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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced today projects selected under the Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP). The pilot program aims to expand the types of housing FEMA provides disaster-affected communities by identifying, developing and evaluating alternatives to FEMA travel trailers and mobile homes. This program will also provide housing to people with on-going housing needs due to the 2005 hurricanes in the Gulf Coast.

"FEMA's alternative housing grants will ultimately come down to helping people in rebuilding their lives after a disaster," said FEMA Director David Paulison. "The more that FEMA can improve the process for individual victims, the more quickly we can accelerate recovery for the entire community."

The states of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas all submitted projects that ranked as the most competitive to receive grant funding, with the projects providing a high degree of confidence in achieving their goal. The pilot program provides grant assistance to projects that demonstrate alternative housing which can be produced, transported and installed in a timely manner and in appropriate quantities, and are adaptable to a variety of site conditions that will facilitate sustainable and permanent housing. Examples of alternative housing projects selected include single family modular homes that can be deconstructed, one story multifamily units that offer varying layouts, modular units placed on an undercarriage and frame, and pre-fabricated panelized housing, and others.

- **Top projects selected and possible award amount total \$388 million**
 - Alabama, City of Bayou La Batre Project, up to \$15,667,293.00
 - Louisiana, Cypress Cottage Partners Project, up to \$74,542,370.00
 - Mississippi, Green Mobile Project, up to \$5,890,882.00
 - Mississippi, Park Model and Mississippi Cottage Project, up to \$275,427,730.00
 - Texas, Heston Group Project, up to \$16,471,725.00

As part of the awards process, a national evaluation panel including non-governmental organizations, industry and government representatives, conducted an evaluation of the proposals, and submitted their evaluation to FEMA's Director of Recovery who also served as the Primary Selecting Official for the program. In all, the evaluation panel reviewed five proposals containing a total of 29 different projects, with the selecting official responsible for reviewing the panel's findings, and identifying the top projects that FEMA would discuss with the states. The selection of states receiving grant funding was done in a way to maximize the number of competitive states that receive awards.

The grant program and funding amounts listed for each project represents the anticipated award amount, and would only go "up to" that dollar amount. The final approval and funding of the grants will only be completed and awarded after a thorough review by the FEMA grants office and after all findings and information about the validity of the projects are complete.

Prior to awarding any grants FEMA will work with states to substantiate the validity of the projects, and gather any additional information that is needed to complete the grant award process.

Presently, FEMA's ability to provide disaster housing is limited to the provisions provided for in the Stafford Act, as amended by the Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2007, which gave FEMA broad new authority. Congress appropriated \$400 million in the 2006 Emergency Appropriations Act for the alternative housing program initiative, which provides the ability to examine recent and innovative approaches that may have the potential to meet the housing needs in the aftermath of future national disasters.

The grant guidance was designed to encourage innovation and creativity, as well as to develop alternative housing that can be produced, transported and installed in a timely manner.

FEMA manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

Selected Grant Awards For Alternative Housing Pilot Project

- The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released grant guidance and application kit for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP), and the grant application period opened on September 15, 2006. Gulf Coast States had through October 20, 2006, to submit proposals for what they consider the most innovative and effective ways to house disaster victims.
- The total appropriation for the Alternative Housing Pilot Program was \$400 million. Top projects selected and possible award amounts total \$388 million (*three percent of the grant money goes toward administrative costs, management costs, pilot project evaluations, and amendments as needed*).
- The objectives of this program are to:
 - Evaluate the efficacy of non-traditional short and intermediate-term housing alternatives for potential future use in catastrophic disaster environments.
 - Identify, develop and evaluate alternatives to and alternative forms of FEMA disaster housing to assist victims of the 2005 hurricanes in the Gulf Coast.
 - Consider the feasibility of these options as a part of housing assistance that could be made available by federal government agencies or states agencies for other disasters of various sizes, locations and impacts.
 - Assure that pilot projects address the needs of a variety of populations, such as persons with disabilities and the elderly, historically underserved populations as well as renters, homeowners, single-family dwelling occupants and multi-family dwelling occupants.

Top Projects Selected and Possible Award Amount:

- **Alabama, City of Bayou La Batre Project, up to \$15,667,293.00**
 - Alabama requested grant funding for single-family modular homes built using cement fiber materials. Each home can be transported on one truck and set by a crane onto a "crawl space." These modular homes can be deconstructed and reset on another foundation within a 500 mile radius.
 - This project demonstrates an impressive exploration of infrastructure planning. Using this technology, Bayou La Batre proposes building a disaster housing group site - outside the storm surge zone - that can also serve as a permanent sub-division for families that lost their homes due to Hurricane Katrina. This project has substantial evidence of community support and their dedication to its success.
- **Louisiana, Cypress Cottage Partners Project (Carpet Cottage and Katrina Cottage), up to \$74,542,370.00**
 - Louisiana requested grant funding for infill development housing in New Orleans in the Treme neighborhood, Jackson Barracks, Lake Charles, and Abbeville. This proposal offers two different alternatives - the Katrina Cottage (a single family manufactured home with a porch and options of two and three bedroom layouts), and the Carpet Cottage (a one story multifamily unit that offers one, two, and four bedroom layouts).
 - This project illustrates how disaster housing can spur long-term recovery. The multiple house and bedroom layouts allow recovery officials to provide disaster housing to a diverse population. The proposal also showed commitment to providing social services to residents of this disaster housing, and facilitating affordable home-ownership through the decommissioning of units for use as permanent housing. Furthermore, the surge-production capacity created by a partnership between the Cypress Group and Lowe's (hardware store), permits permanent or semi-permanent housing solutions to be built relatively quickly.
- **Mississippi, Green Mobile Project, up to \$5,890,882.00**
 - The Green Mobile proposal represents the innovative blend of key emergency housing needs with energy efficient and affordable housing that can serve as a temporary or permanent dwelling. The goal of the Green Mobile proposal is to demonstrate the merits of a cutting-edge approach that provides an improved emergency housing alternative, emphasizing innovative site design features, green building technologies, durability, and an open interior design that can be adapted to varied family needs. The units, therefore, result in reduced energy consumption and affordable living.
 - The Green Mobile uses innovative designs to produce homes that are durable, energy efficient and expandable. The use of green building technology for disaster housing, and input of disaster affected people regarding what amenities and architectural design features they would like in disaster housing, made this a truly unique proposal. Additionally, these plans are non-proprietary, so that designs may be expanded for use across the nation.
- **Mississippi, Park Model and Mississippi Cottage Project, up to \$275,427,730.00**
 - Mississippi requested grant funding for two different single-family alternative housing solutions - the Park Model and the Mississippi Cottage. The Park Model is similar to FEMA's travel trailers with enhancements such as an air conditioned attic for additional storage, Energy Star HVAC system, no roof penetrations, rot/mold/moisture resistant materials, and a front porch. Similar to travel trailers the Park Model will remain on

wheel permanently. The Mississippi Cottage is a modular unit placed on a HUD code undercarriage and frame, where the wheels can be removed and the unit installed on a permanent foundation, making it convertible to permanent housing. The Mississippi Cottage comes with a front porch and two or three bedroom options.

- The housing solutions in this project demonstrated thoughtful attention to the variety of sites FEMA uses in a disaster housing mission, and the diverse needs of the families it assists. The design of the units is sound with strong engineering and code compliance. Additionally, these homes may be installed on private, group and commercial properties. Long-term recovery is also advanced through the park Model and Mississippi Cottage project, as the state proposes to train and utilize the local workforce to install the product.
- **Texas, Heston Group Project, up to \$16,471,725.00**
 - **Texas requested grant funding for single-family pre-fabricated, panelized housing that can be broken down to fit a standard 8' x 20' shipping container. Heston is a Italian manufacturer of pre-fabricated, panelized housing used in relief situations for the United Nations and military housing in Iraq for some 90,000 troops. Heston is an experienced producer of housing designed for quick deployment and reuse.**
 - **The proposal was unique in design and concept for housing immediately following a disaster, because it can be pre-positioned, stored flat, and reused. Because they can be pre-positioned and transported by any number of standard means (flat bed truck, barge, train) they can be delivered quickly. These houses can be constructed in as little as eight hours by a six person crew, and minimal skills and training are required to complete the job. Heston Group has offered to build a "Texas Vernacular" style that can meet neighborhood and community standards throughout Texas. The units can also be used on private and group housing sites.**