

Letcher County Long Term Recovery Group
Executive Committee

December 22, 2023

RE: Cajun Navy grant extension

Dear Cajun Navy Ground Force:

We have learned that your grant to provide assistance for help with the July 2022 flood recovery has been extended thru year ending 12/31/2024. The value of the help received through this program is truly incalculable.

Cajun Navy Ground Force was at the forefront of the efforts to help families survive the havoc that had been placed upon their lives. Not only surviving the historic flood waters but the devastating aftermath of losing their homes, their life's work and hopes and dreams for their futures. Cajun Navy Ground Force took on this Herculean task of trying to put lives back together and we are forever grateful.

While the grant has been extended the window of time for the case managers has not. We wish to stress the utmost importance of having these people familiar with every aspect of flood recovery, where families are in their recovery, what options remain open to them in the future remain in place.

The importance of keeping these experienced and knowledgeable battle worn people in place is not lost on our committee. In fact, the idea of losing those that have been our right hands throughout this horrifying experience is in itself horrific.

We are also in danger of losing the experienced CNGF construction crews we have on the ground. Letcher county had fully one third more homes lost in the six counties affected by the flood and so the sheer number of those impacted by the flood limited the number of able-bodied workforce participants. The time it will take to replace these personnel, if they can be replaced, will surely hamper flood recovery to no small extent.

At the end of December we will also no longer have CORE DCM representation in Letcher county. We desperately need to maintain experienced flood recovery personnel and advocates for flood survivors. These numbers are dwindling just at the time funding from the CDBG funding is close to being released. We need more, not fewer, experienced DCM's in place to walk with flood survivors and help them to regain a semblance of normalcy to their lives.

When the grant was put in place we knew it was for the sole purpose of helping people desperately in need. And in that vein, those of us who have been working since day one of the flood, we implore you to take whatever measures are needed to ensure that this vital part of our recovery remains in place.

With kindest regards

Letcher County LTRG
Executive Committee