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**Foundation Offers Details of Rig Relief Grants**

*BP donation of \$100 million will offer assistance to deepwater rig workers*

**BATON ROUGE, La.** – The Gulf Coast Restoration and Protection Foundation today provided more details about a financial grant program for oil rig workers affected by the federally-imposed deepwater moratorium.

BP is donating \$100 million, the amount requested by President Obama, to GCRPF, which will make monetary grants to affected workers through October. GCRPF is a support organization under the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, the largest community foundation on the Gulf Coast.

“We recognize the great importance of moving quickly and fairly to make hardship grants to rig workers who are suffering financially under this moratorium,” said John G. Davies, BRAF CEO and president. “Having delivered hardship grants worth more than \$8.5 million after Hurricane Katrina to displaced Louisiana workers, we understand the responsibility of doing this job well.”

Under the agreement with BP to establish the Rig Worker Assistance Fund, grants are limited to people who worked on the 33 deepwater rigs when the federal moratorium began on May 6. GCRPF estimates that up to 9,000 people worked directly on those rigs.

The application period for the program opens Sept. 1 and closes Sept. 30. People who believe they qualify are asked to call (866) 577-8141 on Sept. 1. GCRPF also will provide updates at [www.RigReliefGrants.org](http://www.RigReliefGrants.org).

In the meantime, rig workers can help the program move rapidly by collecting qualifying documents, including most recent pay stubs listing year-to-date income; W2, 1099 or income tax returns for the most recent calendar year, insurance proceeds and unemployment payments, verification of employment on one of the 33 rigs, as well as payments from other relief funds.

Beginning Oct. 4, GCRPF will mail grant checks weekly to qualified participants. It is anticipated that all approved awards will be sent by Oct. 30.

**About GCRPF:** The Gulf Coast Restoration and Protection Foundation was created to help people affected by the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and to provide for the long-term sustainability of wildlife in the coastal ecosystem. GCRPF is a support organization of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation, which has provided more than \$232 million in grants over 46 years and established programs to improve the direction of south Louisiana. More information is available online at [GCRPF.org](http://GCRPF.org) and [BRAAF.org](http://BRAAF.org).