

Governor Bobby Jindal Orders Homeowner Protections under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

[On August 19, 2011, Governor Bobby Jindal released Executive Order BJ 11-18 regarding homeowner protections for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.](#)



Specifically, the Executive Order directs the Louisiana State Licensing Board for Contractors to conduct investigations and proceedings necessary to suspend or revoke licenses or issue cease and desist orders against any contractor or sub-contractor performing work funded by the Hazard Mitigation Program if such contractor or sub-contractor fails to demonstrate an ability to adequately meet all State expectations for participation in the Hazard Mitigation Program; fails to meet generally accepted standards of construction or expectations of the particular area of licensing expertise; violates any federal, state, or local building codes or ordinances; or ceases to possess the necessary qualifications of responsibility, skill, experience and integrity expected of a contractor or subcontractor engaged in work funded by the Hazard Mitigation Program.

The Executive Order also directs the Commissioner of Administration to:

1. Implement a process that will empower homeowners to change contractors and complete their elevation projects in a timely and proper manner, including engaging a new contractor or if necessary, transferring remaining grant funds to a new contractor;
2. Promptly inspect or investigate, through his delegate, any residence involved in the complaint of deficient construction methods;
3. Suspend payments to contractors under any existing contract, and/or suspend a contractor from entering into any future contracts funded by the Hazard Mitigation Program if the Commissioner or his delegate finds that the complaint of deficient construction was well-founded and the contractor fails to correct the work in a timely manner, including the repair of any additional damage caused by the contractor or his subcontractor in connection with the deficient construction or caused by a delay in repairing the deficient construction;
4. Increase insurance requirements on contractors participating in the Hazard Mitigation Program to ensure that contractors and subcontractors are sufficiently insured so that homeowners are protected against poor or incomplete construction as well as any additional damage caused by a contractor's deficient construction methods.
5. Notify the Contractor's Licensing Board of any finding that may be cause for suspension or revocation of a contractor or sub-contractor's license by the Board and file any complaint he deems appropriate or necessary with the Board to institute such proceedings;
6. Ensure transparency in the program through publicly posting on the Internet and other publicly accessible places a list of contractors and/or sub-contractors who have been suspended or barred from participation in the Hazard Mitigation Program;
7. Educate homeowners, contractors, and sub-contractors on the Hazard Mitigation Program requirements and resources, including contract requirements for appropriate construction insurance and bonding, in collaboration with the Office of the Louisiana Attorney General Consumer Protection Division and the Contractor Licensing Board;
8. Continue and strengthen anti-fraud, waste, and abuse measures through active participation of the Inspector General Office of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Attorney General in all aspects of the Hazard Mitigation Program;
9. Design any other measures which the Commissioner in his discretion deems appropriate to implement in the spirit and intent of this mandate.