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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

Office of Community Action

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5:00 P.M.  
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### **Lafourche Parish Residents Can Apply for Funding Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act**

The Lafourche Parish Government Office of Community Action would like to inform residents of the opportunities available to those who are unemployed. Funding for these assistance programs in the amount of \$384,963.00 was provided through a Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) by way of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009.

There are several types of assistance for which a resident can apply. Of these, the *Emergency Services* include utility assistance, food vouchers, medication assistance and rental/mortgage assistance. *Education Assistance* includes after-school care and college tuition assistance. All the *Emergency Services* and *Education Assistance* programs are monetary-based and are limited to a certain amount for each family or individual, depending on the type of assistance.

There are also two types of non-monetary assistance. The *Family Development Program* will feature free resources, referrals and counseling to help encourage strong healthier families. *Income Management* assistance will feature similar assistance to help families and individuals manage their finances.

Denise Hughes, Executive Director of the Office of Community Action, said she has seen an increase in the number of unemployed or underemployed residents. "These programs will also help those citizens find a job, get new training skills, find child care and handle their finances," said Hughes. "We have employed a case manager to guide each individual through resources and referrals in order to become self-reliant."

To be eligible for any of these assistance programs, residents must have valid identification and a valid Social Security card. Each type of assistance also requires other documentation for eligibility. Residents interested in more information on any of these assistance programs should call the Lafourche Parish Government Office of Community Action toll-free at 1-800-794-3160.

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