

DISASTER RECOVERY INITIATIVE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

*Allocations, Waivers and Alternative Requirements for Grantees Receiving Community
Development Block Grant
Disaster Recovery Funds in Response to Disasters Occurring in 2011, 2012 and 2013
The Disaster Relief Appropriations Act, 2013 (Public Law 113-2)
Federal Register Docket No. FR-5696-N-03*

LOUISIANA OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT-DISASTER RECOVERY UNIT

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 7 (SUBSTANTIAL)
FOR THE UTILIZATION OF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FUNDS
UNDER THE NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE COMPETITION (NDRC)
LOUISIANA'S STRATEGIC ADAPTATIONS FOR FUTURE ENVIRONMENTS (LA SAFE)**

Public Comment Period: October 19, 2022 – November 1, 2022

Submitted to HUD: November 2, 2022

Re-Submitted to HUD: December 9, 2022

Approved by HUD: December 16, 2022

John Bel Edwards, Governor

Billy Nungesser, Lieutenant Governor

Jay Dardenne, Commissioner of Administration



LA Safe Project Selection & Implementation

Project Selection Process

Following the fifth and final round of community engagement events at the end of 2017, the LA SAFE team convened the LA SAFE Project Selection Committee. The Selection Committee was comprised of OCD staff that ultimately selected 10 projects for funding. The following baseline criteria were included in the decision-making process:

- Project must be a CDBG-NDR eligible activity;
- Project must be able to meet a national objective within CDBG-NDR timelines;
- Project must have a clear tie to the storm (Hurricane Isaac, for CDBG-NDR);
- Project must have an eligible unmet need after accounting for all duplication of benefits;
- Project must meet specific project area requirements (e.g. economic development underwriting, infrastructure limitations, housing composition, see section 1.3 LA SAFE Framework);
- Project must be feasible and sustainable; all funding sources must be firmly committed and the local, responsible entity must have the resources committed to ensure on-going maintenance and operations;
- Project must be compatible with the CPRA's Coastal Master Plan.

The following scoring criteria were included in the decision making process as well:

- Amount of dollars available as direct leverage // out of 10 points, sliding ratio scale;
- Benefit to LMI persons // out of 20 points, all or nothing;
- Public preference // out of 20 points, determined during public meeting Round 5 and subsequent online polling;
- Public benefit (quantitative) // out of 20 points, determined by selection committee;
- Public benefit (qualitative) // out of 20 points, determined by selection committee;
- And ability to enhance a CRS score // out of 10 points, all or nothing.

Project Selection Exception Process

In selecting projects for the LA SAFE project portfolio, the scoring committee shall consider three primary objectives in populating the portfolio: 1) selecting highest scoring projects for funding based on the scoring criteria established in the previous section; 2) populate a project portfolio that equitably spreads resources to the extent feasible across the six parish project area; and, 3) populate a project portfolio that addresses each of the established project types outlined in section 1.3 LA SAFE Framework, to the extent feasible.

With consideration to these three primary objectives, once the scoring committee has selected highest scoring projects for funding in each parish, the scoring committee may, at its discretion, opt to suspend scoring rules to make subsequent project selections in furtherance of objectives addressing equitable distribution of resources and selection of projects under project types that otherwise would not have been funded based on project scoring criteria alone.

LA SAFE Project Description

National Objective: LMI

Eligible Activities: New Construction and disposition as provide through all applicable waivers and alternative requirements 84 FR 4836.

The purpose of Action Plan Amendment 7 is to update the program description of the LASAFE Optional Homeowner Relocation Assistance for Permanent Residents project. The original beneficiaries of this project are low/moderate income households that are located outside of the Morganza to the Gulf Structural Protection System in Terrebonne Parish. Last described in Action Plan Amendment 4, the project description referenced that the program would provide relocation for the few permanent households outside of Morganza who are not part of the Isle de Jean Charles resettlement program, of which there are approximately seven. After extensive outreach and communication with this population, none of the households have opted to voluntarily participate in the program. Since that time several households from Isle de Jean Charles that did not initially choose to participate in the Isle de Jean Charles Resettlement program have applied for and have been determined to be eligible for participation. This change will allow for the relocation of households, who choose to participate, still living outside of the Morganza to the Gulf Structural Protection System to move to higher, safer ground. The original project goal of relocation of low/moderate income households that are located outside of the Morganza to the Gulf Structural Protection System in Terrebonne parish will be achieved through new construction of housing in the new Isle de Jean Charles settlement.

Public Comments

The formal public comment period for this amendment was Wednesday, October 19, 2022 through Thursday December 8, 2022 at 5 p.m. OCD published public notice of the public comment period and a notice of Public Hearing held December 7, 2022.

STATE ACCEPTING PUBLIC COMMENTS, HOSTING PUBLIC HEARING ON NATIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT 7

The Louisiana Office of Community Development is accepting public comments and hosting a public hearing on the state's National Disaster Resilience Action Plan Amendment 7 to expand eligibility for relocation assistance in Louisiana's Strategic Adaptations for Future Environments program. The public comment period started Oct. 19 and ends Dec. 8. **The public hearing is Dec. 7 in Houma.**

The original beneficiaries of NDR's LA SAFE Optional Relocation Assistance for Permanent Residents program were low- to-moderate income households located outside the Morganza to the Gulf Structural

Protection System in Terrebonne Parish. As none of the eligible households chose to participate in the program, the state intends to expand eligibility to meet the needs of Isle de Jean Charles residents.

NDR APA 7 allows the relocation of additional participating households still living outside of the Morganza to the Gulf Structural Protection System to move to higher, safer ground at The New Isle resettlement site.

The public hearing on the proposed amendment is at **4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 7, at the Terrebonne Parish Library – East Houma Branch, 778 Grand Caillou Road in Houma.**

To view and comment on NDR APA 7, visit the [Action Plans page](#) of OCD's website.

Citizens and organizations could comment on this amendment via:

- The OCD website, http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Action_Plans.aspx;
- Emailing them to ocd@la.gov;
- Mailing them to the Louisiana Office of Community Development, P.O. Box 94095, 70804-9095, Attn: Janice Lovett; or
- Faxing them to the attention of Janice Lovett at (225) 219-9605.

The plan was available in Vietnamese and Spanish to reach the limited English proficiency citizens in the impacted areas. Citizens with disabilities or those who need other technical assistance could contact the OCD office for assistance via the methods listed above.

The state did not receive any comments.