



ALABAMA TRANSITIONAL RECOVERY OFFICE

Hurricane Katrina (DR-1605-AL)

Three Years Later

The numbers used in this summary are from the GCRO Global Report dated August 1, 2008

FEMA established the Alabama Transitional Recovery Office (ALTRO) in Montgomery, Alabama in June of 2006 for the purpose of providing in-state facilities and staff resources to work with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) in addressing post-storm recovery needs of the individuals and public facilities adversely impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Concurrently, an Area Field Office (AFO) was established in Mobile in closer proximity to the geographic areas impacted by the storm. In July of 2006, the ALTRO and AFO were staffed with one hundred twenty-three (123) employees. As of August 1, the ALTRO staff will consist of fifty (50) employees as the result of the ongoing right-sizing program.

MISSION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Over the three years, the majority of the Hurricane Katrina storm recovery work assigned to the ALTRO and AFO has been accomplished:

A. Public Assistance – Infrastructure (100% federally funded)

View complete report:

<http://www.fema.gov/pdf/hazard/hurricane/2005katrina/al.pdf>

To date, \$114,023,373 in Public Assistance program funds have been obligated for emergency response activities, public infrastructure and utility systems repairs, local and state government and Private-Non-Profit facilities, including:

- **Water/Sewer and Power**

\$15,079,121 in Public Assistance funds were employed to fund storm repairs to critical services in Alabama.

- **Historic or Cultural Resources**

\$26,500,025 in Public Assistance funds were employed to assist in the repair and restoration of several Alabama State Parks and related facilities, including the USS Alabama.

- **Health/Hospitals**

\$1,319,555 in Public Assistance funds were used to restore the viability of several medical facilities in Alabama's coastal counties. The Mobile Infirmary of Health, Mercy Medical, the Shoulder of Central Gulf Coast and University of South Alabama Children's & Women's Hospital were the beneficiaries of this expenditure of Public Assistance funds.

- **Educational Facilities**

\$1,500,000 of Public Assistance funds were employed to assist in the funding of approximately two-hundred (200) essential storm recovery projects at educational facilities including Alba Middle School in Bayou La Batre which suffered extensive flooding.

B. Individual Assistance (100% federally funded)

View complete report:

http://www.fema.gov/pdf/hazard/hurricane/2005katrina/al_iag.pdf

The primary responsibility of the Individual Assistance Program staff was the management of the temporary housing facilities and service to the occupants. At the height of operations 2,392 Alabama families resided in these travel trailers. As of August 1, fifty four (54) families occupy FEMA travel trailers. FEMA staff continues to assist residents in finding alternative housing through rental resources and other forms of housing or assistance to get their home repaired.

It is of note that 198 of the vacated trailer trailers have been purchased by families who resided them following the storm.

Shortly after Katrina's landfall, Zirlott Park, an active community park located in Bayou La Batre was converted to a group trailer park to service the temporary housing needs of area residents. Approximately 100 families lived in Zirlott Park from October 2005 through June 2006. The park has been reconverted to its original use by FEMA. The restoration began in December 2006 and was completed in June 2007. Grand opening ceremonies were held on March 30. Bayou La Batre Mayor Stan Wright, referring to the re-establishment of Zirlott was quoted as saying, "things are getting back to normal." This project typifies the actions FEMA has taken to meet the temporary housing needs of those displaced by the storm's wrath.

C. Hazard Mitigation Grants (75% federally funded)

The damage in Alabama wrought by Hurricane Katrina resulted in \$71,736,951 in HMGP funds awarded to the state of Alabama. To date, \$29,490,667 of these HMGP funds have been obligated - 41% of the potential total funds available.

The state's deadline for submitting HMGP applications was February 24, 2008. It is anticipated that the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program staff will continue in operation in Montgomery until all HMGP grant applications submitted by the state have been processed.

Because of the successful partnership between the local and state governments in Alabama and FEMA, most if not all Hurricane Katrina missions will be completed by September 2008. As a result, the ALTRO staff will be continually scaled down consistent with completion of ALTRO's missions.

ALTRO and AFO FACILITIES

ALTRO offices are located at 1555 Eastern Boulevard, Montgomery, Alabama. With its mission accomplished, the Mobile AFO closed on March 15th.

AHPP PROGRAM

The Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) which is being implemented in Bayou La Batre will provide approximately 100 housing units to storm-affected families, most of whom have previously been housed in FEMA travel trailers. Through the AHPP Program, the city received a \$15.7 million dollar grant to fund the program. A groundbreaking ceremony occurred on July 30.

AN ESSENTIAL PARTNERSHIP

The successes in responding to the recovery needs of the many Alabamians who were adversely affected by Hurricane Katrina relied on our close working relationship and partnership with the Alabama Emergency Management Agency.

This close partnership between FEMA and the Alabama Emergency Management Agency in the Hurricane Katrina response, as in other disasters, has resulted in a most effective delivery of assistance.