – Fridays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Phone: 504-364-3512.

Contractors **not** already licensed to work in Louisiana can obtain licenses from the **Louisiana Contractors Licensing Board** located in Baton Rouge at 2525 Quail Road. Phone: 1-800-256-1392. Hours of operation: Mondays – Fridays, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

- **Restaurants** will be required to receive authorization from the **Jefferson Parish health/food permit department** prior to re-opening. The West Bank office is closed, but the East Bank office is operating at 111 N. Causeway Blvd. in Metairie (near Causeway Blvd. & Metairie Road). Hours of operation: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Phone: 504-833-5140.

**CONNECTING EMPLOYERS WITH WORKERS**

- **Louisiana Department of Labor** offers a list of job fairs designed to match employers with those seeking work at [www.dol.state.la.us](http://www.dol.state.la.us).
- **Worker/Employer Locator Site.** Assistance is available for employers trying to reconnect with their employees at the Web site [www.findyourneworleansemployer.com](http://www.findyourneworleansemployer.com).
- **The United States Department of Labor** offers job bank information at [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov) for the following: 1) individuals seeking new, full-time employment; 2) individuals wishing to assist in the clean-up and rebuilding efforts through temporary employment; and 3) employers who want to list jobs supporting hurricane recovery efforts or want to hire workers impacted by the hurricane.

**OBTAIN TAX RELIEF**

- **IRS** updates for Hurricane Katrina Tax Relief Guidelines for taxpayers in four states, relief workers and others impacted, are provided at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

— ### —