



COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Highlights: Disaster Assistance

This year our nation faced a number of serious disasters. Floods ravaged the Midwest, wildfires raged in the west, and again hurricanes hit our gulf coast. This Congress is responding with a \$22.9 billion package that will help communities to rebuild, build their local economies, and take steps to protect them from future disasters.

SUMMARY

Disaster Relief Fund: \$7.9 billion, to ensure that the Federal Emergency Management Agency can continue its work helping communities recover from recent disasters and to ensure that they have the resources necessary to respond to future disasters.

Community Development Block Grants: \$6.5 billion, providing communities with flexible grants to help communities recover from disasters for efforts including providing temporary housing, repairing and replacing damaged homes and public infrastructure, and for economic development activities.

Social Services Block Grants: \$600 million, to provide states with flexible sources of funding to address emerging needs in the wake of disasters ranging from food assistance to urgent healthcare needs.

Wildfires: \$910 million, for firefighting costs after three years of near record fires, fire prevention efforts, and helping recover lands devastated by recent fires.

Emergency Highway Relief: \$850 million, to the Federal Highway Administration to help states repair roads and bridges damaged by disasters.

New Orleans Levees: \$1.5 billion, to allow the greater New Orleans area to pay the local cost share of hurricane and storm damage reduction projects over a 30-year period and ensure work is done by 2011.

Army Corps of Engineers: \$1.3 billion, to repair damage to infrastructure caused by disasters including the Midwest floods and hurricanes, protecting citizens across the country.

Small Business Administration: \$799 million, for loans and technical assistance to businesses and homeowners hit hard by disasters and for increased oversight of these funds.

Economic Development Assistance Programs: \$400 million, to help communities hit by disasters create strategies for economic recovery.

International Disasters: \$465 million, to provide \$365 million to help Georgia recover from the economic impact of the recent conflict, and \$100 million to help Haiti recover from Ike and other hurricanes, through the Economic Support Fund.

International Food Aid: \$100 million, to provide emergency food assistance in a year when food prices are skyrocketing across the globe.