



# FEMA Fact Sheet

## Alternative Housing Pilot Program

The Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) is a one-time, four-year pilot to identify and evaluate better ways to house disaster victims. It resulted from a \$400 million Congressional appropriation in 2006 and is identified as a key program in FEMA's National Disaster Housing Strategy. Designed as a grant program to address housing needs, five of the 29 AHPP projects submitted were awarded to four states. Project implementation is underway.

Each project and managing agency explores a different solution to locally acceptable transitional and permanent disaster housing. Common among the projects is an element of Gulf Coast recovery since all projects must ensure that individuals continuing to receive housing assistance from the 2005 hurricane

season are given first priority for occupancy. Vital to the success of the program is evaluation and integration of lessons learned.

To evaluate the success of the units and each project's impact on individual recovery, HUD is performing building and social science research for FEMA under an interagency agreement. Once completed, HUD will present their findings to Congress and FEMA.

The AHPP program increases the range of federal disaster housing options. Each project demonstrates a significant number of units that differ from standard FEMA solutions. At the conclusion of the program, AHPP initiatives will yield worthy alternatives for consideration by FEMA's Joint Housing Solutions Group (JHSG) and Congress.

### Mississippi / Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) (\$281,318,612)

Mississippi Cottage and Park Model (\$275,427,730): The Park Model is similar in size to a FEMA travel trailer but is built to more stringent codes and uses rot, moisture, and mold resistant materials. The Cottage is a larger two and three bedroom unit complying with both the HUD code and local building codes, exceeding both in many areas. The axles and wheels can be removed for installation on a permanent foundation.

MS Eco Cottage (\$5,890,882): The Eco Cottage is a highly energy-efficient temporary disaster housing unit that can also be used as permanent housing. The design emphasizes green building technologies, durability, and an open interior to accommodate families of various sizes.



Diamondhead, MS, October 22, 2008 -- Carol O'Brien stands on the porch of a Mississippi Cottage, newly made permanent, that she will move into once she has met her sweat equity hours requirement for Habitat for Humanity. FEMA's Long Term Community Recovery Staff in Mississippi teamed up with Bay-Waveland Area Habitat for Humanity to create a "Coastal Cottage," adapted from an Alternative Housing Pilot Program Cottage. The modifications increase the square footage of the modular unit, meet local zoning requirements and place the cottage on a permanent foundation. Jennifer Smits/FEMA.



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"FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards."