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County residents still receiving aid for Ike damage

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Each week the Liberty County Long Term Recovery Committee organizes what is called the Unmet Needs Committee.

On Thursday, June 10, representatives from the Liberty County Long Term Recovery Committee, St. Vincent de Paul, and Lutheran Social Services convened to discuss and approve a number of cases that were presented by St. Vincent de Paul case managers on behalf of Liberty County residents who are still recovering from damages caused by Hurricane Ike.

Even though Hurricane Ike occurred almost two years ago, residents still with Ike damage to their home or personal property who have done what they could to recover are now able to obtain the assistance they need to fully recover.

Thanks to Montgomery County United Way, the Liberty County Long Term Recovery Committee (LCLTRC) received funds from the Social Services Block Grant to be able to help residents with minor home repairs with the use of local contractors and skilled volunteers.

Since the LCLTRC acquired the use of these funds this last January, 25 homes have been repaired this year with many more to come this summer. Additionally, several dozen homes were repaired before these funds became available on behalf of the manpower and resources garnered by the LCLTRC.

Barbara McIntyre, the mayor pro-tem of Cleveland and LCLTRC board member, stated, "It feels good to be able to continue helping local residents that have been waiting since the storm."

Despite some stringent government stipulations that are attached to the Social Services Block Grant, the LCLTRC believes that many more homes will be able to get the repairs they need and will continue to rely on St. Vincent de Paul case managers to obtain the necessary paperwork from potential clients.

In terms of "soft services," which is basically personal property, Lutheran Social Services also obtained a multi-million dollar Social Services Block Grant that covers a number of counties throughout Southeast Texas. Lutheran Social Services has contracted with St. Vincent de Paul to provide case management for Liberty and Chambers counties.

Since "soft service" dollars became available last February, several dozen residents have been approved to receive a combination of new mattresses, furniture, appliances, and/or linens that were damaged in relation to Hurricane Ike.

The majority of the cases that have been presented either received little or no assistance from FEMA, even after subsequent appeals despite obvious extensive damage. Each week cases are presented by St. Vincent de Paul case managers, and before repairs or soft service purchases can proceed, legitimate documentation must be aligned to prove that each client sustained Ike-related damages. If you would like to learn more, please call 1-888-IKE-RISE.



Representatives from the Liberty County Long Term Recovery Committee, St. Vincent de Paul, and Lutheran Social Services met on Thursday, June 10, to discuss a wide variety of Hurricane Ike damage cases that are to be funded through the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).