



Report: Bureaucracy slowing post-K recovery

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METAIRIE - The amount of post-hurricane federal aid provided to Mississippi and Louisiana is not proportional to the amount of damage each state suffered, according to a report by the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana and the Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government.

PAR is headquartered in Baton Rouge. Rockefeller is based in Albany, N.Y.

The report, released Monday, is part of an ongoing GulfGov Reports research project by the two groups.

More than two years after hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the primary concern of officials in Louisiana and Mississippi is the sluggishness of aid distribution, the report says.

The report also criticizes the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Public Assistance Program, which requires local governments to begin repairs and seek a reimbursement. But that is not a good system for governments with little to no tax base in the wake of the hurricanes, the report says.

"While more than \$8 billion has been disbursed through these federal recovery programs, the costs for full recovery continue to climb," said PAR President Jim Brandt, who worked on the report. "A new level of communication and cooperation will be necessary to speed up the recovery and finish the job of rebuilding this region."

The executive director of the Louisiana Recovery Authority said the report echoes what state officials "have been saying to Washington for many months."

"The federal funding allocated for Louisiana's recovery has not been proportional to our damages and the dollars that have been appropriated through the Stafford Act and (community development block grant) program flow at a trickle, much too slowly for the kind of urgent rebuilding effort our communities need," Andy Kopplin said.

To view the full report, go to www.rockinst.org/gulfgov or www.la-par.org.

www.neworleanscitybusiness.com/UpToTheMinute.cfm?recID=12850