



"Financing Education Today for a Better Tomorrow"

NEWS RELEASE

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LPFA Board of Trustees approves Lela assistance for Katrina victims

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana Public Facilities Authority's Board of Trustees agreed Monday to provide \$50,000 in emergency grants to hurricane-displaced college financial aid professionals in Louisiana. The assistance will be provided through the Louisiana Education Loan Authority (Lela), the student loan division of LPFA. Lela is one of the largest providers of low-cost student loans in Louisiana, assisting over 350,000 students.

The grants are part of a \$300,000 Katrina Disaster Relief Fund established to assist displaced college financial aid professionals. Lela, along with Edamerica and Edfinancial—companies also involved in providing and servicing student loans—are the sole contributors. Eligible financial aid administrators may apply online at www.edamerica.net/hurricanerelief or by contacting Ron Gambill at (615) 771-8505.

James W. Parks, II, president and CEO of the LPFA, said that in light of the destruction and devastation throughout south Louisiana caused by Hurricane Katrina, special assistance is needed because many of the colleges and universities have cancelled their fall semesters and may not reopen until next January.

"Many of the professional staff people whose jobs are to help students obtain financial assistance have lost their homes and their employers have temporarily closed," Parks said. "We need to help these victims make it through the next few months and we hope they will rebound and can return to work next semester helping thousands of college students obtain financing for their education."

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Tony Hollin, chairman & CEO of Edfinancial Services, said: "We're pleased to partner with the good people at Lela to assist displaced financial aid professionals and their families. It's our hope that these funds will give folks a leg up to move forward after this terrible disaster."

Lela is a division of the LPFA, a non-profit public trust established to bring financing assistance and advantages to the people of Louisiana. Lela acts as a low-cost source of student loan financing for higher education.

The LPFA is a self-supporting public trust and public corporation that issues both taxable and tax-exempt bonds to finance public and private projects throughout the state. The LPFA finances industrial and economic development projects, provides low-cost funding for hospitals and hospital equipment, universities and other educational facilities, student loans and essential programs for state and local governmental units. The LPFA does not receive any appropriation from the state for its operations.

For more information about LPFA and/or Lela, call (800) 228-4755 or visit the LPFA Web site at www.lpfa.com or the Lela Web site at www.lela.org.