

# FEMA grants \$10 million to 25 municipalities

BY THE DAILY SUN STAFF

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has granted \$9.9 million in public assistance funds to 25 municipalities in Puerto Rico for damages to infrastructure set off by the rain and flooding on the island Sept. 21 through Oct. 3, 2008, FEMA's Caribbean Area Division director, Alejandro De La Campa, said Monday.

To date, the following municipalities have had federal funds approved for infrastructure-related projects: Adjuntas, \$195,000; Patillas, \$156,500; Arroyo, \$815,200; Peñuelas, \$594,100; Cabo Rojo, \$1.4 million; Utuado, \$1.8 million; Guánica, \$64,700; Ponce, \$296,000; Guayama, \$399,700; Sabana Grande \$82,700; Guayanilla, \$133,700; San Germán, \$51,400; Humacao, \$250,000; San Lorenzo, \$210,000; Juncos, \$112,250; Santa Isabel, \$104,500; Lajas, \$218,500; Utuado, \$209,600; Las Marías, \$134,400; Villalba, \$118,000; Las Piedras, \$662,100; Yabucoa, \$610,700; Maunabo, \$656,900; Yauco, \$352,900; and Naguabo, \$225,600.

FEMA public assistance grants cover the reimbursement of approved costs incurred in disaster related emergency work, including protective measures, debris removal and the repair, replacement or restoration of flood-damaged public facilities, such as roads and bridges, buildings, parks, water control facilities and utilities, De La Campa said.

The public assistance grant may also include funds to implement hazard mitigation measures, such as site-specific retrofitting, to protect facilities from future damages, if the applicant can demonstrate a favorable cost-benefit ratio, he said.

## Island gets \$417,438 in rural housing funds

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced Monday the selection of 154 recipients for \$9.8 million in grants to repair rural housing and make energy efficiency improvements in 48 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

José Otero García, Rural Housing Development director for Puerto Rico, said seven municipalities and one non-profit organization received \$417,438 to repair 203



houses. Cayey got \$40,487 to renovate 30 houses; Ceiba received \$40,487 for 25 houses; Guánica got \$70,000 to repair 20 homes; Las Marías received \$70,000 to repair eight; Maunabo received \$75,000 to repair 20; Loíza got \$40,487 to fix 30 houses, San Lorenzo received \$40,487 to repair 30, and Ceiba Housing and Economic Development got \$40,487 to repair 40 homes.

"The Obama administration and I believe that every citizen deserves to live in safe and affordable housing," Vilsack said. "These grants will help rural residents and rental property owners repair leaking roofs, plumbing or crumbling foundations, as well as add insulation, caulking and energy-saving windows and doors."

Rural Development's housing preservation grants help ensure that rural single and multi-family housing is adequate, meets current safety standards and is accessible to people with disabilities, he said.



Daily Sun/Miguel Rios

FEMA has granted \$9.9 million in public assistance funds to 25 municipalities in Puerto Rico for damages set off by rain and flooding.