



MFA Board Minutes
16 September 2021, 10:00 am

The meeting was called to order by Holly Talley at 1:07 pm. *Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the meeting was held via Zoom.*

The following board members were in attendance:

- William McInnis (Designee for LDVA)
- Sulanda Lonnette
- Dennis Andras
- Lt. Col. Ebony Carter
- Sarah Mulhearn
- William Tilley
- Homer Rodgers
- Mike Cushman

Due to travel conflicts for both Secretary Joey Strickland and his designee, Dustin Guy, LDVA Veterans Assistance Counselor William McInnis was designated by the Secretary to represent him on the MFA Board for the meeting held on September 16, 2021 to ensure quorum was met.

Non-board members present included:

- Holly Talley, Third Party Administrator
- Lani Durio, Executive Counsel

Guest in attendance:

- Larry Williams, LDVA Outreach Coordinator

The board confirmed that a quorum was present and the meeting continued.

The minutes from the August 17, 2021 meeting of the Board were reviewed. Sulanda Lonnette made a motion to accept the minutes, Sen. Boudreaux seconded the motion, and it passed without objection.

Holly Talley presented the fund balance report to discuss where the MFA Fund currently stands. Dennis Andras made a motion to accept the balance report, Sulanda Lonnette seconded the motion, and it passed without objection.

The MFA Board discussed and set guidelines for the processing of MFA applications received from those effected by Hurricane Ida. Those guideline are as follows:

1. Applications received will be reviewed on a case by case basis, giving priority consideration to those that do not have insurance.
2. A minimum of \$400 will be awarded to those effected by Hurricane Ida in one of the following 25 parishes:
 - Ascension
 - Assumption
 - East Baton Rouge
 - East Feliciana
 - Iberia
 - Iberville
 - Jefferson
 - Lafourche
 - Livingston
 - Orleans
 - Plaquemines
 - Pointe Coupee
 - St. Bernard
 - St. Charles
 - St. Helena
 - St. James
 - St. John the Baptist
 - St. Martin (only lower St. Martin parish ZIP codes 70339 and 70380)
 - St. Mary
 - St. Tammany
 - Tangipahoa



- Terrebonne
- Washington
- West Baton Rouge
- West Feliciana

3. If an applicant does not provide all required documents to support total amount requested and are awarded the minimum assistance of \$400, the applicant can submit a new application at a later date for consideration when all documents to support total amount requested can be provided.
4. In the event that special needs exceed the minimum \$400 amount awarded, applicants must provide documents to support their application and total amount requested.
5. The MFA Fund will not reimburse for generators or chainsaw because specific funding has been allocated by FEMA for these items. However, if a veteran applies to FEMA for reimbursement of these items and is denied, they can reapply to MFA and show their denial letter.
6. Applicants should provide the following documents with their applications:
 - FEMA Disaster Number and/or any approval or denial letters received for assistance requested.
 - Insurance claim(s) submitted for home, vehicle and other damages; and/or any approval or denial letters received for insurance requested. Total deductible amount must be supported by either policy statement or adjuster report.
 - Adjuster statements, reports, repair estimates, etc. received post-Ida should be provided to verify damage(s) received.
7. All applications requesting Hurricane Ida related assistance must be received by Wednesday, December 1, 2021. No applications received after this date will be processed for Hurricane Ida assistance.
8. Due to the high volume of the applications received, the MFA Board will meet bi-weekly on Thursdays at 1:00 pm beginning on September 30, 2021 through the end of October, at which time the Board will reevaluate the need for continuing these meetings.

Discussion was had by the Board concerning the high volume of applications received due to Hurricane Ida. The total amounts requested exceed the spending authority of the MFA Fund for FY 2021-22. The regular yearly spending authority of the MFA Fund is \$115, 528. The Board voted to approve a request to be made to increase the FY22 spending authority by \$184,472 to bring total to \$300,000. This request will be prepared by LDVA's fiscal department to be sent to the budget office for processing and consideration.

A motion was made by Dennis Andras to set the above guidelines for response to Hurricane Ida assistance requested and to request an increase in the MFA Fund's spending authority for FY22. Homer Rodgers seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection.

Due to applications discussed remaining confidential, unless approved by the Board, a motion was made for the Board to go into a closed executive session of Board members, the MFA Administrator and LDVA's Executive Counsel present. A motion was made by Sulanda Lonnette. Dennis Andras seconded the motion. The motion passed without objection. Larry Williams exited the Zoom.

The following applications were considered by the Board:

1. ARAP 0921 (2) requesting \$ 10,000. Dennis Andras made a motion to approve the application for \$400.00 due to veteran having received funding from FEMA for some items requested. Veteran may apply again at a later date, should they need additional assistance. Sulanda Lonnette seconded the motion. The application was approved for \$400 without objection.
2. DBOO 0921 (3) requesting \$ 3,000. Dennis Andras made a motion to approve the application for \$400.00 due to veteran having received funding from FEMA for some items requested. Veteran may apply again at a later date,



should they need additional assistance. Homer Rodgers seconded the motion. The application was approved for \$400 without objection.

3. MDEB 0921 (14) requesting \$ 6,500. Sulanda Lonnette made a motion to approve the application for \$400.00 due documents not being provided to support total amount request. Veteran may apply again at a later date, should they need additional assistance. Sarah Mulhearn seconded the motion. The application was approved for \$400 without objection.
4. KBAS 0921 (37) requesting \$7,000. Mike Cushman made a motion to deny the application because the veteran is not a resident of the state of Louisiana per documents provided. Veteran is not eligible. William McInnis seconded the motion. The application was denied without objection.
5. CCOL 0921 (42) requesting \$ 3,063. Homer Rodgers made a motion to approve the application for verified need-based items totaling \$3,082.34, plus \$400 for being effected by Hurricane Ida. Veteran may apply again at a later date, should they need additional assistance. William McInnis seconded the motion. The application was approved for \$400 without objection.
6. CGRA 0921 (46) requesting \$ 8,400. Mike Cushman made a motion to approve the application for \$400.00 due to veteran having received funding from FEMA for some items requested. Veteran may apply again at a later date, should they need additional assistance. William McInnis seconded the motion. The application was approved for \$400 without objection.
7. AGRE 0921 (47) requesting \$10,000. William McInnis made a motion to deny the application because application was missing sufficient information to show full nature of hardship. Complete proof of total household income was not provide. Primary request was not related to Hurricane Ida. Sarah Mulhearn seconded the motion. The application was denied without objection.

A motion was made to adjourn by Dennis Andras and seconded by Sulanda Lonnette. It passed without objection. The meeting was adjourned at 3:28 pm.