

United States Senate

September 10, 2021

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
BUDGET
JUDICIARY
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Honorable Deanne Bennett Criswell
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Federal Center Plaza
500 C Street, SW
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Administrator Criswell,

I write to you today to request that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) extend the application deadline for a vital aid program that is slated to expire in the coming days. As you know, on Sunday, August 29th, Hurricane Ida made landfall in southeast Louisiana as a Category 4 storm. It will be weeks before a full assessment of damage will be available. In fact, as of this writing, hundreds of thousands of Louisiana residents and businesses are still without power.

As Louisiana works to rebuild, I request that FEMA extend the September 12th deadline for the Critical Needs Assistance program. Without a deadline extension, residents will not be able to apply for and receive vital aid related to urgent needs as a result of Hurricane Ida – this includes financial assistance for food, water, medicines and temporary housing. While progress has been made restoring power across affected areas, it will be weeks before full power is restored. Unfortunately, the storm left many Louisiana residents without the means or resources to apply for much needed assistance. Further, I have heard reports that qualified applicants are being denied. As a result of these reports and the upcoming application deadline, I ask that registration for the Critical Needs Assistance program be extended.

I thank FEMA for continued relief efforts and I remain ready to work together to ensure Louisiana residents are getting the aid they need.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy
U.S. Senator