



For Immediate Release

Senator Landrieu Ensures Federal Funding for Louisiana 2-1-1

LAUW to receive \$400,000 in 2009 for Easy-to-Use Information and Crisis Referral Line

(Louisiana) President Barack Obama has signed off on an omnibus appropriations bill for 2009 with hundreds of millions of dollars for Louisiana projects secured by U.S. Senator Mary L. Landrieu. The bill includes a \$400,000 earmark for the Louisiana 2-1-1 Information and Referral Line, a service that connects users with information about critical health and human services available to their community, especially during times of crisis.

The Louisiana Association of United Ways (LAUW) worked closely with Senator Landrieu and her staff in order to secure a \$400,000 earmark to assist with capacity building for Louisiana 2-1-1. The funding will go towards the hiring and training of additional personnel, as well as the enhancement of equipment. These changes will allow Louisiana 2-1-1 to more fully integrate their operations with the State, as LAUW continues to partner with various offices including the Department of Social Services and the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness.

2-1-1 delivers information and referral services seamlessly to the public by telephone, through the Internet and in print publications. Our 2-1-1 system provides a single, highly visible and memorable entry point to comprehensive information and referral services and efficiently connects people in need with more than 10,000 health and human services provided by some 6,000 providers, government agencies, and community-based organizations throughout the state.

Governor Jindal and the Department of Social Services communicated the benefits of the 2-1-1 system by endorsing its use during Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. It was promoted as a helpful evacuation and safety resource that allowed efficient and effective coordination of resources during times of crisis or disaster. "It helps link people that are vulnerable in our community to the resources they need," Jindal said of 2-1-1 last October.

There are over two hundred 2-1-1 call centers throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and Canada. Louisiana is one of only 18 states that currently provide statewide coverage, and the Louisiana Association of United Way is one of six United Ways and 2-1-1s who will cumulatively received nearly \$2 million in federal funding for 2-1-1 during the Fiscal Year 2009.

"The Louisiana Association of United Ways deeply appreciates Senator Landrieu's commitment to Emergency Preparedness and we are indeed grateful for her leadership," said Charmaine Caccioppi, LAUW President. "This vital communication system which represents a strong public private partnership will ensure that all citizens of Louisiana have access to critical information during times of disaster and it will also allow them to obtain high quality professional assistance as they seek to find the valuable services to assist them in their time of need."

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