

Mississippi's Katrina recovery programs have been characterized by disregard for the needs of its most vulnerable citizens. Over \$3 billion of the \$5.4 billion Congress gave Mississippi has been granted waivers from the requirement to serve the needs of low and moderate income residents. Only \$1 billion has been devoted to programs that serve these same residents.¹ Two years later, less than \$100 million from those programs has been paid out.²

With over 17,000 households (close to 50,000 persons) still in FEMA trailers and others doubled up with relatives or friends, Mississippi's housing recovery is far from complete two years after Hurricane Katrina.³ Last week, however, Governor Haley Barbour proposed to divert \$600 million of housing recovery funds to pump into the expansion of the State Port at Gulfport, a commercial maritime harbor that earned half its revenue from casino leases prior to the storm.⁴ This makes a mockery of the Governor's Commission's recommendation to place a priority in every housing program upon serving the needs of lower income storm victims.⁵

unmet need	why unmet	cost to meet need
1. windstorm damage: at least 5,000 low-mod income households in lower 10 counties with severe windstorm damage	excluded from MS Home Grant programs	\$350 million (5,000 * avg. grant size \$70,000)
2. low-income renters 13,800 low-mod income market rate rentals with severe damage	MS's small rental program will produce 5,000 units	To double the program, \$258 million
3. Transitional Housing 17,000 households in FEMA trailers	MS's Alternative Housing Program (FEMA Cottages) will produce 4,000 to 6,000 units	To double alternative housing capacity, \$300 million

1. Windstorm damage data: See Steps Coalition comments to MDA (Attachment 1)
2. Low-income renters: See July 2006 Damage Estimate prepared for Mississippi Development Authority by FEMA (Attachment 2)

¹ [Media Matters - Media ignored Mississippi's use of waivers to redirect funds designated for low-income Katrina victims](#)

² <http://www.mississippi.org/content.aspx?url=/page/3525&>

³ <http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=39319>

⁴ Mississippi's request, see <http://www.mississippi.org/content.aspx?url=/page/actionplan&>. State Port's Master Plan, <http://www.shipmspa.com/MDA/> Revenue breakout, Joint Legislative PEER Report # 487 <http://www.peer.state.ms.us/reports/rpt487.pdf> , pp. 53-54.

⁵ Governor's Commission Report, http://www.mississippiirenewal.com/documents/Governors_Commission_Report.pdf p. 63 (pdf p. 73), Public reaction, <http://www.wlox.com/global/story.asp?s=7066666>