



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

## LOUISIANA LEGISLATIVE BLACK CAUCUS THIS WEEK

SEPTEMBER 13, 2005

### Message from the Chair



Cedric Richmond

*The members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus (LLBC) are thankful for the aid that we have been receiving from around the country for our constituents. This aid has come in the form of financial contributions, water, food, clothing and other items. The effects of Hurricane Katrina will be felt for some time. During this crisis, we must stay focused, steadfast and patient.*

*The LLBC understands that information is crucial to those who have had to evacuate their homes. This Newsletter reflects the LLBC's effort to provide information you may need to get through this difficult time. We will also use this as a vehicle to keep you connected to home. Be assured that we will rebuild New Orleans and bring you back home.*

## RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE

The Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus is working to gather information to help you locate and acquire resources that have been made available to evacuees of Hurricane Katrina.

As a result of the devastation brought on by what will be known as the worst natural disaster in American history, charitable organizations and the federal government have put programs in place to provide goods, funds and services to victims of Katrina that are meant to assist with daily living needs.

Resources are available. Take advantage of them. Apply for assistance if and when applicable.

### MEDICAL

**Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA)**, is providing housing and financial assistance to all evacuees. Complete the Individuals and Household Programs form by calling 1800-621-(FEMA) 3362 (TTY) 1-800-462-7585 or apply for aid online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). Before calling, be sure to have your social security number, bank account and routing information and the current address you are using while displaced.

**The Red Cross**, apply for financial assistance from the by calling 1-800-975-7585. The Red Cross also provides shelter, food, health and mental health services, financial aid for medicines, transportation, household items, transportation and assistance with locating misplaced family members.

When calling for financial assistance provide your name, pre-disaster address including zip code and home

### FOOD

phone number. You will be given an identification number to take to a financial institution in the community you are now in to receive support. The Red Cross has also set up a hotline to assist with locating displaced family members. Call 1-1800-LOVED 1S or log on to the web site at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).

**Department of Social Services (DSS)**, emergency food stamps are available to all evacuees. You must apply for the Disaster Food Stamp Program by September 16. You may complete an application at any Office of Family Support in your area. You will need a social security number and a Louisiana identification card to qualify for this assistance. If you are without your Louisiana ID, you should contact the department of Motor Vehicles for a duplicate. For more information call 1-800-LA HELP U, between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m.

### SHELTER

Shelter coordinators and healthcare organization providing care for evacuees can place orders for donated medications and supplies by calling 1-866-334-9587.

DSS and the National Center for Missing and Exploited are working to locate, identify and reunite children separated from their parents. If you or someone you know is in need of this service call 1-800-THE-LOST or go to [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com) on the web.

**The Louisiana Housing Finance Agency (LHFA)** will assist displaced citizens with locating available housing. For more information call 1-866-310-7971.

**Women, Infants and Children Benefits (WIC)**, you may receive WIC benefits while living away from home. Go to the nearest WIC clinic in your area so and your benefits will be restored, or call 1-800-251-2229 for more information.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BATON ROUGE—Department of Labor Secretary John Warner Smith requested \$62.1 million in National Emergency Grant funding to provide statewide temporary employment for up to 10,000 qualified individuals.

The temporary jobs will be in service to the general public, and will include public service employment such as general maintenance labor, childcare and school service center assistance. Participants will be paid \$9 per hour for up to 40 hours per week, including fringe benefits. Individuals will be eligible to participate for up to 12 weeks.

The funds will be made available to the 15 Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) where shelters have been established, as well as, the three affected areas. Eventually, all 18 LWIAs in the state will be involved in this grant.

For more information go to the [www.LAWORKS.net](http://www.LAWORKS.net).

## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The labor department has authorized federal assistance in the form of Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for individuals who reside or work in 31 designated parishes.

Claims will be accepted until the end of the 30-day filing period, October 7, 2005. Claims may be filed several ways: in person at any LDOL One Stop or Job Center location from 8 a.m.

to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, online at [www.LAWORKS.net](http://www.LAWORKS.net), or by calling 1-800-818-7811.

### WORKERS COMP

All injured workers who were receiving workers' compensation benefits before Hurricane Katrina are encouraged to contact the Workers' Compensation office immediately

to resume their benefits. The toll-free number 1-866-783-5567.

The Workers' Comp office is compiling a database to reconnect injured workers with the insurance companies from whom they were receiving benefits.

Individuals need to provide a current address, their employer and the employer's insurance carrier so that their workers' compensation benefits can resume.

## FIND LOVED ONES

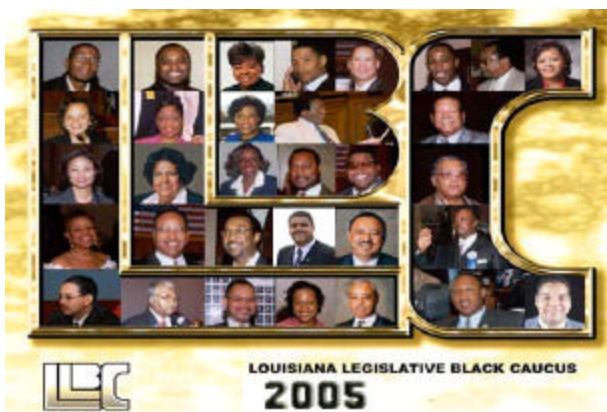
Evacuees wishing to inform loved ones of their location can register their name by going to [www.katrinasafer.com](http://www.katrinasafer.com), and entering "Find Loved Ones" from the navigation bar on the website. If you do not have access to a computer call 1-877-3317.

Concerned family members and friends are encouraged to visit the site daily to consult the list. It is constantly updated.

## FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

The American Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, along with the Louisiana State Bar Association, the Baton Rouge Bar Association and, the Texas State Bar Association are providing free legal assistance to individuals who are in need as a result of Hurricane Katrina. Help can be obtained by calling the hotline.

If you are in Louisiana call 1-800-310-7029; Alabama call, 1-800-354-6154; Mississippi call, 1-866-255-4495 and in Texas call, 1-800-504-4495.



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