In 2006 Congress provided a $400 million special appropriation to FEMA to identify and evaluate better ways to house future disaster victims while also assisting those impacted by the 2005 hurricane season. In response, FEMA developed the Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) as a competitive grant program and invited the Gulf Coast States to submit innovative proposals. Five projects of the 29 submitted were awarded to four states. Two projects were awarded to Mississippi and one each to Alabama, Louisiana and Texas.
Evaluation of AHPP

FEMA and HUD are conducting a multi-year evaluation of the AHPP to assess the unit’s physical structure as well as its impact on resident’s quality of life. Evaluation benchmarks include —

- Unit construction quality, design, versatility, accessibility, adaptability
- Safety, comfort, aesthetics, resident satisfaction
- Community acceptance

AHPP is also partnering with FEMA’s Joint Housing Solutions Group (JHSG). The JHSG systematically and rigorously assesses potential disaster housing alternatives. These assessments help increase the range of housing options the federal government can provide to disaster-impacted communities. Together, the AHPP and JHSG initiatives will yield innovative and cost-effective disaster housing alternatives for FEMA and Congress’ consideration.

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