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*Report: Have plans, liaisons in place before disaster*

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - A new report finds the pace of recovery picking up in communities damaged by the 2005 hurricanes as money flows for long-term rebuilding plans. But it cites the lack of housing, rising insurance costs and flood elevation requirements among a list of remaining obstacles.

**The report by the nonprofit, Baton Rouge-based Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana and Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government makes several recommendations to speed recovery following another disaster.**

Its findings stemmed from data gathered along the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts, which were

hard hit by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Louisiana suffered a second blow a month later when Hurricane Rita came ashore.

Included in the PAR recommendations are a well-defined disaster response plan at multiple government levels; beginning long-term recovery planning as soon as the immediate threat has passed; designating liaisons within state and federal recovery offices for local officials and creating within the federal law governing disaster response a special category for large-scale disasters.

State, federal and local officials struggled with relief and communication issues for months after the hurricanes but say intergovernment relations have improved.