

CALCASIEU PARISH HURRICANES LAURA AND DELTA

LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLAN

AUGUST 2021



SEEKING LONG-TERM RECOVERY MEANS WE ARE NOT TRYING TO MAKE LIFE LIKE IT WAS - WE ARE TRYING TO MAKE IT BETTER, MORE SUSTAINABLE, AND PROTECTED AGAINST FUTURE DISASTERS. THIS IS OUR PLAN.

"The Long-Term Community Recovery Plan was developed by a broad cross-section of community stakeholders and represents a summary of measures that will serve as the catalyst for a successful and flourishing Calcasieu Parish. Much time, energy, and effort were spent conceptualizing this plan and we are incredibly grateful for the unwavering commitment of all those who were involved."

CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY PRESIDENT BRIAN ABSHIRE

LETTERS OF SUPPORT



CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY

P.O. Drawer 3287 • 1015 Pithon Street • Lake Charles, Louisiana 70602-3287 337/721-3500 • Fax 337/437-3399 www.calcasieuparish.gov

July 12, 2021

Brian Abshire President

Guy Brame Vice President

Bryan C. Beam Parish Administrator

> Ashton Richard District 1

> > Mike Smith District 2

Eddie Lewis, Jr. District 3

Tony Guillory District 4

Brian Abshire District 5

Ron Hayes District 6

Chris Landry District 7

Guy Brame District 8

Anthony Bartie District 9

> Tony Stelly District 10

Roger Marcantel District 11

> Judd Bares District 12

Joe Andrepont District 13

Randy Burleigh District 14

Tony Tramonte District 1.5

Residents of Calcasieu Parish:

On behalf of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, I would like to recognize and commend your tireless efforts to brainstorm, plan, and execute a sound roadmap to rebuilding our Parish following Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

Experiencing such severe back-to-back hurricanes in 2020 was truly unprecedented, but the resolute spirit of our residents proved stronger than the destruction of any storm. If anything, these natural disasters further ignited the fierce commitment you have to our region of Louisiana. Throughout this recovery process, it is evident that everyone is planning for both the present and future of Calcasieu Parish. The combined efforts of our community and leaders ensure our region will thrive for generations to come.

The Long-Term Community Recovery Plan was developed by a broad crosssection of community stakeholders and represents a summary of measures that will serve as the catalyst for a successful and flourishing Calcasieu Parish. Much time, energy, and effort were spent conceptualizing this plan, and we are incredibly grateful for the unwavering commitment of all those who were involved.

We also know that this plan will adapt and change as our recovery and development progress. I commit, on behalf of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, that we will stand alongside you, leading the way for a better Calcasieu Parish. We are so deeply appreciative of the opportunity to serve Calcasieu Parish. Let's rebuild.

With warm regards on behalf of your Calcasieu Parish Police Jury,

BRIAN ABSHIRE President

jdb

Vision . Collaboration . Dependability . Financial Stewardship



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Roger Marcantel District 11

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Joe Andrepont District 13

Randy Burleigh District 14

Tony Tramonte District 15 Residents of Calcasieu Parish:

Thanks to your efforts and dedication, the stories of Hurricanes Laura and Delta are not stories of devastation and destruction, but instead of hope, commitment and resiliency. After one of the most trying times in the history of Southwest Louisiana, we did what Louisianians do best: we started the process of moving our region forward, and we helped our neighbors and fellow citizens any way we could. Though each of us had lost so much, everyone gave their all to begin rebuilding.

In the midst of the rebuilding efforts, area residents began discussing ways to position our Parish for future success. As such, the Calcasieu Parish Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery Framework became the means to formalize your ideas, input, and work. This Long-Term Community Recovery Plan is the result of that work and outlines the ways we will help our neighbors recover both physically and spiritually while supporting individual, economic, and philanthropic endeavors. Of course, the identified priorities and opportunities will require processes and patience, as implementation will take time; we are confident in this plan and know that the stakeholders are committed to the community's prosperity.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the staff at the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, who serve the citizens of Calcasieu Parish daily. Over the past several months, Police Jury personnel have embraced the additional recovery responsibilities on top of their normal daily duties as part of our overall mission of serving and acting in the best interest of Calcasieu Parish. It is truly my honor to work with such an outstanding group of public servants, and I honor their dedication.

I look forward to the next chapter of our story which, thanks to your input and efforts, continues to ensure a vibrant and resilient Calcasieu Parish.

Sincerely,

BRYAN C. BEAM Parish Administrator

jdb

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P.O. Box 1309 Sulphur, LA 70664-1309 (337) 527-4500 Fax: (337) 527-4529 Email: mayorsoffice@sulphur.org Website: www.sulphur.org

June 2021

To the Citizens of Sulphur and Southwest Louisiana:

I am incredibly excited and encouraged by our Long-Term Community Recovery Plan. as you well know, saying that we experienced massive destruction after Hurricanes Laura and Delta is an understatement, but these catastrophic events only served as a catalyst for our community to demonstrate to our nation how to unite and support one another. Businesses and families rallied together ensuring that everyone who needed help, received it.

I also want to stress that it's not too late to get involved with the recovery efforts. While we have made remarkable headway, we still have lots of work to do to support local neighbors and businesses. This Long-Term Community Recovery Plan gives me every confidence that our community has the best roadmap to move forward, making our area a destination for businesses and families.

The best days are ahead for Sulphur and Calcasieu Parish.

Sincerely,

Mike Danahay

Mayor, City of Sulphur

FAITH & FAMILY & COMMUNITY



Mayor Robert "Bob" Hardey

Mayor Pro-Tempore Daniel Racca

Council Members

"Skeeter" Hayes Jeremy Cryer Michael T. Bergeron Kenny Brown

City of Westlake

1001 Mulberry Street • P.O. Drawer 700 • Westlake, LA 70669-0700 Phone (337) 433-0691 • Fax (337) 433-9350 Telecom Device for the Deaf (337) 494-1247

"Vision with Action equals CHANGE"

July 2, 2021

To the Citizens of Westlake:

The aftermath of Hurricanes Laura and Delta brought forth our community's greatest time of need. Seeing the immediate and action-oriented responses of residents was a testament to the people of Westlake and the entire region.

Now, we continue our forward trajectory and the work each of you has started. This Long-Term Community Recovery Plan is our collective path to rebuilding our region, and one that requires our continued dedication. I am positive we will achieve and exceed each of the goals set in this document.

I look forward to continuing to serve our community, businesses, and the people of Westlake through this recovery and rebuilding process.

Sincerely,

Bob Hardey

Mayor

mayor@cityofwestlake.com

Town of Iowa

Paul Hesse Mayor

Cynthia Mallett Clerk

Eugene Bouquet City Attorney

P.O. Box 1707 Iowa, La. 70647 Ph#337-582-3535/Fax#337-582-7776



Council Members

Julie Fontenot Joe Becnel Vernessa Guillory Daniel Hennigan Gerald Guidry

July 20, 2021

To the Residents of Iowa:

First, I would like to acknowledge everyone involved in the rebuilding efforts and extend a heartfelt thanks. Our community has made tremendous progress in the wake of 2020's devastation. Between a pandemic and back-to-back hurricanes, our resiliency was tested, but our resolve was unmatched.

Seeing residents come together to work toward a more prosperous Calcasieu Parish is refreshing and welcomed. By following the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan, listening to the needs of those around us, and dedicating our time to the process, I have no doubt that we will continue down a road of success.

I look forward to our continued work together.

Sincerely,

Paul Hesse

Mayor, Town of Iowa



CITY OF LAKE CHARLES

NICHOLAS E.HUNTER MAYOR 326 Pujo Street • P.O. Box 900 Lake Charles, LA 70602-0900 (337) 491-1201 • FAX (337) 491-1206

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

June 3, 2021

To the Residents of Lake Charles:

As a lifelong resident of Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish, I've seen our community respond to adversity in amazing ways. The aftermath of Hurricanes Laura and Delta left our friends, neighbors and businesses picking up the pieces of their lives. However, as a testament to the true spirit of Southwest Louisiana resiliency, since 2020 we've seen incredible moments of neighbors helping neighbors to pick up those pieces and rebuild together.

The work, creativity and dedication by locals, advisors, stakeholders and legislators has been a direct reflection of the love you have for Calcasieu Parish. We are also keenly aware of how important it is to restore and reinvest in the Lake Charles area, because it is truly a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family.

I believe that this Long-Term Community Recovery Plan offers tangible ways to ensure continued success and prosperity. Lake Charles is such a special place to many people, which is why I have no doubt that restoring our homes, infrastructure and quality of life will also continue to restore our spirits.

Sincerely,

Nic Hunter

Mayor, City of Lake Charles

libes & that

United for Progress and Prosperity

MARCUS RENEROW Mayor

JUSTIN W. SITTIG Clerk, Treasurer, Tax Collector

TERRY J. VICE Director of Public Works "Gateway to Cajun Country"

TOWN OF VINTON

1200 HORRIDGE STREET **VINTON, LA 70668**

PHONE: (337)589-7453 FAX (337)589-6127

EMAIL: cityclerk@cityofvinton.com WEBSITE: www.cityofvinton.com

COUNCIL MEMBERS

DIANE CONNER STEPHANIE HARDY WILLIAM "B.B." LLOYD LINDSEY STANLEY MICHAEL J.K. WRIGHT

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR OF VINTON

JUNE 2021

To the Residents of Vinton:

Witnessing the dedication of our citizens and businesses after two hurricanes devastated our community in 2020 left me incredibly humbled and full of gratitude. I was able to see firsthand the resilient and collaborative nature of this community throughout the recovery. The challenges of last year were unprecedented. We will continue to work together to restore what was lost and build a better community.

This Long-Term Community Recovery Plan is a comprehensive guide to reaching the goal of building towards a better community. The results of so many stakeholders, community members and subject matter experts contributing to this document is impressive and reflects the collaborative spirit of our community.

We know recovery will take time, but there is no doubt our community will accomplish this goal.

Sincerely.

Marcus Renfrow

Mayor, Town of Vinton

MAYOR OF DEQUINCY

CITY COUNCIL

RILEY SMITH, Mayor

Pat Brummett City Clerk and Tax Collector

> Phone 337-786-8241 Phone 337-786-8211

Fax 337-786-3076

Mark Peloquin District #1

Ronda Jacobs District #2

Judy Landry District #3

City of DeQu

DeQuincy, Louisiana 70633

Daisy A. Cole District #4

Denise Maddox At Large

A MESSAGE FROM DEQUINCY MAYOR RILEY SMITH

JUNE 2021

Fellow Citizens of DeQuincy:

I am incredibly proud of our community's resilience and compassion after Hurricanes Laura and Delta. DeQuincy residents were without roofs and water, businesses were without facilities, but everyone came together to help friends, families and even strangers. Caring for each other is what our city does best, and your compassion was on full display in the months after the storms.

Now, we look to our parish's future and plan accordingly. The Long-Term Community Recovery Plan gives our residents a guide of priorities for what we can expect as we rebuild and recover together. This plan is incredibly thoughtful, thorough and full of meaningful input from area residents and other stakeholders.

I appreciate everyone who shares in our relentless commitment to Calcasieu and DeQuincy.

Sincerely,

Riley Smith

Mayor, City of DeQuincy, Louisiana

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CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY



BRIAN ABSHIRE PRESIDENT DISTRICT 5



GUY BRAME VICE-PRESIDENT DISTRICT 8



ASHTON RICHARD DISTRICT 1



MIKE SMITH DISTRICT 2



EDDIE LEWIS, JR. DISTRICT 3



TONY GUILLORY DISTRICT 4



RON HAYES DISTRICT 6



CHRIS LANDRY
DISTRICT 7



ANTHONY BARTIE
DISTRICT 9



TONY STELLY
DISTRICT 10



ROGER MARCANTEL
DISTRICT 11



JUDD BARES DISTRICT 12



JOE ANDREPONT DISTRICT 13



RANDY BURLEIGH DISTRICT 14



TONY TRAMONTE DISTRICT 15

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

For a community to thrive, residents, businesses, and stakeholders must work together to create and execute a successful vision for the future. After any disaster, the need for community engagement is heightened and paramount to the often long and demanding task of rebuilding. In the wake of hurricanes Laura and Delta in 2020, the people of Calcasieu Parish worked together to address community needs, contributing to the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan that seeks to rebuild the parish in a safer and stronger manner. The goal of this document is to provide a visual guide and prioritization process of how Calcasieu Parish plans to achieve longterm success after so much devastation in 2020 and 2021.

It is important to recognize many of the short- and mid-term response and recovery efforts that have been accomplished to date, following disasters of the magnitude that impacted Southwest Louisiana. These actions include debris removal, the provision of temporary housing, the restoration of power and water, among other life and health safety measures. This document, though, is designed to create and focus more on the long-term recovery of our community to ensure that residents and community leaders can address community resilience measures and identify opportunities to recover in a way that leaves the community with more economic viability, better health outcomes and infrastructure, long-term housing solutions, and greater quality-of-life measures than hefore.

This Calcasieu Parish Long-Term Community Recovery Plan is a tool that can be used to support and guide decision making for the recovery of Calcasieu Parish. It is intended to support community leaders and local government officials as they work collaboratively to address the many priorities and steps necessary to implement recovery initiatives and projects. This plan is also intended to be a resource in seeking and securing funding to advance long-term recovery.

Readers will notice that a majority of the recovery action items are outlined in Section III: Recovery Needs Assessments. In this section appears the diligent work of the six Recovery Support Functions: Community Planning and Capacity Building, Economic, Health and Social Services, Housing, Infrastructure, and Natural and Cultural Resources. The Recovery Needs Assessments section gives parish residents a working guide that includes information on how community needs were identified, ways in which they can be met, and leads to a list of priorities for recovery. As this is a living document, tactics, strategies, and plans will remain fluid as needs are met and goals are achieved. Changes to the plan are anticipated and welcomed, as long-term recovery is never a linear process but instead one that must reflect the ever-changing community needs.

This document further explains recovery next steps related to future project planning, funding, and implementation. While public agencies will be key in executing the long-term recovery process, the plan includes input from many community leaders and integrating community-led objectives will require stakeholders of all kinds to implement and facilitate. Lastly, the appendix includes supporting documents that give context to the timeline, impact, and breadth of this project.

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"I believe that this Long-Term Community Recovery Plan offers tangible ways to ensure continued success and prosperity. Lake Charles is such a special place to many people, which is why I have no doubt that restoring our homes, infrastructure and quality of life will also continue to restore our spirits."

CITY OF LAKE CHARLES MAYOR NIC HUNTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the **Calcasieu Parish Long-Term Community Recovery Plan** is to provide Calcasieu Parish residents with a "whole community" approach to long-term recovery from hurricanes Laura and Delta, as well as other natural disasters that have impacted the parish and region. The plan focuses beyond short-term recovery actions like removing debris and

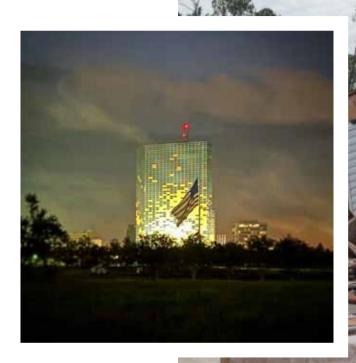
restoring power, which are critical in the immediate weeks and months following a disaster. Rather, the focus of this plan is identifying and prioritizing long-term recovery needs and issues, as well as outlining and developing projects, funding sources, and strategies best suited to address those needs.

"Long-term" recovery refers to the need to rebuild and re-establish a healthy, functioning community that will sustain itself over time. This plan and the process undertaken to reach its priorities incorporates the post-disaster community vision of Calcasieu Parish residents, and transitions the challenges faced by the community following hurricanes

Laura and Delta into opportunities for a renewed and more resilient parish.

In the wake of the devastation from hurricanes Laura and Delta, parish and municipal leaders recognized that a comprehensive and community-driven approach to long-term recovery would be both necessary and beneficial. The vulnerabilities exposed by the hurricanes necessitated that no single issue could be elevated above another – there had to be a coordinated and collaborative approach across all recovery areas, involving community input and ensuring that inclusive priorities for long-term recovery issues were developed.

This led to the creation of the **Calcasieu Parish Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery Framework**, a community-driven approach to identifying appropriate recovery strategies, engaging the necessary agencies and partnerships, and applying the necessary resources to impacted areas (more details on the development of the Recovery Framework are found in Section 1).



In a time when a global pandemic was gripping and crippling many elemental functions of the nation and the economy in ways that warranted their own recovery, the Southwest Louisiana community was exponentially and disproportionately impacted by the major hurricanes. The storm recovery process was also interrupted by the subsequent impacts and damages caused by two additional federally declared disasters, Winter Storm Uri in February 2021 and historic flooding in May 2021. Due to all of this devastation, Lake Charles earned a moniker of being "the most weather battered city in America." The recovery framework, while approved in January 2021, takes into account those storms in order to provide a more comprehensive long-term recovery.



Through the development of the recovery framework, and its process of empowering citizens and subject matter experts to provide input on opportunities for recovery priorities, local leaders charted a course for local input and local control of recovery priorities. The results of the work of those involved with the Calcasieu Parish Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery Framework is contained within this document and provides rationale for long-term recovery projects.

While the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and its administration led the development of the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan, it is important to highlight that recovery and rebuilding is not for government alone to implement. While many of the

needs, priorities, and opportunities identified in this plan will require government leadership, coordination, and pursuit of funding sources, they must also spark the entrepreneurial spirit of residents and trigger innovative solutions by the public to meet the needs in the community. Philanthropy, volunteerism, and corporate social responsibility will continue playing significant roles in the future of the recovery.

Long-term community recovery requires continued collaboration amongst public, private, non-profit, and faith-based sectors. Ultimately, the resiliency of the people of Calcasieu Parish will ensure that their community rises, recovers, and thrives.

"This Long-Term Community Recovery Plan is our collective path to rebuilding our region, and one that requires our continued dedication. I am positive we will achieve and exceed each of the goals set in this document."

CITY OF WESTLAKE MAYOR BOB HARDEY

SECTION

FROM IMPACT TO PLAN



A LONG AND DAUNTING ROAD TOWARD RECOVERY

Few, if any, communities have faced the level of consecutive natural disasters that Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana faced since 2020. While the community was adapting to the effects of COVID-19, it was struck in August and October 2020 by two powerful hurricanes. The impact and long-term recovery from those hurricanes are the focus of this document.

As the community was working through its immediate response and recovery needs from the hurricanes, still in many ways picking up both its physical and emotional pieces, in February 2021 a week-long ice storm with recorded temperatures as low as 16 degrees fell upon the region. Along with freezing temperatures and icy roads, area residents once again faced prolonged loss of power and water pressure, compounding the existing hurricane damages to both housing and infrastructure.

Then, in May 2021, a severe rainstorm drifted over the region, dumping in some areas upwards of 18 inches of rain in a short period of time, causing flash flooding across the Lake Charles community. In some instances, the flooding impacted residents who were in the process of renovating and rebuilding their hurricane-damaged homes.

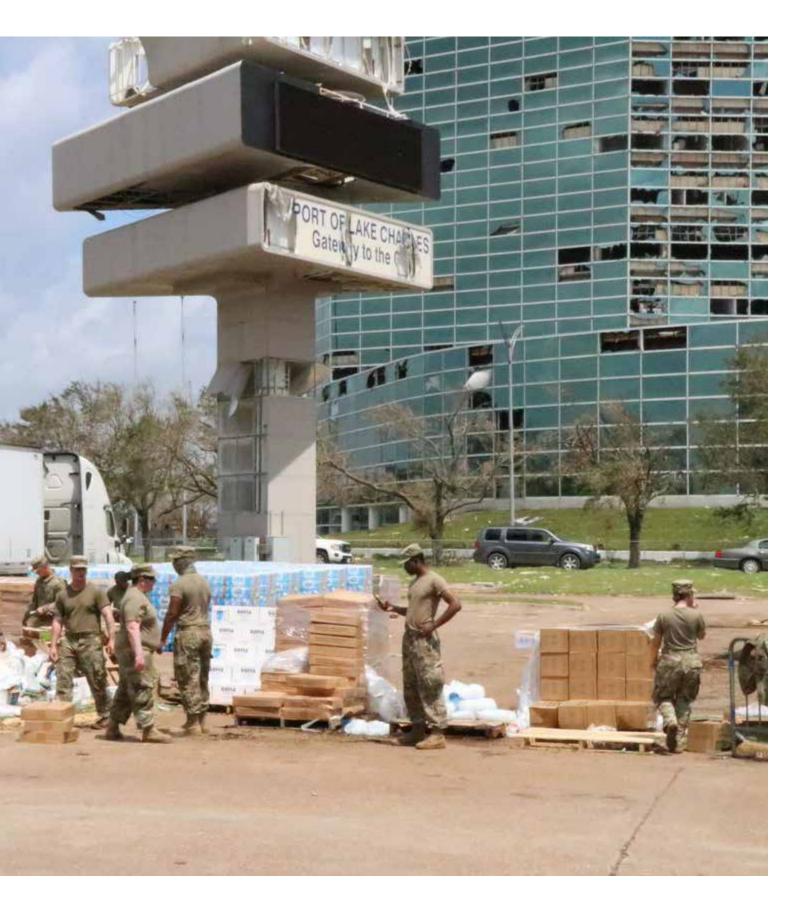
While the effects of COVID-19 and four major natural disasters tested and fatigued many in the community, the spirit and strength of Calcasieu Parish and its residents remains on full display. Demonstrating their affection for the community they call home, area residents continue their determination to rebuild and restore their beloved community in a stronger and safer way. This Calcasieu Parish Long-Term Community Recovery Plan is a result of that resolve.

IMPACTS OF HURRICANES LAURA AND DELTA IN CALCASIEU PARISH

In the early morning hours of August 27, 2020, Hurricane Laura made landfall near Cameron, Louisiana, as a major Category 4 hurricane. With wind speeds topping 150 mph, Laura was the 12th named storm, the fourth hurricane, and the first major hurricane of the very active 2020 Atlantic hurricane season. It was also the strongest storm to impact Louisiana in more than 150 years.

Within hours of landfall, the eye wall of Hurricane Laura moved inland directly towards Lake Charles, which serves as the economic and residential hub of Southwest Louisiana and its satellite communities. The damage wrought by the powerful storm was catastrophic and widespread. Storm surge flooding turned streets into waterways, and high-speed winds severely damaged housing and infrastructure across







the region. Extensive wind damage was evident as residential and commercial buildings lost entire roofs while the building structures became landing pads for countless pine trees. Some of the most harrowing images from the storm include a communications tower collapsing onto a local television studio, windows blown out of a skyscraper in downtown Lake Charles, and the radar dome at the area's National Weather Service ripped away from the radar tower's base.

In the days and weeks following the storm, the community faced mounting challenges; roads across the region remained impassable, hundreds of thousands of residents were without electrical power and drinking water for several weeks, and thousands needed temporary housing as they tended to their damaged personal properties. The significant losses from the storm took place amid the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating the challenges associated with allowing a community to begin the damage assessment and rebuilding process. The pandemic

also complicated efforts for volunteers to converge on the region, which traditionally happens following a major disaster in the United States.

Economically, there was extensive damage to some of the region's largest industries like timber, healthcare, and petrochemical. These industries employ thousands of area residents and the work facilities sustained significant damage and disruption to operations. Small businesses, non-profits, and locally-owned businesses were not spared, as they too experienced damages coupled with the financial challenges already created by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the communities of Calcasieu Parish and the Southwest Louisiana region were in the beginning phases of their rebuilding process, Hurricane Delta made landfall a mere 12 miles east of Hurricane Laura's landfall just six weeks later, on October 9, 2020. Adding insult to injury, Delta came ashore



as a Category 2 storm with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph and was the 10th named storm that year to make U.S. landfall. For a community already reeling from one hurricane and moving into recovery, the thought of increased damage was unfathomable.

While not packing the same wind punch as Laura, Hurricane Delta inflicted most of its damage with prolonged rain, again bringing significant flooding to the region. In two days, the storm dumped more than 15 inches of rain on the region and wreaked havoc on tarped roofs awaiting repair from the first storm. In the days following Delta, residents once again waded through their flooded, powerless homes, pledging to rebuild.

Combined, the two storms caused an estimated \$20 billion in damage to the region.

DEVELOPMENT OF HURRICANES LAURA AND DELTA RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

While the residents and local response efforts of Calcasieu Parish maintained focus on the short- and medium-range recovery needs of the community, members of the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury - the governing body for the parish simultaneously placed emphasis on a long-term strategy to ensure a safer and stronger rebuild. In addition to parish

leaders, many residents and community stakeholders recognized the need for a coordinated and comprehensive approach to the parish's long-term recovery operations.

In January 2021, Calcasieu Parish unveiled its Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery Framework, which outlined the process for the Police Jury, parish administration, and other local, state, and federal partners to lead, manage, and implement a strategic long-term recovery process. The Calcasieu Parish Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery Framework is fashioned after the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Disaster Recovery Framework and provides governance, oversight, and structure for six key functional areas of a community's recovery, known as Recovery Support Functions (RSF):

- RSF 1: Community Planning and Capacity Building
- RSF 2: Fconomic
- RSF 3: Health and Social Services
- RSF 4: Housing
- RSF 5: Infrastructure
- RSF 6: Natural and Cultural Resources

Although the Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery Framework was launched in January 2021, it is important to note that the effects and additional damages sustained by the community



from other federally declared events, including Winter Storm Uri in February 2021 and historic flooding in May 2021, were also incorporated to ensure a comprehensive long-term plan.

The purpose of the Calcasieu Parish Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery Framework is to enable a "whole community" approach to recovery. As opposed to focusing only on a single issue, the framework provides a means to a more efficient and effective recovery by empowering the community members who make up the Recovery Support Function groups to identify appropriate recovery strategies, engage the necessary citizens, agencies, stakeholders, and partnerships, and apply the required resources to the affected areas.

The Recovery Support Function groups were led by subject matter experts in the six categories listed above, who sought input on recovery issues and strategies from stakeholders and members of the community. The work of the Recovery Support Function groups directly led to the creation and prioritization of the strategies outlined in this Long-Term Community Recovery Plan.

The Calcasieu Parish Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery Framework is located online at calcasieuparish.gov/recovery.

RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTIONS:



COMMUNITY PLANNING & CAPACITY BUILDING

To unify and coordinate expertise and assistance programs for governmental and non-governmental partners to aid in building capabilities to effectively plan for and manage recovery and engage the whole community in the recovery process.



ECONOMIC

To aid in putting the systems, processes, and resources in place to allow Calcasieu Parish to recover and become economically stronger than before the disaster.



HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

To coordinate an integrated network of primary care, behavioral health, and social services to provide support and resources for community resiliency and recovery, post-disaster.



HOUSING

To establish an integrated framework of housing strategies that stabilize and secure all community needs.



INFRASTRUCTURE

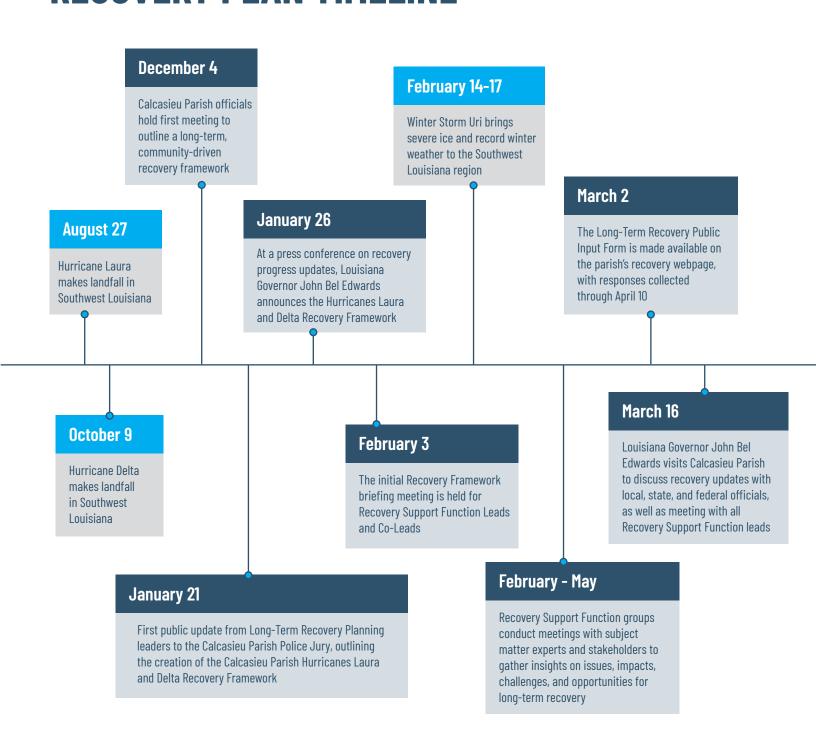
To identify, enhance, and sustain all critical infrastructure within Calcasieu Parish, which includes providing critical facilities, energy, water, transportation, wastewater, and information systems.

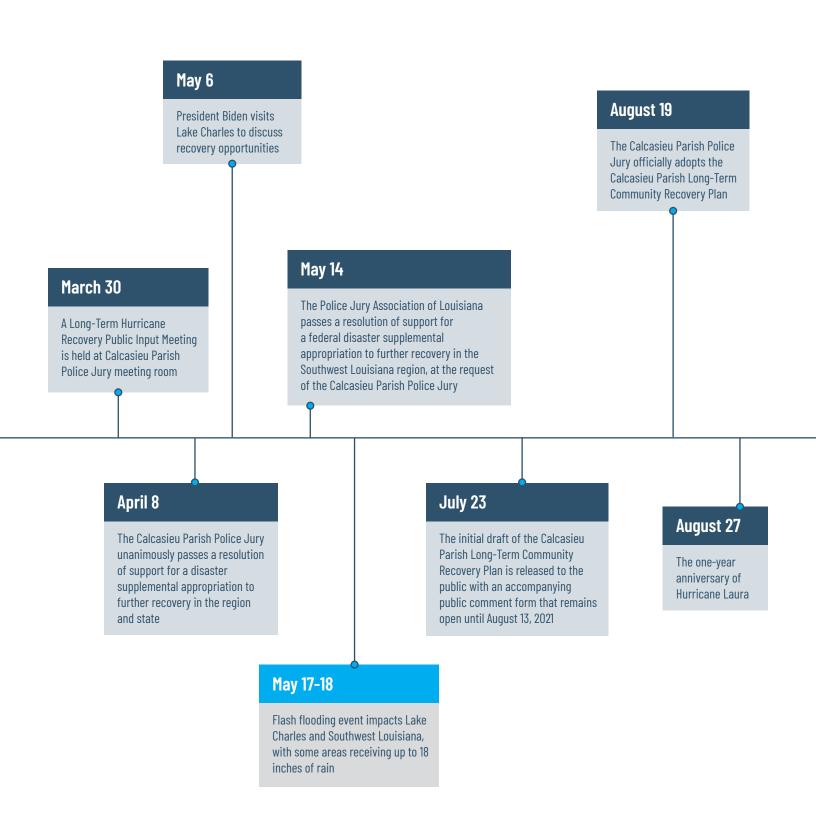


NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCS

To return the community's cultural, natural, and environmental assets and systems to pre-disaster or improved conditions.

CALCASIEU PARISH LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLAN TIMELINE





"This Long-Term Community Recovery Plan is a comprehensive guide to reaching the goal of building towards a better community.

The results of so many stakeholders, community members and subject matter experts contributing to this document is impressive and reflects the collaborative spirit of our community."

TOWN OF VINTON MAYOR MARCUS RENFROW

SFCTION II

LONG-TERM RECOVERY FOCUS

IDENTIFYING LONG-TERM COMMUNITY RECOVERY PRIORITIES

Despite a community's collective efforts, recovery for any region impacted by a natural disaster never happens fast enough. For Southwest Louisiana, in the immediate aftermath of two devastating hurricanes and two severe weather events, the temptation could have been to focus only on the immediate tasks at hand – simply picking up and putting things back to the way they were. However, the resilient residents of Calcasieu Parish were resolute in voicing to local leadership that focusing on a longer-term strategy for their communities would be the best way to rebuild their lives, homes, and businesses.

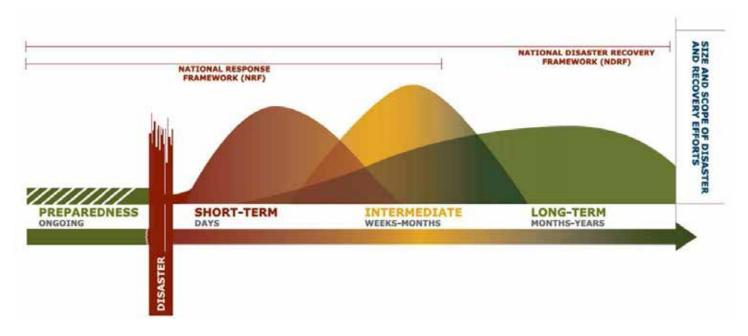
Long-term recovery efforts require coordination and cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies and organizations, both public and private. The process for identifying the long-term recovery opportunities in this plan was intentionally fashioned to integrate various sectors of the community – planning, economic development, health and social services, housing, infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources – into cross-collaboration and dialogue on recovery issues. The journey was set up to be as important as the destination. The continued partnerships of these sectors

will be necessary to realize and fully achieve the "whole community" recovery for Calcasieu Parish.

RECOVERY NEEDS ASSESSMENT: OUTLINING ISSUES, IMPACTS, CHALLENGES, AND OPPORTUNITIES

Those involved in developing the Calcasieu Parish Long-Term Community Recovery Plan set out under the principle of acknowledging the vulnerabilities exposed by two unprecedented hurricanes and transitioning those vulnerabilities into opportunities for a better and more sustainable community. Working to identify and address those exposures led to critical thinking and conversations documented in the form of the Recovery Needs Assessment.

The Recovery Needs Assessment is a condensed, executive-level analysis that helps to inform recovery support decisions. The report is a collaborative effort between the Recovery Support Function members, subject matter experts, stakeholders, and community members. The result of this collaborative effort is a summary of key issues and challenges identified that are then transitioned into recovery opportunities for the community.





The following pages of this document contain the Recovery Needs Assessment components that were compiled by volunteer members of the six identified Recovery Support Function groups. The opportunities identified in the document consolidate the array of issues into scalable and manageable action items. The listed contributions from the Recovery Needs Assessment documents are priorities for the long-term recovery of the much-loved community.

Once again, the six Recovery Support Function (RSF) areas are:

- RSF 1: Community Planning and Capacity Building
- RSF 2: Economic
- RSF 3: Health and Social Services
- RSF 4: Housing
- RSF 5: Infrastructure
- RSF 6: Natural and Cultural Resources

Addressing priorities – much like a community's recovery – will not happen overnight, is not always easy, and will require continued community empowerment and facilitation.

RECOVERY NEEDS ASSESSMENT: INCORPORATING PUBLIC INPUT

A critical aspect of building out the Recovery Needs
Assessment is input from those most directly impacted by
the disasters: the residents of Calcasieu Parish. An important
component of the process for informing issues and identifying
challenges and opportunities for Calcasieu's long-term
recovery was the public input received via an online public
input form, as well as the public hearings associated with
the creation of the Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery
Framework.

Overall, one hundred seventy-eight (178) public comments were submitted via the online form and the public meetings. All comments were documented and shared internally with Recovery Support Function groups, adding tremendous value to the recovery deliberation process and to the work of the Recovery Support Function groups. While the public comments are maintained for internal records, they are not published in this document.

"While we've made remarkable headway, we still have lots of work to do to support local neighbors and businesses. This Long-Term Community Recovery Plan gives me every confidence that our community has the best roadmap to move forward, making our area a destination for businesses and families."

CITY OF SULPHUR MAYOR MIKE DANAHAY

SFCTION III

RECOVERY NEEDS ASSESSMENTS



Community Planning and Capacity Building

The Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function strives to restore and strengthen government's ability to plan for recovery, engage the community in the recovery planning process and build capacity for local plan implementation and recovery management. Recovery planning in the post-disaster environment builds short- and long-term community resilience, empowers local leaders and stakeholders, and improves recovery outcomes for the individual and the community. By joining governmental and non-governmental partners to share resources and expertise, Community Planning and Capacity Building makes recovery a community effort united in a singular mission.

The members of the Calcasieu Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function spoke with various planners, developers, and community development professionals across the parish to gain insight on short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term issues. From these conversations and frequent meetings, the group constructed tables consisting of impacts, issues, challenges, and opportunities for building capacity in the parish at all time horizons.

SHORT-TERM NEEDS					
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Lack of Coordinated Disaster Recovery Plan that touches on all Recovery Support Functions.	Disaster Recovery efforts are either duplicated or opportunities are missed because of lack of coordination. Lack of communication ultimately affects	Multi-agency coordination and implementation.	With the implementation of a Disaster Recovery Framework following Hurricanes Laura and Delta, there exists an opportunity to integrate community and Recovery Support Function involvement in preand post-disaster planning.		
Support Functions.	the economic environment and the ability for businesses to get back to normal operations post-disaster.		Create a "Central Command", with a coordinated pre- and post-Disaster Recovery Plan, for disasters that will coordinate and communicate with major industry, utility companies, municipalities, and other governmental agencies, as well as the newly created Recovery Support Function groups.		
			Develop pre-disaster contracts and "push packets" (i.e., emergency contacts, preparedness checklists) developed for all relevant areas.		
			Utilize the Parish Emergency Operations Center as a Disaster Recovery Center that the public and Recovery Support Function teams can interface and can coordinate all the disaster recovery help and options in one place.		
Most structures were affected or compromised by the hurricane.	The intensity of the storm and necessity to rebuild/renovate has called into question the resiliency of our building codes. Lack of education of higher building standards may keep the general public from making more informed decisions when	Community and stakeholder buy-in. End user cost considerations.	Comprehensive Building Code reviews to make any necessary changes in light of the severe storm intensity.		
the nurricane.		The need to identify funding/grants .	Development of a "Best Practices" document, incorporating standards such as fortified housing, that is provided to the public (through the permitting process) looking to make homes more storm resilient.		
	rebuilding or renovating.		Mitigation Funding for Increased cost of compliance with a focus on hotels and multifamily to address post-disaster housing needs (see RSF 4)		
Tree canopy significantly compromised across the parish.	Many non-native species were damaged due to the intensity of the hurricanes. As we move	Education. Identify an organization to own this initiative.	Hurricane Resistant Tree Planting Guide - Tree replacement catalog with hurricane resistant options (given out for all permits).		
across the parish.	towards re-establishing our tree canopy, care should be given to what hurricane resistant and native planting options are available and should be considered.	Access to trees/grants to reestablish tree canopy.	Provide trees to public to re-establish tree canopy. Partnerships with Universities, schools, businesses and local environmentally-focused agencies.		
Lack of commitment to existing community plans and studies causes growth to become stagnant.	Many valid plans have been developed over the years but have not been utilized. The lack of commitment to a vision makes it difficult to recover after a disaster. Politically susceptible plans are constantly changing and a common vision is never reached.	Buy-in and support at a governmental and elected official level. Funding for individual projects. Public/private partnerships. Complex plans making simple, phased implementation difficult.	Utilize existing community plans. Summarizing these plans is crucial so the elected officials and other implementing agencies can stay focused on priority issues.		



SHORT-TERM NEE	SHORT-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
After a disaster, awareness of the amount of resources that can be available is overwhelming to navigate and implement.	Many funding resources are potentially not being utilized. Agencies may not have the staff, resources, or capabilities to properly vet and implement all possible grant opportunities.	Multi-agency coordination across local, state and federal agencies. Buy-in. Education of residents, businesses, and government agencies of available resources. Implementation.	At the parish level, catalog opportunities available to the entities in our region. Obtain assistance (i.e. Consultant) to work through funding opportunities and match these sources with agencies. Utilize the federal and state personnel and resources that are focused on Southwest Louisiana post-disaster to provide information and catalog of available resources to address community needs and priorities.		
Post-disaster, out-of-town contractors can take advantage of our community members and their projects.	Lack of regulation opens the door to allow poor business practices within the building community that only exacerbates an already difficult and costly situation.	State legislation to address contracting in a post-disaster environment. Education/Communication and Community Outreach.	Review and implement state laws that protect local residents from unscrupulous contractors seeking to take advantage of residents. Evaluate pre-disaster policy and procedures to register contractors. Create an education and PR package post-disaster to inform the public of what is required.		

MEDIUM-TERM NE	1EDIUM-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Increased blight as a result of the hurricanes in many areas of our community.	Addressing blight reduction and reducing public expense.	Funding capability (taxing). State Legislation to create a Redevelopment Authority. Leadership. Homeowners navigating complex title issues and recovery resources.	Addressing and identifying effective and efficient solutions to widespread blight reduction, parcel assembly, land banking, and the development of otherwise vacant properties and disinvested communities. State legislative reform to address adjudicated properties so these properties can be more easily developed and financed. Explore what other communities have done post-disaster to address this issue. Seek partnerships with non-profits that		
Lack of temporary housing sites has displaced a large portion of our residents. Continued on following page.	Post-disaster, the hurdles (ordinances, land ownership, property identification) that are currently present to establish a temporary housing site make it difficult to meet our community's temporary/emergency housing needs.	Current laws and council influence. Finding appropriate property. Funding, ownership, and long-term maintenance. Lack of immediate, short-term shelter or housing options tend to delay recovery efforts in many ways.	remediate damaged and blighted housing. Taking lessons learned from Hurricanes Laura and Delta, prequalify and identify temporary housing sites that are ready to go in emergency and disaster situations. Pre-identify supportive services for a temporary housing site, such as provision of supplies and providing a bus loop to get to these sites. Emergency Response workforce housing (tree cutters, roofers, carpenters, etc.).		

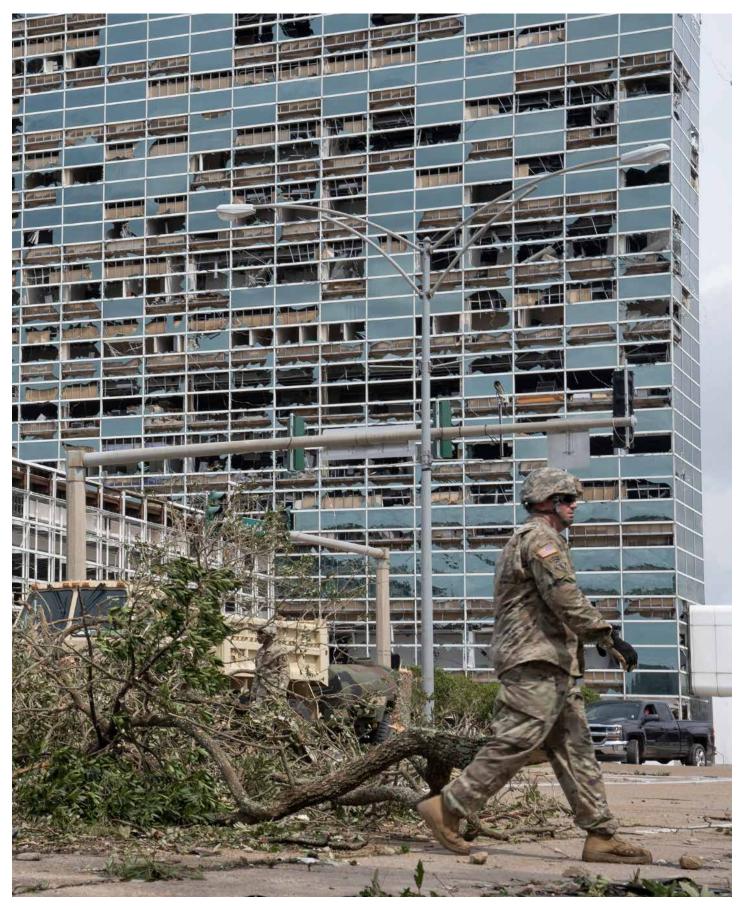


MEDIUM-TERM NE	EEDS		
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Continued from previous page.			Better plan with local Convention and Visitors Bureau and their network of hotel/motel partners to facilitate use of facilities, and potentially meet recovery demands by providing ancillary needs to run hotel/motels as needed. Further, provide education on the critical hotel/motel resources that can help address short-term recovery demands and equip them to fill that gap and need, i.e., generators, utility provider contacts, emergency contacts, fuel, etc.
Loss of population due to hurricanes.	We need to grow our population and attract new businesses and residents to be a healthy thriving community.	Multi-agency coordination. Communication/Education.	Working with Recovery Support Function 2: Economic, and with the SWLA Economic Development Alliance, support efforts to grow our population, diversify our economy, and attract new people and jobs. Understanding and communicating our unique
			market and economic situation to outside investors, businesses, and individuals.
			Economic development organizational support.
Slow recovery due to complicated insurance	No standard for implementation of policies.	Legislative action and work with the State Insurance Commission.	Re-evaluate insurance companies' methods for claims and payouts.
procedures.	Additional assistance is needed in		Educate legislators on the actual issues regarding this critical matter.
	order to navigate this complicated system on an individual basis.		Facilitate a case study for further educational purposes to be housed at, and potentially conducted through, the Alliance.
Properties	Flooding along drainage ways	Funding.	Develop conservation easements.
adjacent to drainage laterals are not being used	which have flood control devices damages business and homeowners.	Development standards have changed over time yet prior developments are not retrofitted to meet current requirements, creating upstream issues. Right-of-way acquisition along waterways is expensive and challenging.	Develop stormwater management demonstration areas.
for stormwater management, flood mitigation, and watershed management and create high rates of runoff.	Drainage systems need retrofits such as right sized culverts, basin updates, cleanouts, etc. Public education for Best Management Practices and MS4		Promote green infrastructure solutions within government and agency developments and as a part of facilities renewal and recovery. Use mitigation practices and highlight Best Management Practices as a component of the agency recovery program.
	compliance. Lack of maintenance access to gravity drainage areas reduces maintenance.	Water edge easements for maintenance and public use – developers are hesitant to allocate. Lack of buy-in from decision makers – elected officials and developers – to recognize the benefits and necessity for Best Management Practices and provide education/demonstration through implementation.	Development incentives/ordinances to use Best Management Practices such as permeable pavement, reduction of hard surface pavement, add ponds, green building practices and other mitigation techniques. Develop recreational uses in mitigation areas and utilize multiple sources to leverage funding and maintenance of the watershed areas.



LONG-TERM NEED	os e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e		
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Displaced	How to support all residents.	Funding.	Amend local ordinances and regulations.
residents.	Temporary housing local ordinances.	Staffing.	Assist elderly with rebuilding and finances.
		Outreach/Education.	Provide disaster resource centers and physical spaces earlier in the response to assist the disadvantaged and the technology-challenged community.
			Locate disaster resource centers in areas where residents have evacuated.
			Provide disaster checklists as educational materials, including verbiage on insurance, important paperwork, and succession plans.
			Seek to address the underlying issues as to why residents are still displaced, including but not limited to lack of insurance and underinsured.
			Educate homeowners on the importance of adequate insurance, especially homeowners who may have inherited their homes and/or no longer pay a mortgage.
Corridor and street infrastructure	Extensive infrastructure damage leads to lack of services for residents and businesses to return to normal post-disaster.	Identifying funding for not only road repair, but stronger infrastructure.	Assessments study to determine which corridors could benefit the most and largest economic gain.
greatly impacted by severe weather events.		Business community buy-in. Property acquisition and right-of-way along corridors. Business buy-in and contributions will be essential if the	Holistic approach to street design including underground utilities, conservation easements, land use, access management, signage, landscaping, high speed broadband, etc.
		retrofits alter the access to these businesses. For example; business will have costs for upgraded service connections if electrical utilities are relocated underground and businesses/development standards may be adjusted along corridors if access management is needed to upgrade other services such as drainage. Utility coordination.	Building more sustainable and resilient corridors to support and stimulate economic development. Retrofitting existing corridors.
Multiple hurricanes and other disaster events have identified vulnerable areas of our community that are not resilient from flooding events.	Certain areas, especially those along designated drainage structures and in flood-prone areas, have repetitive loss properties and flood more often. These areas are not being utilized to their highest and best use and in some areas the housing stock is significantly aged and damaged.	Relocating individuals. Identifying funding sources to assist with buyouts of properties. Neighborhood planning to redevelop properties bought out as part of a program such as repetitive loss and ensure long-term maintenance and use after it becomes vacant lot to remove potential for blight.	Re-establishing repetitive loss neighborhoods for alternative uses and design. Relocating homes/families and redesigning to make these neighborhoods more resilient for future development. These areas could be redeveloped for commercial uses, neighborhoods, or open space/detention, however developed in a way that has proper drainage designed or improves the parish's drainage capacity. Consider the implications of homeowner buyouts, rebuilding of neighborhoods, and whether
		Agency partnership to engage neighborhoods about the benefits of a buyout or relocation.	homeowners are able to return to their neighborhood if redeveloped.







Economic

The Economic Recovery Support Function aims to return economic and business activities to a state of health and develop new economic opportunities that result in a sustainable and economically viable community. It facilitates the recovery process and restores community self-sufficiency and economic vitality while presenting goals, strategies, and implementation measures that guide economic recovery in a coordinated fashion, informing and informed by the business community as well as community-wide priorities.

The members of the Calcasieu Economic Recovery Support Function spoke with various business owners and economic development professionals across the parish to gain insight on short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term issues. From these conversations and frequent meetings, the group constructed tables consisting of impacts, issues, challenges, and opportunities, for economic recovery in the parish.

SHORT-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
Workers displaced. Increased unemployment.	Severe lack of people willing to take \$10-15/ hour jobs is impacting small, medium and large businesses.	Lack of workers impacting business' ability to open and hampering available hours of operation. Unemployment and stimulus checks are exacerbating the issue.	Need to retrain workforce for available positions. Incentivize return to work. Hospitality and tourism sectors face unique challenges when it comes to wage rates and impacts of the increased cost of living due to the number of front line workers and food service industry workers that typically garner lower employment wage rates.	
Physical damage to commercial properties/ structures.	No output from businesses or jobs for people to go.	Labor and material needed to address physical damage. Leads to relocation of citizens.	Create a plan for erecting temporary structures for commercial and residential purposes. Encourages remaining in the area (both business and residential) during rebuilding phase.	
Immediate loss of all utilities.	All economy shutdown.	Aging infrastructure. Lack of funding for hardening. Lack of advocacy for rate increase to fund.	Upgrade and harden infrastructure for all utilities (electric, water, broadband). Advocacy to decision makers on funding mechanisms for long-term hardening of infrastructure.	
Destruction along thruways of community.	Difficulty attracting investors.	Need to attract investors/potential residents for economic recovery.	Clean up appearance of major thruways.	
Homeowners insurance misunderstanding.	Frustrated home and business owners leading to delays in claims settlements.	Long settlement times delay. rebuilding of homes and businesses.	Provide Insurance education tools to homeowners and businesses.	

MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS					
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Lower cost housing shortage; most vulnerable structures to storms.	Lack of available land for short- term living accommodations; zoning and not-in-my-back-yard (NIMBY) issues. Available housing doesn't match economic strata of those needing housing.	Lack of long-term strategy for housing. Evaluate optimal housing mix to address key affordability and community disparity challenges, based on damage assessment.	Need site/accommodations for restoration contractors (with infrastructure). Incentives for low-cost housing construction. Evaluation of future use for newly vacant properties. Build stronger/more resilient housing to better withstand future impact of climate change.		
Inadequate water, sewer and broadband capacity.	Loss of utilities. Delays in restoration of electricity, water, broadband.		Require resiliency and redundancy in utility infrastructure including water supply.		
Lack of conformity to strict building codes and zoning for types of businesses can limit potential investors who may have higher standards that can't be met by existing codes and zoning. This could lead some investors to locate in other regions with SWLA missing out on opportunities.	Insufficient building design codes on primary access roads. Insufficient zoning allowing some adult businesses near schools and residential areas.	Appearance of thruways through SWLA is not conducive to attracting business and residents.	Usher in a new look for the parish's main corridors, no longer allow prefabricated metal buildings alongside main thoroughfares. Installation of beautification features and sound barriers along I-10 corridor. Locations for businesses deemed as "questionable" by many residents and city leaders alike should be limited to areas that would not be offensive to nearby residents.		

LONG-TERM NEEDS	LONG-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
The lack of available workforce in the lower income level hampers the ability of businesses to provide services. This leads to shorter hours of operation, shorter list of services provided, delays in providing deliverables to customers.	Permanent loss of population and workforce due to storm damage to community.	Large baby boomer population retiring from workforce with some relocating.	Have workforce training opportunities for workforce to adapt to current and future needs. Need to promote opportunities for those with a two-year education at SOWELA.		
Major damage to structures in the area.		Improve building standards of all structures to become more resilient and enforce them. Need to put 21st-century set of zoning rules to guide future development.	Ordinances and standards for rebuilding, repairing structures. Evaluation of future use for newly vacant properties. Take advantage of removal of older structures which had outlived usefulness to replace with new, resilient, more adaptable structures. Blighted areas need to be evaluated and removed/replaced with new structures that serve the community. Repurposing damaged but salvageable structures should be considered.		
Loss of young professionals in needed existing occupations.	Community needs to become a location of choice for the 20 somethings; promote positivity.	Need to get former residents to want to come back to area.	Create and maintain more recreational areas, paths, parks; repair existing ones (Sam Houston Jones). Take advantage of natural resources, eco-opportunities. Enhance entertainment venues to attract community events (Downtown Lake Charles). Create and have available manicured, shovel-ready industrial park. Work with alumni services at McNeese and SOWELA to retain graduates in the area and attract relocated graduates to return.		





Health and Social Services

The Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function supports efforts to address the post-disaster needs of public health organizations, health care facilities and coalitions, and essential social services and aims to restore and exceed pre-disaster functionality. This RSF coordinates with healthcare and social service groups to identify gaps in service availability, monitor the needs of special populations, and coordinate special assistance with partner organizations.

The members of the Calcasieu Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function spoke with various healthcare, health policy, education, social service, behavioral health, and non-profit professionals across the parish to gain insight on short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term issues. From these conversations and frequent meetings, the group constructed tables consisting of impacts, issues, challenges, and opportunities for building capacity in the parish at all time horizons.

HEALTH

SHORT-TERM NEE	SHORT-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Water disruption during disasters led to near complete shutdown of all medical services and caused lifethreatening lack of access to medical care for residents.	Hospitals require very large amounts of water for their chillers and to provide care. Loss of water pressure for residents in the community was worsened by the large demands of hospitals.	It is impractical to transport a sufficient water supply. Other water systems within driving distance cannot provide enough for area hospitals while still servicing their customers. Additionally, there are water quality concerns with the transportation of water.	Invest in redundant water supply on both sides of the parish so critical medical infrastructure can remain operational during disasters.		
Once water service was restored, hospitals and other infrastructure remained under prolonged boil water advisories which impacted operations.	Due to lack of permanent power at water plants and commute time to get samples to the lab, water samples were unable to be cleared quickly. Boil water advisories have impacts on all infrastructure but are particularly impactful for healthcare and food service.	A mobile lab was set up in Jennings to improve turnaround times on water samples, which helped, but sample transport was still a challenge. There was also lack of education within the community about boil water advisories.	Invest in a new water lab to service the region, operated by the Louisiana Office of Public Health. This lab would be hardened and on generator power. This would allow quicker turnaround times on Boil Water advisories during disasters. Provide education to the community (including the public, food service locations, healthcare facilities and others who require water to operate) with resources about how to safely operate on boil water advisory before, during and after a disaster.		
Post-storm housing for essential health and social service workers was difficult to identify and impacted critical services due to lack of manpower.	Although public sector emergency housing was available to health workers, it was not accepted because they were unwilling or unable to leave their families. Many are the primary caregivers for their children and families during their "off" hours. This became increasingly important as the duration of the event increased. Many social service workers did not qualify for public sector emergency housing.	The only housing available for these essential workers was within the hospital, within billeting camps, or FEMA Individual Assistance. IA was not prioritized for healthcare workers or other essential workers despite a pandemic stretching the workforce thin, which is still leading to challenges.	Prioritize health workers and other essential workers for Individual Assistance or provide emergency funding for healthcare and essential workers post-disaster so that they could afford to return to the impact zone to provide services with their families. Without this workforce, the region's healthcare and emergency services were left extremely vulnerable, especially during a pandemic.		

MEDIUM-TERM NE	MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Hurricane Laura severely damaged existing healthcare infrastructure, particularly in the outpatient sector. This includes (but is not limited to) pharmacies, durable medical equipment suppliers, clinics, nursing homes, dialysis centers, home health and hospice agencies and social service agencies.	Residents are lacking access to healthcare, including primary care, specialty care and dental care. This is disproportionately impacting low-income families. Immediately post event, it was difficult to get providers credentialled in a timely manner.	Providing health services to low-income families is not sustainable in traditional healthcare settings due to low reimbursement. These services need to be coordinated with existing infrastructure that receives additional funding to provide these services.	Invest in outpatient clinic infrastructure that services low-income families. Ensure these systems can provide residents access to medical specialty fields. Review credentialling process post-disaster – there is a need for quicker short-term credentials for those providers that can be available in the impacted area. Invest in several (3-4) mobile clinics for the region. These could be used by Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8) partners in service delivery when operations are impacted during a disaster. However, they could also be used for healthcare outreach during normal times, to provide services (including public health services, COVID vaccines or outbreak response, STD testing, primary care, specialty care, mental health and clinics at local schools) to hard-to-reach populations to reduce barriers. Each mobile clinic would have 1-2 exam rooms. Invest in "hardening" of healthcare and social service sector – including hurricane film for windows, generators and other emergency supplies. A grant/application process with generous funds allocated for this sector would assist with reduction in the amount of devastation during future events. Expand ESF-8 partners to include new provider types, such as pharmacies, durable medical equipment suppliers, private clinics, behavioral health and other essential outpatient types.		
During evacuations, it was difficult to move bariatric and disabled patients due to lack of assets outside of EMS.	This created strain on emergency medical service (EMS) units transporting non-emergency patients. This was a problem before, during and after the event.	Non-Emergency medical transportation, particularly for disabled and/or bariatric patients, is lacking on a good day, which resulted in strained resources during the response and recovery phase.	Invest in high-water non-emergency transportation assets (non-EMS) that could be used to move bariatric, disabled or bedbound patients during emergency events or during sunny skies.		
Many homes suffered extensive damages, including safe sleep locations for infants.	Infant fatalities have increased in SWLA for multifactorial reasons, including crowded and subpar housing, damage to home and contents within (including safe sleep environments), lack of awareness on the subject and financial issues among families.	Coroner's office and Safe Sleep Task Force volunteers are stretched thin due to increased numbers of cases along with increased demands to their primary employment.	Provide funding to hire a dedicated individual to support Safe Sleep Task Force who can increase access and awareness to services that would benefit infants and families.		



MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS	MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Hurricanes Laura and Delta created severe stressors on residents including youth, along with a reduction of access.	Suicide rates are higher than state and U.S. average and we expect an increase in suicides post-hurricane, especially in teens and those in their early twenties.	Shortage of mental health providers, which has been made more severe following hurricanes. Public and students are unaware of services that are available.	Invest in Pax Good Behavior Games (an evidence-based system for teachers) to train teachers to be trauma informed and recognize and respond appropriately to trauma. Expand Sam Houston Pilot Program (a peer support program for suicide prevention provided in coordination with McNeese) to other schools. Provide debriefing and education opportunities		
			following a peer suicide utilizing mobile counseling center. Utilize geo-fencing technology to make students and individuals aware of resources available.		
Hurricanes Laura and Delta created severe stressors on residents, increasing unhealthy habits and decreasing access to care. The leading cause of death in SWLA continues to be heart disease which is significantly higher than the state and national average according to the CDC.	The leading comorbidities of heart disease, including obesity, diabetes and hypertension, continue to be higher in SWLA than the U.S. average.	Obesity, hypertension, diabetes and heart disease are significantly reduced through exercise and physical activity. There is less access to exercise locations and parks in SWLA when compared to U.S. and Louisiana averages.	Invest in getting the community more physically active to reduce chronic disease burden. Have an accessible bike rental program. Build more parks and make improvements to current parks. Promote fitness by having significant discounts to current community gyms and create more community gyms to increase access. Ensure bus stops are available at current parks, gyms and other spaces where people are physically active.		

LONG-TERM NEEDS	LONG-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
The four federal disasters in Southwest Louisiana have undoubtedly worsened the health and wellness of residents, which will likely impact our health outcomes for years to come.	Louisiana was already at the bottom of nearly every health ranking, and these disasters have put us further behind.	Improving overall health outcomes requires strategic planning with input from all partners but is often limited by time and staffing. Hospitals all participate in Community Health Needs Assessments but do so individually rather than using a coordinated process.	Utilize existing infrastructure from the Partnership for a Healthier SWLA to create a community-wide strategic health plan using a data driven approach. This will require funding for staff support and data expertise during plan creation, and funding opportunities to execute that plan to be distributed to stakeholders/partners responsible for implementation of specific programs. The first step is a formal assessment, followed by development of an action plan.		
	Oral health has been found to interact with co-morbid chronic conditions. Oral health problems begin in youth.	According to Louisiana's 2021 Oral Health Report Card, more than half of Louisiana children do not receive preventative dental care and only 11% have received sealants.	Mobile dental units provide services to students, including sealants/preventative services, and linkage to care for students with dental problems that need a higher level of care.		

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SHORT-TERM NEEDS	SHORT-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Hurricanes Laura and Delta reduced access to mental health resources to residents and providers either did not or were unable to execute their emergency plan effectively.	Healthcare professional shortage prior to Hurricanes Laura and Delta, specifically in behavioral health, was compounded after the storms.	Getting the word out to providers and participants about where they can find this information both pre- and post-storms.	Include behavior health representatives as part of the medical Emergency Operations Center (EOC)/ESF-8 to include a variety of provider types. This may take dedicated staffing.		
Residents were often left without behavioral health support during an incredibly stressful time. These stressors have increased substance use disorders and related deaths.	Local behavioral health facilities and providers have barriers to adequate emergency plans due to lack of expertise and funding.	Emergency plans may not be in place to quickly link patients back to services post-hurricane. Need to train all levels of providers.	Facilitate training for local providers to review or create emergency plan with outreach pre and post hurricane in conjunction with parish emergency response officials.		
	According to Lake Charles City Dashboard, 16.9% of individuals 18 years and older experience frequent mental distress with 14 or more of the past 30 days being considered poor mental health days. This is higher than the average of 14%. This will likely worsen post-disaster.	No funding available to help families in crisis with both material, physical and mental health needs. Following a disaster or emergency there is a lack of communication of available resources which limits information to the target community.	 Utilize crises counseling program such as Louisiana Spirit for immediate support. Focus on maintaining long-term support. Provide mental health support for essential workers. Locate funding source for immediate need requests. Launch social media push to get this information out. 		
	Need more trained and certified clinicians in our local area to provide service. The McNeese counseling program produces the only mental health professionals in the region.	Our educational partners (e.g., McNeese) face barriers to establishing programs that would supply our area with behavioral health clinicians.	Fund the counseling program within the McNeese Psychology Department in the accreditation process. This will provide more qualified clinicians and case workers in the community which will increase the ability to link residents to behavior health support and services.		



MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
Hurricanes Laura and Delta reduced access to resources due to damages to infrastructure. Residents lost access to their doctors, clinics, counselors, medications and pharmacies.	Providing direct access to services for hard-to-reach populations.	Geography spans the region and target populations often lack transportation to services.	Acquire a mobile operations unit that can deliver behavioral health and harm reduction services directly to communities. This will serve as the first stage of the Assessment Center for adults.	

LONG-TERM NEEDS	LONG-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Behavioral health issues and substance abuse impacts all populations and backgrounds, ages and races. This can make it difficult to target those in need to provide education and resources.	Connecting people with behavioral health services and other multi-sector wraparound services treating the whole person (mental health, substance use disorder, housing, employment, education).	No current funding for Multi-Agency Assessment Center is available.	Fund a Multi-agency Assessment Center that provides behavioral health and wrap-around services with multi-sector involvement and case management. Tour existing assessment centers and engage consultants to select the best operation framework. This center will also function as an		
			EOC for behavioral health services during a crisis. Ideally, mobile outreach will be included. Will need to consider creating infrastructure that can operate during emergency.		
	Stigma associated with mental health/substance use disorder creates a barrier to treatment.	Reaching a broad multi-sector audience.	Widespread and targeted social media outreach and education to reduce stigma associated with mental health and substance use treatment.		
			Provide education to providers promoting medication assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorder.		
			Form coalition of providers and participants to formulate outreach campaign to reduce stigma in our community.		

PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
Hurricanes Laura and Delta resulted in severe structural damage to public health and social service facilities and contents.	To adequately prepare for a disaster, it is necessary that public health and social service facilities have ample storage for quick access of necessary supplies following a disaster.	Many buildings remain damaged and have no structurally sound storage available.	Create structurally sound storage location for RSF 3 partners to keep necessary post-recovery supplies.	





EDUCATION

SHORT-TERM NEEDS	SHORT-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Hurricanes Laura and Delta damaged many childcare facilities.	Essential workers were unable to return to their employment due to a lack of childcare providers, which impacted every other area of recovery.	Childcare facilities were unable make adequate repairs to ensure safety of children in a timely manner due to lack of resources (materials and labor).	Provide funding to encourage childcare facilities to harden their facility and install generators to ensure power availability. Contract with vendors to ensure necessary supplies for repairs to reopen as soon as possible. Ensure these facilities have tools to plan for future disasters. Opportunity for childcare facilities that are open at extended hours to meet the needs of the area, such as industry workers, service industry and shift workers.		
School transportation has been significantly impacted by buses damaged in Hurricanes Laura and Delta along with a reduction of workforce.	School buses have been forced to increase their routes, picking up children earlier and returning them home later.	Limited availability of buses and difficulty obtaining drivers due to competing businesses.	Funding to obtain additional school transportation assets along with incentives to employ and keep drivers.		
Schools lost power for a significant period of time, therefore lost an abundance of food and children were not able to be served.	The school lunch program is essential for providing quality nutrition, especially during a time of disaster with more limited resources.	Schools were not outfitted with generators to keep food fresh. Distribution of food by faculty was not available due to damages to their own homes. Local grocery stores and restaurants were not adequately supplied with food and staff to provide for the community.	Install generators with fuel contracts to reduce food spoilage and allow food service following disaster. Create disaster plan to prepare for transporting of food from locations without power to schools outfitted with generators. Plan distribution of food following a disaster utilizing staff from outside of disaster area.		

MEDIUM-TERM NEE	MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
The majority of Calcasieu Parish schools received significant damage following Hurricanes Laura and Delta.	The damage to schools caused significant delays in reopening.	Repairs to facilities were lengthened due to a lack of resources (materials and labor). Majority of repairs already made are temporary as work will continue into the 2021-2022 school year.	Harden school facilities through additional funding from FEMA and other sources to make repairs to facility which will reduce damage in future disasters. Currently FEMA only pays for exact replacement, therefore a flat roof cannot be replaced with a peaked roof.		
Hurricanes Laura and Delta resulted in a significant loss of communication and resources, including food.	People within the community, including students, did not know where to turn for resources and were left without essential services.	Due to significant impairment to communication, volunteers were not able to coordinate services. In addition, necessary services and resources were unable to reach those most in need.	Create centralized hubs at neighborhood schools with emergency plans in place to feed families and children. Have hub staffed with counselors, FEMA officials and volunteer services. Provide internet and hotspots. Would need a study to determine the best location for hubs, how many, and the complete support and ongoing funding needed to maintain these.		

LONG-TERM NEED	LONG-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
Hurricane Laura caused severe stress and trauma in residents of SWLA, including school aged children. Students and families have been impacted significantly by environmental stressors, the loss of shelter, employment and access to mental health and wellness services. Students and families also face loss of economic opportunities, loss of familial supports and lack of adequate housing which impacts health and academic outcomes.	This chronic stress makes children more prone to behavioral and disciplinary actions and less likely to have academic success. It also increases chronic health conditions. Connecting students to resources including mental health services is complex and arduous. According to the CDC's 2019 Youth Behavior Risk Survey, 15.2% of Louisiana students polled reported attempting suicide 1 or more times within the past 12 months. This rate is almost double the national average of 8.9%.	School counselors are not available to counsel students or provide behavioral health support, because counselors are tasked with standardized testing, records and other clerical work. Students need 1:1 case management, and unfortunately this is not available at schools with the current staffing. Wellness services are not available in schools. Teachers are often uncomfortable with topics covered in social-emotional learning curriculum, and students are more willing to listen when taught by an outside facilitator.	Invest in mental health supports for schools. This would include increasing access to providers within schools, increasing training of school staff on dealing with survivors of trauma and providing other supports to allow current staff to focus on social/emotional needs. Wellness clinics could be established in schools and staffed by mental health practitioners and health professionals to identify, diagnose and treat mental and chronic health issues. Supplement school counselors with a state testing coordinator and other clerical support for test administration so that counselors could provide more support to students and less time coordinating testing and doing required paperwork. Provide "evidence based" resources for teachers to help them provide individual social emotional support to students, families, faculty and staff. Access to this web-based program is available from school, home or any location with internet access. Provide funding to SWLA Youth Foundation and CPSB to expand current social emotional learning curriculum (Truth, Facts, and Lies) to all CPSB schools. This will take 5-6 dedicated staff and can be scaled up over time.		
Hurricanes Laura and Delta along with COVID-19 resulted in significant interrupted	Interrupted learning of K-12 students. Students missed 10 weeks of educational services due to school closures and many students are still affected by a loss of housing and are in	Students missed out on foundational reading instruction. Many of our K-3 students are performing below benchmark in basic reading skills.	Provide additional funding to address deficits in reading and other core subjects targeting all grade levels. Utilize non-certified staff to facilitate and monitor implementation of interventions.		
l leal lilliu.	living situations that impact	These students are expected to perform poorer on competitive assessments of achievement than non-impacted students. This puts affected students at a disadvantage for competitive scholarships and grants.	For the next 3 years, free ACT (from Kaplan) prep courses could be made available to 6,300 high school students (10-12) with incentives (gift cards) provided for those students who complete 100 hours of instruction over the summer.		
		Waiver for Louisiana Department of Education (LDOE) Child Care Criminal Background Checks.Hurricane regulations for reopening procedures.	LDOE staff available with mobile lab for CCCBC backgrounds. Steering committee to develop emergency regulations for reopening.		



SOCIAL SERVICES

SHORT/MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
Hurricane Laura caused massive disruption of social services across the region. There was lack of coordination between social service providers during and following the disaster. Many providers	There is lack of collaboration/communication between non-governmental organizations (NGO), volunteers and state organizations.	Determining where they will operate (physical space), and under what organization. Funding source.	Local ESF-6 Coordinator who can have advanced contracts in place for mass feedings, supply collection, resource coordination, etc. The position would be funded (not volunteer) modeled after ESF-8 position already in place.	
are still not operating at full capacity, and efficiency of existing collaborations is lacking. Lack of ownership of organization to fulfill need of	Poor management and communication of available community and organizational resources.			
a Gap Analysis and discover of what aid is needed to get back in service.	Lack of community and organizational awareness of what NGOs were operational.			
The disruption to accessing social services.	Public Transportation availability — Inadequate service times for public transportation availability with hours ended early in the evening and no service on weekends.	Limited availability of drivers due to competing businesses.	Funding to obtain additional public transportation along with incentives to employ and keep drivers.	
The disruption to social services, the inability for non-profits to withstand such a shock and still provide	Poor management and lack of availability of resources and supplies.	coordination and management. Unable to operate at full potential without someone in charge of coordinating resources and providers/partners. non-profits to ESF-6 Coordinating post-disaster with manage continuation between post-with 211 representations.	Relief Center/Service Hub for partnering non-profits to be under one roof. Overseen by ESF-6 Coordinator and operated immediately	
care and an overall lack of supportive services that aid social service providers in providing their care. Lack of mobile units for those	Lack of community and organizational awareness of what NGOs were operational.		post-disaster by volunteers. ESF-6 Coordinator will manage coordination of providers that will be there post-disaster and communicate that with 211 representative and public information systems for community awareness.	
in community that cannot drive for supplies. Red Cross covered some with food but other supplies were needed as well.	Lack of collaboration/ communication between NGOs, volunteers and state organization.	Identify staging location as well as smaller hubs.		
Gap in services available/ accessible specifically for families.	Lack of resources for families, especially those that are underserved/ homeless pre- disaster.	Salvation Army Shelter Building concerns.	Family shelter. Adds capacity for providing services within the community. (San Antonio Homeless Shelter as an example). Can provide shelter for families unable to evacuate or	
	Men/Women only shelters don't allow for families to stay together.	Shower needs (male/female).	without a home immediately post-disaster.	

SHORT/MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
The disruption to social services, the inability for non-profits to withstand such a shock and still provide care and an overall lack of supportive services that aid social service providers in providing their care.	The loss of communication abilities, physical damage to service locations and insufficient planning/ protocols for organizations to operate immediately post-disaster.	Requires intentional coordination and management. Unable to operate at full potential without someone in charge of facilitating this. Funding for infrastructure hardening.	Community hardening. Underground power, communication and internet lines. Generator accessibility, mobile freezer units, memorandums of understanding and business continuity grants. Procuring/storing these assets can be overseen by the ESF-6 Coordinator.	

MEDIUM/LONG-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
The disruption to accessing social services, the overall lack of coordination between social service providers, the efficiency of collaborations	Lack of collaboration/ communication between NGOs, volunteers and state organization.	Determining where they will operate (physical space) and under what organization.	Local ESF-6 Coordinator who can have advanced contracts in place for mass feedings, supply collection, resource coordination, etc. The position could be a	
between providers and the efficiency with which providers are back up-and- running.	Poor management and communication of available community and organizational resources.		jointly funded position amongst state and local agencies (modeled after ESF-8 position already in place).	
	Lack of community and organizational awareness of what NGO's were operational.			
The disruption to accessing social services.	Public Transportation availability — Inadequate service times for public transportation availability with hours ended early in the evening and no service on	Limited availability of drivers due to competing businesses.	Improved infrastructure plan around public transportation. More buses, drivers and routes. Separate parish and city systems. Working with other RSF teams to prepare routes and roadways outside of the current areas.	
	weekends.		Increasing operational hours and days of service.	
			Covered bus stops.	



MEDIUM/LONG-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
Gap in services available/ accessible specifically for families.	Lack of resources for families, especially those that are underserved/homeless pre-disaster.	Salvation Army Shelter Building concerns.	Family shelter. Adds capacity for providing services within the community. (San Antonio Homeless Shelter as an example). Can provide shelter for families unable to evacuate or	
	Men/Women only shelters don't allow for families to stay together.	Shower needs (male/female).	without a home immediately post-disaster.	
The disruption to social services, the inability for non-profits to withstand such a shock and still provide care and an overall lack of supportive services that aid social service providers in providing their care.	The loss of communication abilities, physical damage to service locations and insufficient planning/ protocols for organizations to operate immediately postdisaster.	Requires intentional coordination and management. Unable to operate at full potential without someone in charge of facilitating this. Funding for infrastructure hardening.	Community hardening. Underground power, communication and internet lines. Generator accessibility, mobile freezer units, MOUs and business continuity grants. Procuring/storing these assets can be overseen by the ESF-6 Coordinator.	





Housing

The Housing Recovery Support Function develops recovery strategies intended to strengthen the housing market, integrate mitigation measures, and build inclusive and sustainable communities. This Recovery Support Function applies data-driven, priority-based housing strategies to develop solutions that will provide adequate, affordable, and accessible housing, both interim and permanent, to disaster-impacted neighborhoods. It also engages local housing groups and authorities to coordinate efforts and further existing housing initiatives.

The members of the Calcasieu Housing Recovery Support Function spoke with various community development, affordable housing, and realty professionals across the parish to gain insight on short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term issues. From these conversations and frequent meetings, the group constructed tables consisting of impacts, issues, challenges, and opportunities for building capacity in the parish at all time horizons.

SHORT-TERM NEE	SHORT-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
50% of all housing stock in Calcasieu Parish was damaged by Hurricanes Laura and Delta.	ousing stock in alcasieu Parish ras damaged by urricanes Laura Multiple housing needs from many stakeholders create a need for coordination and resource	Too many needs for all to be distinctly heard. Lack of coordination among numerous new and longstanding providers/partners. Community residents, service	Utilize full capacity of long-term recovery group to strengthen communication and collaboration to ensure COVID and disaster relief dollars are being tracked and fully utilized to minimize duplication around resources. Strengthen collaboration and communication		
		providers and government are overwhelmed.	through regular leadership strategy sessions/updates.		
		Due to COVID, many agencies are providing services virtually, which is a barrier for those lacking access to or skills related to technology.	Expand existing centralized resource and information system to allow expertise in disaster resources to be developed. Expand efforts of CPPJ to create a prioritized list of action items and deliverables.		
			Expand staff capacity to accomplish desired outcomes over next 3-5 years. Increase staff capacity and skills to allow direct provision of services and to provide more varied resource provision.		
50% of all housing stock in Calcasieu Parish	Blight: Post hurricane, vacant unused/ abandoned properties are not	Current legal remedies do not allow for an expedited process to clean up and adjudicate properties.	Create a system/procedure to adjudicate properties so they can be restored and available for short term housing crisis.		
Was damaged by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. and Indicated properties are not being rehabilitated, creating neighborhood deterioration.	As debris pick up draws to a close, the remaining debris will become a blight issue.	Incentivize current landlords/property owners with tax credits to house residents in need of short/medium/long-term rentals.			
			Establish entity to take possession of and redevelop blighted properties into affordable housing. Consider establishing an independent non-profit with broad authority similar to a housing authority.		



SHORT-TERM NEEDS					
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
50% of all housing stock in Calcasieu Parish damaged by Hurricanes Laura and Delta, and 7,305 households designated as eligible for FEMA housing assistance.	Pace of repair is slow due to large number of damaged units. Supply chain has also been impacted slowing construction progress. Lumber prices increased up to 3 times the average due to pandemic and further amplified by hurricane damages.	Lack of accessible, licensed qualified contractors. Desperate consumers are falling victim to scams and dishonest contractors who lack proper licensed and insurance. Bottleneck caused by FEMA not rapidly approving individual assistance applications. Insufficient number of housing units for FEMA to utilize in providing direct housing. Rising construction costs due to rising cost of materials. Insufficient number of volunteer organizations to meet need of households who lack sufficient insurance proceeds. Homeowners/landlords need help facilitating repairs. Rainy and cold weather has slowed the pace of repair.	Create (or expand capacity of existing agency to establish) a Housing Solutions Resource Center where the following educational programs and info could be offered in a "one-stop shop" setting: 1. Work with local technical colleges to promote and implement residential/ commercial construction degree programs. Educate on proper licensing requirements. 2. Expand FEMA appeals and assistance fairs. 3. Establish warehouse as a centralized location for donated materials and create system for maintaining inventory. 4. Reach out to recovery organizations to request further support. 5. Create collaborative among disaster recovery groups to encourage growth and sharing of resources. 6. Create educational/marketing campaign, courses and supports to better educate consumers on best practices when hiring contractors to repair properties. 7. Partner with city/local officials to promote list of verified contractors from organizations that maintain information on local businesses. 8. Educate Section 8 residents on the Self-Sufficiency Home Ownership model. 9. Make list of verified contractors easily accessible and well promoted for residents. 10. Assist FEMA in locating non-traditional direct lease options for FEMA to lease up. 11. Assist in marketing multi-family lease and repair units for FEMA to utilize.		



SHORT-TERM NEEDS					
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
COVID coupled with hurricane impacts has created significant negative financial impacts.	Increased number of households that are being thrust into poverty, at risk of being homeless, or are currently homeless.	Increased number of individuals and/or families experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Increased number of households are facing evictions once current Center for Disease Control and Prevention and Prevention eviction moratorium is lifted. No emergency shelters currently open for those experiencing homelessness. Increased cost of recovery due to COVID (personal protective equipment costs, congregate shelters not available, etc.).	Immediately establish non-congregate shelters to assist those currently homeless. Construct/build a new emergency shelter(s) to meet the needs of those experiencing homelessness. Shelters for families, single women and single men are needed. Create transitional housing for those who need a longer supportive period to stabilize their lives. Research a range of creative affordable housing solutions and create a model home village as a test case for future transitional and permanent housing. Couple stimulus (COVID relief) funding with recovery efforts to aide those in poverty by expanding use and combining with disaster recovery efforts. Establish plan and process with landlords for people facing imminent eviction when the moratorium is lifted and begin vetting those households now to determine next steps. Provide incentives to landlords who defer evictions when moratorium lifts to prevent massive homeless surge. Tie stimulus funding for landlords to agreements that will ensure the landlord only evicts where tenant is fully at fault and no remedies are available.		
COVID coupled with hurricane impacts has created significant negative financial impacts.	Landlords/multi- family property owners have lost rent revenues for many months and face staggering repair costs.	COVID left many landlords unable to collect rent for a year. Thus, income losses are excessive. Abuse of eviction moratorium by both landlords and tenants.	Expand overall capacity where possible to utilize and overall capacity where possible to utilize stimulus funding to help landlords obtain arrears rent. Expand terms of stimulus funding to allow more flexibility in use of funds and timelines for expenditure (allow COVID dollars to be used to pay rents on hurricane impacted households). Create a one-stop resource where landlords can reach out to obtain assistance when tenants are in arrears. Work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Lake Charles Housing Authority to obtain increased Fair Market Rents for the area which would allow the more equitable, local use of Section 8 vouchers.		
Community has had triple disaster impacts that have been significant and unprecedented.	Residents are dealing with depression and inability to move forward.	Need to help restore hope through a significant morale booster.	Create a community-wide event and resource fair to bring people together and restore hope.		



MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS					
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
50% of all housing stock in Calcasieu Parish damaged by Hurricanes Laura	Costs of materials have increased dramatically as	Homeowners unable to get approved for repair loans. Homeowners lack sufficient	Create a loan loss reserve fund to help banks provide "riskier" loans to those seeking to repair homes or purchase homes now outside of affordability.		
and Delta.	demand has exceeded supply.	insurance funds to pay for repairs. Homebuyers unable to	Create lender resource team to develop loan products to address disaster related loan challenges, such as COVID related job loss, increased construction costs, etc.		
		afford new home costs.	Create grant program to provide subsidies for down payment and/or closing cost assistance to make homes affordable.		
			Explore and educate community on existing Federal Housing Administration loan products, U.S. Small Business Administration loan products and other types of alternative financing.		
			Work with lenders to build creative financing to allow lending to continue while the housing market settles to more "normal" pricing.		
			Work with local supply stores in anticipation of storms to buy in bulk to obtain better pricing and to have materials more readily available.		
stock in Calcasieu Parish damaged by Hurricanes Laura and Polta	Pace of repair is slow due to large number	Lack of accessible, licensed, qualified contractors.	Create network with adjacent states to allow for sharing of contractor information.		
	that are straining resources, capacity and strength of	Bottleneck caused by slow pace of insurance payments. Rising construction costs due to rising cost of materials.	Create a contractor pre-approval process, immediately prior to hurricane season.		
			Create expedited reporting system for non-compliant insurance companies.		
			Consider legislation for insurance reform.		
		Rain and cold weather have further delayed repairs.	Facilitate the flow of construction supplies post-disaster. Work to ensure necessary surplus supplies are readily available and staged pre-disaster.		
			Work with local companies to leverage collective buying power to obtain needed supplies and control costs.		
Large number of multi-family	ly as demand for units to locate available units for		Create a local resource/database for available units as they come online or utilize lahousingsearch.org to compile resources.		
complexes damaged	increases.	lease. Contractors, FEMA and those	Assist in tracking status of units and/or repair of complexes through to listing when waiting list reopens.		
		receiving insurance dollars can pay higher rents which	Create legislation that will prevent rent gouging post-disaster.		
		inflates the market.	Work with HUD to increase current Fair Market Rents.		
		Lack of temporary RV or trailer park hook ups	Establish "pop up" Mobile Home Parks and RV sites to allow for a temporary population influx while repairs are completed.		
		requires use of permanent dwellings for a temporary need.	Collaborate with Airbnb or create similar model to allow for expedited transitional housing for those recovering from hurricanes.		



LONG-TERM NEEDS					
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES		
12,000 housing units in Calcasieu Parish now uninhabitable due to severe impacts from Hurricanes Laura and Delta.	Potential loss of population: Due to the inadequate supply and the rising cost of housing, many residents may choose not to return to Calcasieu Parish.	Lack of affordable housing resources because many complexes were severely damaged. Damaged shelters, transitional facilities, nursing homes, etc. that cannot get licensing cleared to relocate/re-establish. Lack of housing has prevented workers from returning to employment which has significant economic impacts.	Advocate for the designation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) for Southwest Louisiana (primarily Calcasieu as most impacted) for disaster recovery. Provide feedback on the Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) to ensure a proper LIHTC allocation and the issuance of enhancements to allow further unit subsidy. Consider a tax credit for landlords who agree to take a loss and not evict tenants impacted by COVID/hurricanes. Advocate for the allocation of Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds for SWLA. Ensure all funding opportunities look at opportunities for both large scale and small housing developers. Establish expedited (temporary) licensing procedure for nursing homes, care facilities, etc. in disaster declared parishes to help quickly return population. Create an employer assisted housing model where developers and employers partner in the development of housing. Engage in long-term master planning to ensure a vision for resilient, comprehensive redevelopment that encourages community residents to return. Collaborate with private and public entities to follow through to implement the Long-term Master Plan. Establish a Recover Authority with broad legislative authority to receive and fully utilize federal and state disaster recovery dollars (similar to the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority). Consider handicap accessible and wheelchair accessible amenities when rebuilding and redeveloping areas during the long-term recovery, in order to fill this need, retain this population, and improve the quality of life.		





LONG-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
50% of all housing stock in Calcasieu Parish damaged by Hurricanes Laura and Delta.	As demand for housing increases due to the increased need for temporary housing and significant loss of units, the cost of housing increases.	Demand for units has driven up prices (sales prices and rent rates). Housing in SWLA was not built to withstand hurricane-force winds. Developers have dictated the direction for future development, developing where it is most affordable, as opposed to where practical or where resources are readily available. Calcasieu Parish lacks diversity and faces growing economic segregation by housing choices.	Establish local incentives or requirements (could be temporary as part of disaster recovery) to generate affordable units. Provide subsidy to create affordability for buyers or renters by subsidizing the development in exchange for 15-year (or more) affordability. Educate homebuyers and developers on resilient reconstruction methodologies. Create incentives for resiliency in construction methodologies. Create a development plan that utilizes, encourages and incentivizes infill development opportunities. Advocate for additional disaster allocations of Low-Income Housing Tax Credits. Secure Low Income Housing Tax Credits to create mixed-income developments. Redevelop Lake Charles Housing Authority administrative office into large scale mixed income, mixed use development as a best practice and model program for redevelopment. Encourage and incentivize mixed income developments across the parish. Implement a HUD Choice Neighborhood planning process for North Lake Charles or Dixy Drive (central Lake Charles) to encourage infill development and greater economic diversity.	
50% of all housing stock in Calcasieu Parish damaged by hurricanes Laura and Delta.	Lack of preparation for housing needs left many essential workers with no place to stay immediately post-disaster.	COVID-19 prevented congregate sheltering for those displaced. Disaster recovery workers and volunteers could not find space to stay that allowed them to social distance. Hotels in the area were quickly overwhelmed with temporary workers/volunteers and displaced evacuees.	Locate facilities that withstood hurricane impacts and can be used as shelters in the future, considering any future social distance requirements. Explore putting in place contracts for mobile housing that could be deployed post-disaster. Locate essential services where water, sewer and power hookups could be located for RVs post-disaster and immediately deployed for disaster workers. Consider churches, schools, parks, etc. Provide training, information and resources to the public and to developers on how to build back in more resilient ways, stronger construction, hardening of buildings, etc.	
12,000 housing units in Calcasieu Parish now uninhabitable due to severe impacts from two hurricanes.	Some units cannot be repaired and community risks being overcome by blight.	Large number of damaged dwellings that will need to be demolished. Unable to efficiently demolish or clear property leading to neighborhood blight.	Hurricanes Katrina and Rita created models that could be duplicated and utilized post-Laura. Look into potential legislative remedies to allow for efficient clearing of blight and re-development of properties. Create entity to receive blighted adjudicated properties with the broad authority of a Housing Authority and the desire to redevelop and create mixed-income housing.	









Infrastructure

The Infrastructure Recovery Support Function works to efficiently facilitate the restoration of infrastructure systems and services to support a viable, sustainable community and improves resilience to and protection from future hazards. It coordinates the efforts of public, private, and non-profit sectors, enabling an efficient and economical restoration of critical infrastructure, services, and operations.

The members of the Calcasieu Infrastructure Recovery Support Function spoke with various planning, public works, infrastructure, and telecommunications professionals across the parish to gain insight on short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term issues. From these conversations and frequent meetings, the group constructed tables consisting of impacts, issues, challenges, and opportunities for building capacity in the parish at all time horizons.

SHORT-TERM NEE	EDS		
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Roadway hazards: downed signs; gridlock	Lack of traffic control at major intersections increased accidents.	Manpower, lack of inventory, political boundaries.	Prioritize the post-storm replacement of STOP, YIELD and other critical signs. Install generators at all major intersections to help with traffic control.
on roadways- evacuation orders; downed power lines			Utilization of National Guard, ROTC or similar programs to run major intersections until generator power can be established. Pre-identify intersections that should be prioritized; coordinate with power companies.
and equipment; public information and communication; traffic congestion.	Travel times were greatly increased which caused general disorder. Distraction and "road rage" increased the number of traffic accidents and compounded delays.	The highway system lacks the capacity necessary to handle a significant portion of the population leaving at one time.	Ask Calcasieu Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Prepredness (OHSEP) to explore the possibility of a "tiered" evacuation. Coordinate evacuation orders with surrounding parishes to avoid mass exiting at the same time. Prior to a call for evacuation, Calcasieu OHSEP may request Louisiana State Police to detour westbound through traffic on I-10 to I-49 in Lafayette.
	Post-storm "cut and push" operations in some cases were slowed and/or stopped to avoid potential unsafe situations.	Manpower (Entergy).	Post-storm "cut and push" operations would be facilitated if power company representatives were available to accompany crews to ensure downed equipment was deenergized.
	Traffic due to a mandatory evacuation tends to move west.	Lack of flexibility, lack of awareness.	Communication to advise the public to use alternate routes. Publish evacuation route maps.
	Downed trees, power lines and utilities.		Develop ordinances to have setbacks requirement for vegetation along public right of way, which will help minimize obstructions. Along major throughfare, ordinance to require underground utilities.
	Narrow roads along evacuation routes.		Construct 3 or 4 lane road along north bound routes to help with evacuations and federal roads. Develop a north loop like I-210 to help with traffic congestion.
Water outages, broken lines, critical facilities do not have potable water.	Locating broken water lines.	Fallen trees causing broken lines.	Help fund all public water suppliers with purchase of automatic meter infrastructure metering with gate valves. This will allow the public water suppliers to easily locate broken system and isolate the customers with broken pipes.
	Damaged infrastructure; damaged building causing broken lines; public communications; political pressure to solve the water outage in one day.	Critical infrastructure not able to open due to lack of potable water.	Develop an emergency system that allows the water district the ability to communicate to their customers.
			Allocate funds for each public water supplier which will help purchase and construct additional water holding tanks (either elevated or ground storage). This will allow the systems to store water in advance and isolate this volume. This will help the water system establish pressure quicker.
			All water districts should establish an interconnection to help each other during water outages.

SHORT-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
Telecommunications: Access to alternative power.	During Hurricanes Laura and Delta, commercial power was lost for an extended period of time (as did everyone else). This required many first responders to use generator power at multiple locations to maintain base services.	Access to enough resources to sustain generator power (fueling and maintenance) for extended periods along with assistance to clear debris to obtain access to facilities.	Work with other utilities and governmental agencies to assist in maintaining generator power to keep essential services running.	
Access to fuel.	Access to unleaded and diesel fuels during the storms was an issue.	Alternative sources for fuel were hard to come by during the storms.	Work with other utilities and governmental agencies to assist in obtaining fuel to keep essential services running.	
Direct lines of contact with multiple utility and governmental personnel.	Difficulty in knowing exactly who and how to contact to assist with multiple issues with respect to some utilities.	Knowing how to escalate issues and to whom in order keep essential services running.	Work with other utilities and governmental agencies to develop lines of communications to keep essential services running. Possibly establish escalation contacts for each entity.	
Buried cable/fiber being damaged by power companies replacing power poles.	Most of our cable/fiber facilities are buried and this resulted in many cable/fiber cuts from power companies during pole replacements after the storm.	811 and Dial One Time To Inform Everyone (DOTTIE) not being called out or not having enough resources after the storm to keep up with locate request caused major issues resulting from our buried cable/fiber being cut as power companies were replacing damaged poles as quickly as possible.	Work more closely with power companies and contractors to observe 811 marks for buried cable/ fiber and to communicate areas that have not been marked to eliminate these cuts and keep essential services running.	
Cable/fiber facilities being damaged by debris clean-up companies when picking up debris from public right-of ways.	Our cable/fiber connection points are above the ground and located in public right-of ways. Residents/contractors cover these facilities and the debris clean-up crews grab everything they see, including our facilities.	Being able to communicate to residents, contractors, etc. about how, where and where not to move debris for pickup, along with how to work with contractor debris clean-up crews.	Work with government agencies to communicate the impacts of covering these facilities, along with working with debris cleaning crews to make them aware of this problem. This will help to keep essential services running.	
Major flooding.	High water due to tidal surges.		Construct flood gates and pump station to help control the tidal surges on all laterals that are affected, design channeling improvement projects/inline detention ponds with a minimum 100-foot width.	



MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
Storm debris in ditches and drainage canals.	Increased risk of flooding.	Funding. Political boundaries and agency limitations. Process to begin and get a project of this magnitude adequately funded does not fit the demand. Manpower and limited ability of existing equipment at the local level for degree of difficulty to solve problem.	Expand partnerships to implement parishwide drainage debris cleanouts. Similar to the debris program that is well-run and relatively easy to navigate, establish a much more responsive process that the state and federal partners can sign-off on ahead of time to begin work sooner and complete the storm-related, large-scale debris removal process in the municipal, parish, and Gravity Drainage District systems.	
Damages to waterway infrastructure.	High water due to tidal surges.		Flood gate/pump station that will help reduce damages by tidal surges.	
Sewer overflows and public health concerns.	Loss of power due to downed trees. Broken sewer lines, sewer entering flood waters.		Install generator at all major sewer lift stations and treatment plants.	
			Install equalization tanks/holding tank to help monitor high volume sewer when damages occur at the treatment plants.	
Impassible roadways.			Major construction problem to elevate all roads to the base flood elevation. This will make the road passible during 100-year storm. This will help improve the freeboard requirements and may save homes from flooding.	

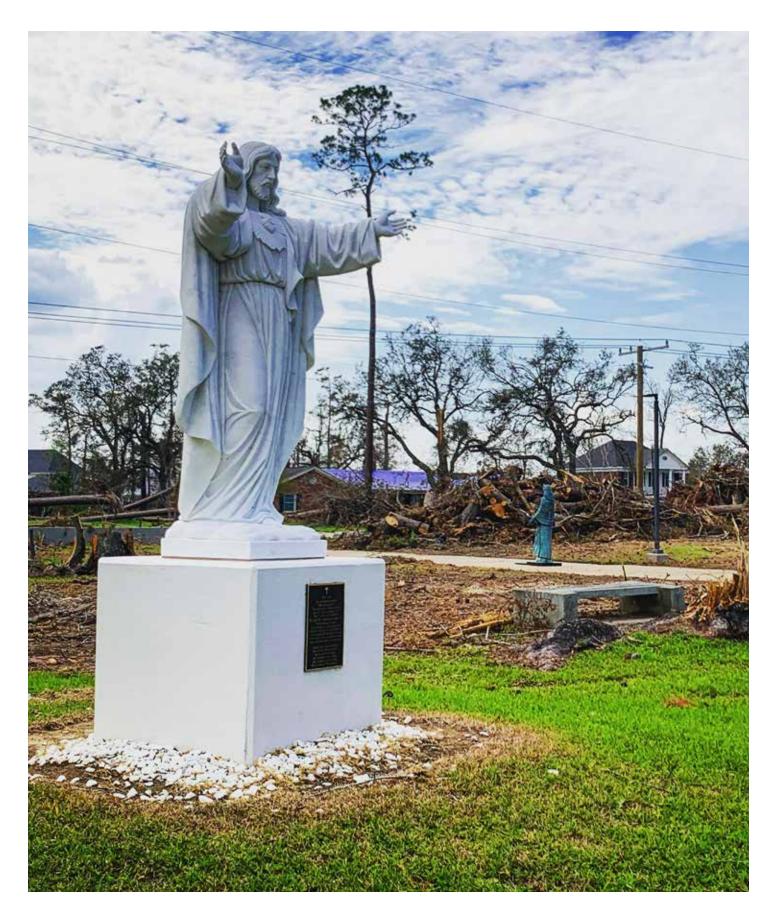


LONG-TERM NEEDS				
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES	
Storm debris	Increased risk of flooding.	Funding.	Expand partnerships to implement parish-wide	
in ditches and drainage canals.		Political boundaries.	drainage debris cleanouts.	
uramage canais.	Length of time to clear ditches.	Manpower.		
Loss of critical public facilities.	Damaged infrastructure.	Helping during emergencies.	Install a water tank pressure system with ground storage tanks. The tanks will be filled by public water suppliers and used on a daily basis to keep the water where potable water can be used daily for the cooling system and can be switched to a potable water storage tank.	
Flood damage to the residential infrastructure.	Flooding due to tidal surge.		Construct flood gates and pump station to help control the tidal surges on all laterals that are affected, design channeling improvement projects /inline detention ponds with a minimum 100-foot width.	
Clogged drainage laterals.	Lack of right of way to remove storm debris.		Develop ordinances to have setbacks requirement for vegetation along public laterals, which will help minimize obstructions. Buy out all homes along areas that are prone to flooding. Example: Greinwich Terrace along Kayouche Coulee.	



RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION 5







6

Natural and Cultural Resources

The Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function coordinates local entities to facilitate the return of the cultural, natural, and environmental systems to pre-disaster or improved conditions and support their continued protection after a disaster event.

The members of the Calcasieu Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function spoke with various arts and cultural development, agricultural, natural resources, and community development professionals across the parish to gain insights on short-term, intermediate-term, and long-term issues. From these conversations and frequent meetings, the group constructed tables consisting of impacts, issues, challenges, and opportunities for building capacity in the parish at all time horizons.

SHORT-TERM NEEDS			
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Regional farmers markets— Local food connections (network), storage and distributions during times of crises.	One major issue was the lack of available food for the community. Local producers were unable to store and distribute food during this crisis. Cold storage, dry storage and reliable communication for food distribution is absent in our community.	This project needs available space (land and building), equipment and management.	Southwest Louisiana is an agricultural community that produces a wide variety of products, including, but not limited to, animal and plant products such as beef, pork, lamb, seafood, vegetables and fruits. In addition, many processed food items are manufactured in our area. During a crisis similar to Hurricanes Laura and Delta, the ability to store and distribute these items is compromised. If there was a facility that had autonomous utilities these products would be available to those in need. Facilitate a discussion between the organizers of all the regional farmer's markets with the hopes of setting up a Farmer's Market Association which can coordinate and cross-promote farmers markets and farm-to-fork initiatives.
Following the storms, virtually no communication existed between many of the workers in Natural and Cultural Resource industries. Artists, in particular, have the ability to inspire the public following devastating events like hurricanes. A series of public art installations could help encourage public healing.	Opportunities to volunteer and share resources were missed as a result.	No one organization was tasked with this mission.	Pre-existing email communication systems, intranets and/or group text alerts could be implemented prior to the next storm season. So many things were happening, but people still missed out on several opportunities. Such a system would help connect arts and culture organizations to help the community reflect, heal and re-energize, as well as provide guidance and support for affected artists and independent business to obtain disaster recovery funds wherever possible.
Trash and debris littered every right-of-way in the parish, and it consequently caused negative impacts on environmental quality.	Lack of organized communication limited these efforts.	A slow debris removal process could discourage some from participating.	In the months following the storm, organized volunteer opportunities to help cleanup streets and neighborhoods would help reduce the negative environmental impact and promote community pride. The City and Police Jury have each coordinated such a series, providing bags, vests and gloves to volunteer groups. A stronger integration with disaster preparedness and emergency operations will ensure pre-planning for natural and cultural resources are taken into account. This effort could begin almost immediately following a hurricane.
Historic properties were improperly repaired or torn down completely following the 2020 hurricanes. The full loss of historic properties in Calcasieu Parish has not been realized.	Governing authorities issued limited guidance on national register properties and districts.	Many property owners see historic preservation guidelines as imposing.	This is an opportunity to establish protocols and capabilities for temporary and permanent safekeeping of cultural resources. Post-disaster assistance could be provided to prevent inappropriate repairs to historic properties, which can affect the integrity of the cultural district or historic neighborhood.



RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION 6

MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS			
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
During the pandemic, the need for outdoor performance venues became obvious. No public venues with gated admission currently exist.	Existing amphitheater stage was damaged by storm and lacks surrounding border or retaining wall to support crowd control or paid admission events.	Structure would also need to be slightly rotated to block sunset or have stage covering added to shield sun from spectators' line of sight.	A local architect has created several renderings of a reimagined lakefront amphitheater that could be used as a regional tourist attraction as well as lakefront venue for local artists/performing organizations. Funding from hazard mitigation sources, as well as funding from American Rescue Plan Act, should be considered for this project.
Loss of several performing arts venues as a direct result from 2020 hurricanes.	Without venues to host performing arts events, many local cultural groups have had to stage their events in nearby cities (Lafayette, Beaumont). There are many places in the community that could be repurposed into valuable space for the cultural arts (music, theater, visual, etc.).	Multiple theater groups (ACTS, LC Little Theater, Children's Theater and Itinerant Theater at Central School) were completely lost during the hurricanes. Many of the groups had insurance policies and are interested in partnering to create a centralized venue for live art performances with 220 seating.	Pre-existing email communication systems, intranets and/or group text alerts could be implemented prior to the next storm season. So many things were happening, but people still missed out on several opportunities. Such a system would help connect arts and culture organizations to help the community reflect, heal and reenergize, as well as provide guidance and support for affected artists and independent business to obtain disaster recovery funds wherever possible.
A vast majority of the City, Police Jury, and Ward 3 public parks, sports complexes, and community centers were damaged during Hurricane Laura and remain closed today.	The complex division of park management (coupled with an above-average number of parks) has led to underutilization of many parks and duplication of efforts.	Many of the city's parks are located in flood-prone areas and are costly to maintain.	Creation of a long-term master plan to efficiently operate, maintain, and deliver parks services in the various systems that exist. An inventory of all City, Parish, and Ward 3 sites should be completed to accomplish this. The opportunity now exists to direct resources to the top-ranked parks, accordingly, while reducing maintenance costs for government. This would lead to a higher-caliber parks system in the parish. Additional thought should be given to organizing all parks under one umbrella organization.
The green space, signage, trees and other landscape along the I-10 and I-210 corridors were badly damaged by winds in excess of 140 mph during Hurricane Laura. These gateways are essentially the "front yard" for Calcasieu Parish, and they currently create a negative first impression for traffic passing through the region.	The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development struggles to keep these corridors mowed, trimmed sufficiently and litterfree. While some local efforts have been made to introduce tree plantings and wildflowers, no regional partnership or master plan currently exist.	What few tree plantings and historical markers that did exist before Hurricanes Laura and Delta were damaged. DOTD manages 7 mowing cycles per year along rights of way, and 9 litter pick-up cycles per year. This is hardly enough to keep up with maintenance.	An opportunity exists to create a partnership between local government, industry, the casinos, the SWLA Alliance, Visit Lake Charles and DOTD to fund corridor enhancements. Additional hurricane recovery funding could jumpstart these efforts. The benefits of gateway beautification include economic development enhancement, litter reduction and would instill pride in local residents. In states like Florida and Alabama, a direct correlation exists between tourism growth and investments in their gateways. Historic markers, monuments or murals could also be installed to help brand the area. Public/private partnerships could accomplish these goals using a phased-in approach.



MEDIUM-TERM NEEDS			
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Recycling initiatives and programs in Calcasieu Parish are not user-friendly. This vulnerability was obvious during the storm.	Team Green truck schedule varies, and there are few places in town that accept recycled materials.	Recycling is expensive, and public support for recycling may not exist in Southwest Louisiana.	A recycling sorting center in Lake Charles, in combination with a public awareness campaign to present recycling as a favorable humanitarian alternative, may solve this.

LONG-TERM NEEDS			
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Lack of outdoor recreational space pre- and post-hurricanes. Minimal bicycle paths; few designated running paths.	Waterways that could serve multiple functions including drainage improvement and recreational trails/pathways and waterways.	This project would involve many private and public landowners agreeing to alter the current waterways through their property. This project would need funding for maintenance and daily monitoring and upkeep.	The Bayou Greenbelt proposal is a generational project that would provide a valuable increase in living opportunity for our community. It would allow many residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the natural beauty of Lake Charles and Calcasieu Parish. The concept is picking up momentum during its planning phase and is garnering new interest as a potential flood mitigation project. It would aid in revitalizing areas of the parish that may be struggling economically. The concept calls for modifying parts of Contraband Bayou and Kayouche Coulee and modifying undeveloped drainage right of ways to include 23 continuous miles of out-of-traffic running and bicycle paths.
The hurricanes, along with substantial growth and development in the area, have resulted in an extreme loss of trees and forest in Calcasieu Parish.	With no coordinated effort to replant trees or restore hurricane-damaged trees, flooding, soil erosion and increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will continue to be problematic.	Funding and a coordinated management program are the two key challenges.	A parish-wide tree restoration management program could be implemented for storm-damaged trees. Opportunities exist for tree talks led by licensed arborists could assist the public at large. Local government has an opportunity to engage with McNeese and the LSU AgCenter to create local tree ordinances and/or tree planting incentives for native, indigenous trees with developers.



LONG-TERM NEEDS			
IMPACTS	ISSUES	CHALLENGES	OPPORTUNITIES
Historically active corridors (such as Enterprise Blvd and Railroad Avenue in Lake Charles and Huntington Street/Hwy 90 in Sulphur) were once hubs of activity in Southwest Louisiana.	In each case, the street blocks are full of empty properties and have become blighted.	Exposure from the storms has only accelerated the deterioration of such properties.	By encouraging events and projects with long-term and positive effects, the neighborhoods could become once again a hot spot for local entertainment and art. Abandoned buildings could be repurposed as pocket parks, as is the case in DeRidder at Serenity Park. The area's Amtrak line is housed in the Railroad Avenue district and is therefore a gateway into Lake Charles. Neighborhood stakeholders can take charge in visually improving the current railway. Underserved populations can take part in these efforts with beautification efforts like murals and programming like outdoor theater and other popup events. These areas should be considered as potential Louisiana Opportunity Zones, which could spur economic development.
The hurricanes' storm surges caused significant coastal erosion and loss of barrier islands in Cameron Parish. Further, the storms greatly upset the natural ecosystem, significantly disrupting coastal native shellfish, fish, insect, bird and mammal habitats.	A comprehensive survey of vegetation wetland delineation, soil properties and assessment of marshes, islands and barriers needs to be completed in both Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes.	Funding for these projects needs to be made available. Funds for initial assessments and for restoration and conservation projects.	Once data is collected, a plan to replant native grasses and/or construct barriers, reefs, wetlands that aid in habitat and protection for inland infrastructure can occur. A conservation plan for rehabilitation and restoration can be put into place, and a partnership with industry that utilize adjacent lands can be formed. This may create an opportunity for a partnership with Cameron Parish.

RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION 6







"Now, we look to our parish's future and plan accordingly. The Long-Term Community Recovery Plan gives our residents a guide of priorities for what we can expect as we rebuild and recover together. This plan is incredibly thoughtful, thorough and full of meaningful input from area residents and other stakeholders."

CITY OF DEOUINCY MAYOR RILEY SMITH

SECTION IV

PRIORITIES FOR RECOVERY

TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES

From the vast input received and outlined in the Recovery Needs Assessments contained in Section 3 of this document, recovery priorities can be deciphered and outlined. While the Recovery Support Function groups worked amongst their specific sector of the community (i.e., economic, housing, infrastructure), there is a strong recognition of the interconnected opportunities across the various sectors of the recovery opportunities. Much like a region's economy is strongly dependent upon assets such as available housing resources and a skilled workforce, the same holds true for a whole community recovery effort: the work of planning and mitigation and the work in infrastructure resiliency is both directly dependent upon and directly impacts the community's ability to provide housing solutions, improve health, wellness,

and education opportunities, and improve and attract new cultural assets.

The priorities listed in this section are both ambitious and pragmatic. Some will require immediate actions, while others require coordination across various stakeholder organizations to be accomplished. Some can be implemented in a short turnaround time, while others require more study and deliberation. However, these priorities all come from a committed group who recognized that the time to prioritize these actions is now. These priorities can be viewed as calls to action, requiring commitment and dedication from public and private leaders.



SUMMARY LIST OF RECOVERY PRIORITIES

(Details of each are listed in the following pages)

PRIORITY The state of the state

ADVANCING HOUSING SOLUTIONS



PRIORITY 2

INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND CRITICAL ASSET RESILIENCY



PRIORITY

FURTHERING A SUSTAINABLE AND VIABLE ECONOMY





COORDINATING PLANNING AND **MITIGATION OPPORTUNITIES**





IMPLEMENTING COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS STRATEGIES



ENHANCING AND EXPANDING NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

PRIORITY 1: ADVANCING HOUSING SOLUTIONS

Prior to the impacts of the hurricanes and compounding disasters, Calcasieu Parish faced an imbalance of housing supply and demand due to an economic boom that increased housing demand and inflated housing costs. However, the boom also brought economic prosperity to local residents. Now following four natural disasters, Calcasieu Parish faces a growing housing crisis exacerbated by a financial crisis, meaning stakeholders must increase their attention on examining housing affordability and inventory, as well as evaluating resiliency measures and development codes. The input from all Recovery Support groups recognized that housing has significant effects on the social, economic, and emotional status of the community. Capacity challenges and the complexities of recovering from multiple disaster events makes this priority a significant community focus for the foreseeable future.

WE WILL PRIORITIZE:

Securing Disaster Housing Assistance

- Advocate for robust federal disaster recovery funding to aid homeowners and renters, particularly low- to moderate-income populations, with housing solutions
- Allocate significant funding and resources to lead the rebound of Calcasieu Parish's housing market
- Leverage available federal resources to prevent evictions in an already strained rental market
- Streamline and better coordinate the process for FEMA housing, including pre-identification of locations for temporary housing in the event of an emergency or disaster

Expanding Affordable Housing Strategies and Options

- Increase local housing and community development staff capacity, recognizing that these additional resources will be needed for an extended period of time
- Create large-scale, mixed-income development through the Choice Neighborhood model or mixed financing mechanisms
- Ensure such opportunities are viable by advocating for federal disaster recovery funding and increased allocations of low-income housing tax credits

- Establish local incentives or requirements to generate affordable housing units, potentially even temporary in nature
- Maximize the results of blight reduction or elimination programs when redevelopment opportunities arise through demolition activities, leveraging known best practices whenever possible

Coordination, Collaboration, and Education

- Establish better local resource coordination to eliminate duplication and to focus limited dollars towards a more comprehensive recovery
- Create one-stop Housing Solutions Center to educate residents on available recovery resources and to eliminate bottlenecks in connecting to FEMA and other recovery resources
- Create or expand and fund educational opportunities involving the construction industry, including sound but efficient post-storm registration and local licensing processes to help meet residential and commercial construction workforce demand
- Establish an efficient way for contractors to register or get licensed prior to and after a storm, delivering more efficient and consistent processes for homeowners with built-in consumer protections

Seeking Emergency Housing Solutions

- Create emergency shelter options for men and women with children/families, as well as transitional housing for the homeless population
- Establish a model village of alternative housing options that can be used as transitional housing for those lacking housing and other resources to recover from the disasters
- More strategically align pre-disaster planning with housing-related needs of the parish

Homeowner Repair Strategies and Improving Housing Quality And Resiliency

- Educate homeowners on alternative loan products and strengthen connection and coordination with volunteer disaster recovery groups to build capacity
- Strengthen support of Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters' (VOAD) long-term recovery group

 Establish lender resource team to facilitate access to innovative loan products while reducing risks to lenders

Long-Term Master Planning Strategies

- Develop strategies for elevating and acquiring floodprone properties
- Develop, strengthen, and support long-term regional master planning efforts through implementation
- Explore legislative reform to allow for blight removal through an expedited adjudication process
- Evaluate the creation of recovery authority with broad ability to receive and quickly implement programs with federal and state funding.

LONG-TERM RECOVERY ACTION: GREINWICH TERRACE VOLUNTARY BUYOUT PROGRAM

Calcasieu Parish and the City of Lake Charles, in partnership with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, launched a \$30 million voluntary buyout program in the Greinwich Terrace neighborhood, an area that has been prone to repeated flooding. Through the program, the state offers to purchase homes and provide financial incentives (payment above fair market value) in the flood-prone area, enabling participants to move to higher and drier ground to avoid future flooding. After participants in this program sell their homes, the properties will not be redeveloped with homes or buildings but will be used to hold water when flooding occurs. This resilience program is intended to prevent future flood damages by moving residents out of harm's way.



PRIORITY 2: INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE AND CRITICAL ASSET RESILIENCY

The ability to develop in the natural environment of Southwest Louisiana requires continuous attention to all aspects of infrastructure and plays a key role in building the parish's long-term capacity. Soil conditions, water resource management, and geography all play a role in how and where development can and should occur. Leaders must continue aligning infrastructure needs and growth with the realities of the natural environment. In fact, it is these elements of the natural environment that significantly contribute to the culture and quality of life of Southwest Louisiana.

Leaders have learned many lessons that are helping to prepare for future infrastructure risks. The Infrastructure Recovery Support Function highlighted the need to work with the natural systems to support a dynamic economy by building improved infrastructure assets and retrofitting existing systems.

WE WILL PRIORITIZE:

Upgrades And Updates To Infrastructure Systems

- Prioritize, fund, and construct low-risk, high-reward drainage and watershed management projects already identified or ready for work to begin
- Prioritize, fund, and conduct large-scale, parishwide drainage lateral debris clearing and maintenance work in coordination with local, state, and federal partners
- Conduct a comprehensive review of existing floodplain management and development practices, to protect the parish's watershed, enhance the overall system, and develop solutions to address long-standing issues
- Continuously upgrade and enhance local road infrastructure, incorporating drainage improvements
- Continue aggressively pursuing the community goal of construction of a new Interstate-10 bridge

Resilience Of Electric Power Services

 Continuously identify and pursue funding and resources to address electric and telecommunications infrastructure needs

Resilience Of Water Services

 Continuously identify and pursue funding and resources to address water and wastewater infrastructure needs

Enhancing Broadband Communications Capabilities And Access

- Review existing broadband services and identify opportunities to upgrade, harden, and expand the existing service area of broadband and communications services
- Align local broadband improvements with the state's efforts to expand broadband across Louisiana

Hardening Of Critical Facilities

 Prioritize the hardening of critical facilities, including hospitals and medical providers, ports, airports, schools, childcare facilities, higher education facilities, economic development facilities, and others

LONG-TERM RECOVERY ACTION: RESILIENT DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE REDUCES COMMUNITY FLOOD RISK

The Belfield Ditch Widening Project in Moss Bluff is an example of stakeholders working together to capitalize on combining federal, state, and local funding sources to execute a project that reduces flood risk for thousands of Calcasieu Parish residents. With a total project cost of \$5 million, the project combines FEMA Hazard Mitigation funds, state Capital Outlay dollars, and local infrastructure improvement funds.

The Belfield Ditch Widening Project increases the stormwater capacity of the existing ditch that runs from North Perkins Ferry Road to just east of Belfield Road in Moss Bluff by increasing its width and depth. The project consists of clearing, grubbing, excavating approximately 338,100 cubic yards, channel grading, channel reshaping, channel modifications, hydroseeding approximately

54 acres of land, and culvert upgrades. It constructed a "bench-cut" cross section which allows for greater flow through the channel and additional storage capacity to



relieve the flooding in the area. The project also increased the existing cross drain hydraulic capacity at Belfield Road and Stafford Road by replacing the existing cross drain with a new aluminum box structure at each location.

PRIORITY 3: FURTHERING A SUSTAINABLE AND VIABLE ECONOMY

The work of the Economic Recovery Support group recognizes the parish and region's enormous economic and workforce assets that contribute to its economic success. The group also strongly emphasizes the shared understanding that a sustainable economy is reliant upon the successful recovery of all other aspects of the community: housing, infrastructure, education, health, culture, etc. Their work centered around the recovery of existing economic assets, as well as heightening the ability to continue growing and diversifying the regional economy. The Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance, the region's economic development lead agency, will serve as the champion to lead the pursuit of business recovery and expansion opportunities.

WE WILL PRIORITIZE:

Minimizing Business Impacts

- Pursue federal small business and economic development grants to benefit both urban and rural areas of Calcasieu Parish
- Provide grants to small businesses and to support entrepreneurship
- Boost entrepreneurship through the SEED Center and McNeese State University
- Explore and capitalize on funding water, sewage, road access, and broadband availability

Enhancing Existing Assets

- Invest in and revitalize the parish's urban center
- Reimagine the lakefront amphitheater in order to accommodate paid concerts, festivals, farmers markets, and other events
- Upgrade and harden all utility infrastructure to reduce outages after a disaster
- Continued investment in infrastructure upgrades and development of industrial parks such as those at Chennault Industrial Airpark, the Port of Lake Charles, and the West Calcasieu Port

- Organize campaigns to improve the appearance of major thoroughfares to attract both investors and talent to the region
- Develop and redevelop main corridors through incentives to revitalize areas
- Require more resilient building standards based on sound data

Coordination, Collaboration, and Education

- Publish Consumer Information (pamphlets/website) for general insurance education
- Continue to align degree programs to meet current needs of the regional economy, while expanding into more desired or needed occupations
- Offer education and training in entrepreneurship for minority business owners

Focusing On Sectors Of The Economy

 Create and provide additional resources to existing entities to facilitate the research of business opportunities that will diversify the Southwest Louisiana economy, incorporating all regional parishes

- Partnerships with the Convention and Visitors Bureau for tourism and hospitality-focused campaigns aimed at attracting tourists as well as diversifying the region's tourism sector
- Conduct a review and evaluation of future use for vacant property set for demolition

LONG-TERM RECOVERY ACTION: COMMUNITY RALLIES TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY ASSISTANCE

The Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance pivoted to providing business recovery resources immediately after COVID-19 restrictions impacted economic activity in the region. Following hurricanes Laura and Delta, the Alliance continued its role of being a resource for business recovery for the community.

Supported by seed grants from Sempra Energy Foundation, the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana, and the Cheniere Foundation, the Alliance supported dozens of business recovery grants through its "Pathway to Small Business Recovery" program. Funds were distributed to small, minority-owned, and woman-owned businesses to help them with various needs for recovery.



PRIORITY 4: COORDINATING PLANNING AND MITIGATION OPPORTUNITIES

The overarching focus of the Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function's priorities is to recognize that governing bodies and local and regional planning agencies can and should take advantage of this recovery period to more effectively and efficiently engage, coordinate, and manage in a post-disaster environment. The shocks faced by Calcasieu Parish over the past 18 months in the forms of natural and economic strains demand that all stakeholders are aligned and working toward mutual goals that create a more resilient parish and region in the face of future disasters. The Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function prioritized the need of better integration of planning in areas involving critical infrastructure, delivery of critical services, and offering short- and long-term housing solutions.

WE WILL PRIORITIZE:

Enhancing Staffing Capacity And Knowledge To Manage Recovery

- Codify with the Recovery Support Functions, for preand post-disaster coordination within the Disaster Recovery Framework
- Along with state and federal partners, examine the root cause of issues that prompted residents to seek temporary housing solutions and develop a better and more efficient system to house people quicker following the next disaster

Regional Planning Coordination And Communication

- Identify opportunities to create partnerships focused on addressing post-disaster resources and needs with existing redevelopment authorities or other means focused on disinvested communities
- Focus on economic corridor development to ensure that recovery is done in a way that best benefits the community and retrofitting existing main corridors

 Identify and pursue all opportunities to clean up blight, including by providing grants or financial assistance to property owners, to ensure that property is redeveloped in a resilient way where feasible and turned into greenspace where not feasible or fully mitigated

Pre-Identifying Community Recovery Assets And Resources

- Identify transformative utility and infrastructure projects for critical corridor areas that can signify both recovery and resilience of the parish, specifically utility access and upgrades
- · Educate and communicate recovery best practices to residents, including building practices, flood hazard tools (GIS and LIDAR), consumer protections, tree planting guides, temporary housing, disaster funding, and more

Evaluating Policies And Practices To Support Resilient Development And Redevelopment

 Conduct a comprehensive review of existing community plans to identify consistencies in identified community needs, overlaps, or data that can be used to expedite long-term recovery

 Explore watershed improvements and opportunities to develop recreational uses for mitigation areas

Evaluation Of Local Codes and Practicies

 Comprehensively review existing ordinances and codes for updates and opportunities to implement development resilience measures and protect consumers post-storm Development incentives or ordinances to use best management processes and develop mitigation areas and greenspace where not practical to redevelop

LONG-TERM RECOVERY ACTION: STRENGTHENING THE COMMUNITY FOR FUTURE DISASTERS

In June 2021, Calcasieu Parish Police
Jury President Brian Abshire joined FEMA
Administrator Deanne Criswell and Louisiana
Governor John Bel Edwards in announcing
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
funding for Calcasieu Parish and other parishes
impacted by hurricanes Laura and Delta. The
June announcement brought the total disasterrelated HMGP allocation for Calcasieu Parish to
just over \$112 million.

Funding through the federal HMGP can be used on projects that reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property by lessening the impacts of disasters.

"We look forward to working with our local partners and FEMA on projects that will help protect the citizens of Louisiana," said Gov. John Bel Edwards. "As communities continue the hard work on recovery, this funding can be another helpful part of that process. Examples of typical mitigation activities include elevation, reconstruction or



acquisition of flood-prone structures and converting land to green space, localized drainage improvements, safe room construction, wind retrofit of structures and emergency power for critical facilities. Experts say one dollar spent in mitigation on average saves communities more than six dollars."

PRIORITY 5: IMPLEMENTING COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS STRATEGIES

Perhaps the most diverse set of stakeholders came together under the umbrella of the Health and Social Services Recovery Support Function. Their meetings to obtain input towards their recovery needs assessments were well attended, with significant contributions from providers of healthcare, education at all levels, and social services in the community. All contributors agreed that it is crucial to continue working together throughout the community's recovery to address the many complex health, equity, and education challenges the parish faces. Their input provided a holistic lens through which all aspects of the future community - land use, economic development, nutrition, transportation, infrastructure - are viewed as fundamental to the health of the parish.

WE WILL PRIORITIZE:

Enhancing Capacity To Care Providers To Ensure Continued Access To Healthcare Resources

- · Conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment to identify and address community-wide health priorities and educational tools, resources, and funding for community education of widespread issues related to general public health and mental health
- Provide greater access to healthcare services in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, with a focus on critical infrastructure to return these services to the community more expeditiously
- Create or establish a central post-disaster operating or coordination hub for non-profits to coordinate service delivery, enhance the community's knowledge of available resources, and minimize duplication of services, all under one roof

Minimizing The Loss Of Essential Services During And After A Disaster

- Fund the hardening and redundancy of major utility infrastructure, particularly to critical facilities like hospitals and other medical providers, including social services and educational facilities
- Create a facility to consolidate health and behavioral health services to a single location for better health needs assessment opportunities and continued improvement of long-term health outcomes

- Ensure that post-disaster mental health and general health resources and programs are available to and established for essential workers and the public
- Invest in a new, hardened water lab to create a better turnaround on water quality results during boil advisories
- Facilitate or fund solutions that help health and social service providers gain more timely access to immediate housing alternatives, thereby driving more timely restoration of medical services like solutions already in place for other first responders and governmental agencies

Supporting An Education System That Meets Student Needs

- Determine feasibility of funding opportunities for childcare facilities to fund hardening and generator power
- Elevate childcare facilities to critical infrastructure and work to ensure they are educated on emergency needs as a critical facility
- Install generator with fuel contracts at critical and strategically identified school facilities to protect existing assets, and use as post-storm distribution sites for services and goods

 Fund and implement long-term behavioral and mental health services and resources in local primary, secondary, and high schools

Focusing On Meeting Behavioral Health Needs Of Impacted Populations

- Invest in telehealth infrastructure for outpatient clinic providers and more mobile service providers that can handle high water (i.e., high water non-emergency transportation for bariatric or bedbound patients)
- Fund a multi-agency assessment center that provides behavioral health and wraparound services with multi-sector involvement and case management using existing models from around the country

 Support the McNeese Psychology Department in its accreditation process to increase the number of available providers

Better Alignment Of Health And Social Service Resources With Disaster Planning

- Support the alignment of health and social service providers in emergency operations, including through the creation of an Emergency Support Function for health and social services (or addition to an existing ESF)
- Create a structurally sound storage location for RSF 3 partners to collect and safely store post recovery supplies and coordinate more effective distribution of commodities and items

LONG-TERM RECOVERY ACTION: EXPANDING HEALTHCARE ACCESS TO SUPPORT POST-DISASTER COMMUNITY NEEDS

Originally formed as the Calcasieu Cameron Hospital
Service District, West Calcasieu Cameron Hospital (WCCH)
continues its mission of providing exceptional healthcare
to the residents of Southwest Louisiana. Like the many
other healthcare providers in a region impacted by
hurricanes and other natural disasters, WCCH has been
focusing efforts on disaster preparedness and planning
its facilities to withstand hurricane-force impacts. In the
days and weeks following hurricanes Laura and Delta, WCCH
operated on generator power and supported a team of
medical professionals from the U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services' National Medical Disaster System to
support the continued triage and treatment of patients.

Less than one year after hurricanes Laura and Delta, WCCH is providing additional facilities to support the healthcare



needs of the community. In January 2021, WCCH broke ground on a new 4,700 sq. ft. Primary Care Clinic in Carlyss, Louisiana, one of the fastest-growing areas in the hospital's service district, that is expected to open in early 2022. Additionally, in July 2021, WCCH held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to introduce its new Community Health Center located in Sulphur, Louisiana, that will provide a variety of healthcare services to the community.

PRIORITY 6: ENHANCING AND EXPANDING NATURAL AND CULTURAL ASSETS

The natural environment sustains and sometimes threatens Southwest Louisiana, and the stewardship of its resources plays a critically important role in the parish's recovery. There can be no comprehensive recovery of Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana without recognizing and focusing on revitalizing the region's natural and cultural resources. While the economy of the future may involve different types of emerging markets, building off the cultural and natural assets within this community will continue playing a significant and long-term role in supporting the region's economy. All stakeholders in the community must remain committed to and embrace actions that protect these assets.

The Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function emphasized that message from the outset of its work and reflected it in the tremendous input it provided to this process.

WE WILL PRIORITIZE:

Restoration Of Parks And Historical Assets

- Leverage cultural and arts service providers to support recovery efforts through less traditional means while inspiring and helping a community heal through culture and the arts
- Work with all partners to examine and capitalize on further opportunities for funding natural and cultural community resources
- Establish protocols that can be executed before a storm to protect existing cultural assets and natural resource industries and businesses as well as mitigate any related damages

Enhancing Cultural Resource Organization Coordination, Communication And Education

 Recognize and educate the public on the crucial role that natural and cultural resources serve in the community, particularly related to its long-term recovery

- Better integrate natural and cultural resources into the disaster preparedness and planning process, particularly in underserved areas, while prioritizing local business involvement in this work, such as through local food service providers at mobile farmers markets
- Formally connect cultural organizations that have formed organically over the years to explore opportunities for collaboration and more efficiently addressing the community's arts and culture needs

Enhancements To Existing Natural And Cultural Assets

- Identify funding for and construct the reimagined lakefront amphitheater to attract tourism, performing artists, and economic development
- Develop a centralized and multi-use performing arts venue that fills a void among all the lost or damaged performing arts venues in the area

LONG-TERM RECOVERY ACTION:BAYOU GREENBELT PROJECT



Bayou Greenbelt is a proposed 23-mile walking, running, bicycling, and waterway greenway spanning between Contraband Bayou to Kayouche Coulee that would allow residents and visitors the opportunity to explore the natural beauty of Calcasieu Parish and contribute to the revitalization of areas of the parish. The community-led project is in its planning phase and garnering great interest as both a quality-of-life and flood mitigation project from local citizens and from agencies such as the National Park Service.

Bayou Greenbelt calls for modifying parts of Contraband Bayou and Kayouche Coulee, as well as undeveloped drainage rights-of-way to include 26 continuous miles of boating routes and about 12 miles of out-of-traffic trails and bicycle paths. The project has received support from numerous local stakeholders and agencies, as well as state and federal officials. Those leading the natural resource beautification effort anticipate further progress in the coming months that can be incorporated into larger visions for eco-tourism and community resilience.

"Seeing residents come together to work toward a more prosperous Calcasieu Parish is refreshing and welcomed. By following the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan, listening to the needs of those around us, and dedicating our time to the process, I have no doubt that we will continue down a road of success."

TOWN OF IOWA MAYOR PAUL HESSE

SECTION V

NEXT STEPS



A thoughtful and thorough recovery process takes more than a little time. During that time, governmental leaders change, and organizations encounter new and more pressing issues; as such, it is critical that the community remain engaged with the recovery process. The Calcasieu Parish Long-Term Community Recovery Plan aims to give parish residents the tools and guidelines necessary to withstand the ebb and flow of external factors that may hinder progress. Truly, recovery efforts must be owned by the community and stakeholders who have a vested interest in making Calcasieu Parish flourish.

When taking on new recovery projects, the community must prioritize by assessing which project will have the most impact on the parish's overall restoration per the Recovery Needs Assessment. In many cases, securing and allocating funding is critical for a project's effective roll out and execution. Building and maintaining relationships with funding sources along with identifying grant and loan opportunities are integral in completing projects, maintaining timelines, and creating momentum to work toward completion.

Overall, when looking at a new project, Calcasieu Parish residents must ask:

- Does this project work toward our overall recovery qoal?
- Will completion of this project spur additional projects imperative to recovery?
- Is there significant community engagement and buy-in as it relates to this project?

Once the above has been determined, a relevant project lead must be identified. This person, agency, or organization will be the project champion tasked with carrying out next steps, as outlined later in this section. The project champion will take the following considerations into account:

- Has the appropriate funding been identified?
- · If secured, will the funding coincide with the community's timeline?
- · Are the appropriate support personnel in place to successfully execute and complete the project?

Tackling projects will require cooperation across numerous parties, beyond just the community and project champion(s). Those additional entities include, but are not limited to, the elected leaders and parish government staff. While the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan is not policy, community and government leaders must understand that the plan is entirely representative of their constituents' needs and wants. Therefore, it is in their best interest to engage and support the recovery process as outlined. Moreover, local governing agencies and offices are involved in many of the essential functions of recovery, making the government staff a necessary resource. These officials can serve as a wealth of information on local conditions like codes, ordinances, regulations, grants, and more, and it is advisable to have a designated group within the office to work directly with relevant recovery parties.

Long-term recovery requires continued patience, communication, and collaboration. With so many groups working simultaneously on an effort of this magnitude, progress can only be achieved when the community takes ownership of the plan and engages the necessary support. Challenges and delays are inevitable, but with true commitment and understanding of long-term recovery goals, a thriving Calcasieu Parish will certainly prevail.

DESIGNATING PROJECT CHAMPIONS

The opportunities and ideas in the Recovery Needs
Assessment are recovery-focused in an attempt to address
needs exposed by the disaster and help the community
recover in a more resilient manner. However, long-time
Calcasieu Parish residents will notice that a number of
the opportunities have been proffered before. The line of
demarcation from this Long-Term Community Recovery Plan
must be the elevation of champions for each of the recovery
priorities.

A project champion is a person, organization, or agency designated to take a project or opportunity forward, realizing the community's vision. For Calcasieu Parish, long-term recovery issues will remain an ongoing component of community life, and designating champions to address the various aspects of a "whole community" recovery ensures that appropriate entities are involved and sustained. In the

same way that a Recovery Coordinator was designated under the Calcasieu Parish Hurricanes Laura and Delta Recovery Framework, designating a point of contact to identify and communicate with project champions will keep progress on track.

The role of a designated Project Champion is the following:

- Understand the identified priority and plan out the details to accomplish the tasks
- Seek out means to attract and procure funding for the project, if applicable
- Be a champion in the community for recruiting others to support and bring the project to fruition
- · Serve as the project lead
- Work with the Police Jury Administration on behalf of the implementation of the full Long-Term Community Recovery Plan

LONG-TERM RECOVERY GROUP

Following other disasters, several communities across the country have formed "Long-Term Recovery Group(s)" to keep a consistent focus on the various recovery issues facing their community. According to the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters' Long-Term Recovery Guide, "A long-term recovery group (LTRG) is a cooperative body that is made up of representatives from faith-based, non-profit, government, business, and other organizations working within a community to assist individuals and families as they recover from a disaster. LTRGs are as varied in their structure as are the communities in which they work. The personality and operation of each group is unique and reflects local needs, available resources, cultural diversity, leadership style, and community support."

For a recovering community, LTRGs maintain the focus of providing coordinated service to enable everyone in the community to recover. They are often formed from and/or by the local Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters, and work in conjunction with local government staff, local emergency management staff, and federal emergency response staff, i.e., Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Volunteer

Agency Liaisons (VALs). Ideally, staff is either hired or utilized from local governing authorities to run the LTRG, as a means of setting meetings, producing agendas, taking minutes, and enabling communications. A fiscal sponsor is also needed to support fund development activities, which can be through a community agency or philanthropic partner.

Many LTRGs create by-laws to govern their work, set timeframes for which they will exist, and carry out activities either by working with existing Recovery Support Function groups or by creating subcommittees. Per the national Center for Disaster Philanthropy, "There is no right or wrong way to structure and run an LTRG. Rather than a one-size-fits-all approach, LTRGs should be adapted to meet the needs of their community to provide the most effective use of existing resources and supports."

Examples of other LTRGs formed are:

- St. John the Baptist Parish (Louisiana) formed the SJBP LTRG following Hurricane Isaac (2012)
- Monroe County (Florida) formed an LTRG to support recovery in the Florida Keys after Hurricane Irma (2017)
- The Ocean County (New Jersey) LTRG was formed following Hurricane Sandy (2012)

 The Ventura County (California) Long-Term Disaster Recovery Group was formed to assist citizens who experienced loss as a result of the Thomas (2017), Hill (2018) or Woolsey (2018) fires

IDENTIFYING DISASTER FUNDING RESOURCES

After identifying recovery priorities and project champions, there is a need for additional resources, namely funding. Following a disaster, communities have access to federal resources, along with both federal and state agencies and personnel focused on recovery assistance. Establishing partnerships with these various recovery agencies is a critical aspect for supporting long-term recovery efforts. Having these agencies as vested partners in the development of recovery projects ensures that a community's recovery can be accomplished.

Any community impacted by a disaster should also re-evaluate priorities and look for funding opportunities and resources at the local level, specifically groups that can assist with implementing recovery projects. Public/private partnerships and matching fund sources are two examples of increasing funding availability.



The following are some known federal resources typically made available to communities post-disaster, except for the Coronavirus Relief Funds, which is a specific allocation from Congress to assist with recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Each of the following funding sources have specific rules and regulations that govern how and on what activities funding can be expended:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funding

The first phase of the FEMA and Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) backed Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) was allocated in November 2020, with Calcasieu Parish receiving \$19,722,953. A second allocation was awarded to Calcasieu Parish in June 2021, in an additional amount of \$92,905,049. This program, designed to aid parishes impacted by hurricanes Laura and Delta, can fund projects that potentially save lives and reduce property loss. The goal is to implement hazard mitigation to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property by lessening the impact of a disaster. Common examples of hazard mitigation include elevation, reconstruction or acquisition of flood-prone structures and converting land to green space, localized drainage improvements, safe room construction, wind retrofit of structures, and emergency power for critical facilities.

FEMA Individual Assistance Program

FEMA's Individual Assistance (IA) program provides financial assistance and direct services to eligible individuals and households who have uninsured and underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs that resulted from a declared disaster. Following Hurricane Laura, Calcasieu Parish was designated as eligible for IA. This "individuals and household program" includes funding for temporary housing, for a temporary housing unit, to support the repair or replacement of homes, and for other expenses and serious needs, such as vehicles, moving, storage, funeral costs, childcare, and medical care. Eligibility is dependent upon factors such as: (1) the applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien; (2) FEMA must be able to verify the applicant's identity; (3) the applicant's insurance, or other forms of disaster assistance received, cannot meet their disastercaused needs; (4) the applicant's necessary expenses and serious needs are directly caused by a declared disaster.

FEMA Public Assistance

FEMA's Public Assistance Program (PA) provides supplemental grants to state and local governments so that communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. Under the PA Program, Calcasieu Parish was declared eligible for financial assistance with debris removal and emergency protective measures, as well as repairs to roads and bridges, water control facilities, public buildings and contents, public utilities, and parks, recreational, and other facilities. On February 22, 2021, FEMA announced that PA funds can cover 90% of total eligible permanent work, and on October 29, 2020, FEMA announced that Public Assistance funds can cover 100% of total eligible emergency work (categories A and B).

FEMA 406 Mitigation Assistance

FEMA's Public Assistance Mitigation projects prepare facilities for future disasters during recovery efforts, which is more cost efficient than retrofitting a repaired facility. The Public Assistance Mitigation program helps avoid repetitive damage from disasters and strives for long-term solutions. Similar to Public Assistance funding, 406 Mitigation Assistance funding will cover a percentage of eligible costs and non-federal sources (state, local community) are responsible for the rest. Proposed projects are evaluated based on risk reduction, cost-effectiveness, technical feasibility, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation regulations, laws, and Executive Orders as applicable.

Disaster Community Development Block Grant Funding

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program consists of funding allocated by Congress when there are significant unmet needs for long-term recovery efforts after a declared major disaster. Funds are awarded to state and local governments, which become grantees. CDBG-DR funding supplements other Federal recovery assistance programs administered by FEMA. CDBG-DR funds cannot duplicate funding available from federal, state, or local governments and are typically used as last resort funding to address unmet needs.

CDBG-DR may be used for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, and restoration of

infrastructure, housing, and economic revitalization. Each proposal must meet three criteria: (1) address a disaster related impact in a Presidentially-declared area for the covered disaster, (2) cover a CDBG-eligible activity with a logical connection between the impacts of the covered disaster and the activity's contribution to community recovery (eligible activities include housing, infrastructure, public services, real property improvements, public facilities, or economic development), (3) meet a CDBG national objective (benefit low-and-moderate-income persons, aid in the prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or meet a need having a particular urgency). Ineligible activities include preparedness, mitigation, and equipment.

Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Assistance

The U.S. Small Business Administration offers low interest. long-term loans to businesses, non-profits, homeowners, and renters for physical and economic damage caused by declared disasters. The SBA also provides eligible small businesses and non-profits with working capital to help with their recovery efforts. The three primary loans are Home and Personal Property Loans (loans to homeowners or renters to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate and personal

property, including automobiles), Business Physical Disaster Loans (loans to businesses and non-profits to repair or replace disaster-damaged property owned by the business, including real estate, inventories, supplies, machinery and equipment), and Economic Injury Disaster Loans (working capital loans to help small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture, and most non-profits meet their ordinary and necessary financial obligations that cannot be met as a direct result of the disaster).

OTHER FUNDING RESOURCES

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) supports states, local communities, tribes and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC is a FEMA pre-disaster hazard mitigation program that supports communities through capability- and capacity-building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency. This is an annual competitive grant allocation for which communities must submit an application.



PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Calcasieu Parish Long-Term Community Recovery Plan should be viewed as a guide for recovery, not as a set of specific instructions. Specifics for project implementation will change and evolve given the on-the-ground situation. Additionally, funding source timing does not always align with the desired speed at which recovery projects are identified. It is important that the community is flexible and continuously revisits the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan to assess any adjustments to overall plan goals.

Project implementation priorities should be based on two general principles:

- Focus initially on the priorities as identified by the parish, seeking to promote the projects that will have the highest recovery value and most significant impact on the community's recovery when completed.
- Align recovery projects and priorities with available and eligible funding sources, showing the community progress on recovery projects. This approach creates significant visibility for the projects associated with the Long-Term Community Recovery Plan and garners support from the community for continued plan implementation.

Community Resilience Master Plan

Since the 2020 hurricanes impacted Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana, several partners and supporters from across the country and even across the globe responded in the form of charitable donations to help meet the needs of those who were impacted. One of the more noteworthy contributions was a \$2.5 million grant from David and Angela Filo to the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana, a philanthropic organization housed in Calcasieu Parish that supports regional non-profits and civic initiatives that improve the quality of life in the community.

The gift from the Filo family carries a specific purpose: to support a long-range planning process that will help Calcasieu and Cameron parishes become more resilient, viable, and sustainable for generations to come. Since receiving the gift, the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana has been intentional and deliberate in its stewardship of the funds, working to ensure that ongoing hurricane recovery efforts in Southwest Louisiana are infused with a comprehensive vision and plan of what the broader region could look like over the next 30 to 50 years. This work will take shape in the form of a Community Resilience Master Plan.

As the Community Foundation of Southwest Louisiana continues the process of developing this long-range, community resilience plan, its board and leadership are ensuring the Community Resilience Master Plan is both developed and implemented in an inclusive, transparent, and collaborative manner. It will be a resilience plan that belongs to the community, providing strategies and solutions for the region's long-term resilience so that Southwest Louisiana can thrive for generations to come.

The Community Resilience Master Plan – and the opportunities it presents – must be highlighted in this document, as it will build on the recommendations compiled withing the Calcasieu Parish Long-Term Community Recovery Plan and rely on the implementation of the long-term recovery efforts of the community to provide solutions related to land use, social vulnerability, coastal land loss, and many other critical areas for the future of the region.

SECTION V: NEXT STEPS

"Our community continues to show its resilient spirit: first, by responding to the immediate needs in our community following the hurricanes and other natural disasters; then by keeping a focus on long-term recovery in the form of this Plan. We will build back better."

FORMER TOWN OF VINTON MAYOR KENNETH STINSON

SECTION VI

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Calcasieu Parish Long-Term Community Recovery Plan would be incomplete without listing the numerous volunteers, stakeholders, and personnel who contributed their time, talents, and resources to this project. Calcasieu Parish will continue to prosper under the guidance, oversight, and commitment of these individuals. We offer a sincere thank you to everyone involved in the collaboration and execution of this plan.

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COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

In addition to the above stakeholders, the following community members offered their talent and expertise towards the development of this Long-Term Community Recovery Plan, and we list them here to honor them for supporting the community's recovery efforts. For any names that are missed we offer sincere apologies.

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BRIAN MYERS
WATER WORKS DISTRICT 4

KEVIN NATALI LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

RYAN NAVARRE
BILLY NAVARRE

MIKE NODIER POLARIS

ANGELIQUE OGEA
MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

RANDY PARTIN LAKE CHARLES LITTLE THEATRE

J.W PELOQUIN
WEST CALCASIEU CAMERON HOSPITAL

NICK PESTELLO

LAKE CHARLES HARBOR AND TERMINAL

DISTRICT

RANDY PETERSON L'AUBEGRE RESORT

MIKE POLK
GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT 4

PATRICIA PRUDHOMME SWLA CENTER FOR HEALTH SERVICES

> ANGELA QUEENAN SWLA YOUTH BOARD

STEVEN RAICHE KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN

JOLIE RHINEHART
PHILLIPS 66

JACQUELINE RICHARD CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

SUSAN RIEHN FAMILIES HELPING FAMILIES

> JACOB SCHEI SWLAHEC

PONCHO SEAFORD BUSINESS FIRST BANK

RICHERT SELF LAKE CHARLES HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

DAN SELPHSULPHUR FIRE DEPARTMENT

MARSHALL SEMIEN ATTORNEY AT LAW

MARK SENEGAL MARK SENEGAL ENTERPRISES

KEITH SMITH
INSURANCE UNLIMITED

R.B. SMITH CHAMBER SWLA WAYNE SMITH

WILLIAM SOMMERS LOUISIANA OFFICE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

> MELISSA STAINBACK OFFICE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ALISA STEVENS SWLA CENTER FOR HEALTH SERVICES

> JEREMY STINE STINE LUMBER

SUSAN SYKES SOWELA TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE

> COREY TARVER LAKE CHARLES TOYOTA

BEN TAYLOR CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL BOARD LAKE CHARLES HOUSING AUTHORITY

> JUSTIN THIBODEAUX WAITR

SCOTT THIBODEAUX GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT 9

JENNIFER UNDERWOOD CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

> MIKE VANCHIERE CITY OF LAKE CHARLES

> > TERRY VICE CITY OF VINTON

ERIC VIGE WATER WORKS DISTRICT 7

PERRY VINCENT LA RADIO INDUSTRY

ALICE WEBB WATER WORKS DISTRICT 9

MITZI WILKINSON CALCASIEU PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

> KATHY WILLIAMS OASIS A SAFE HAVEN

BRUCE WYMAN MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

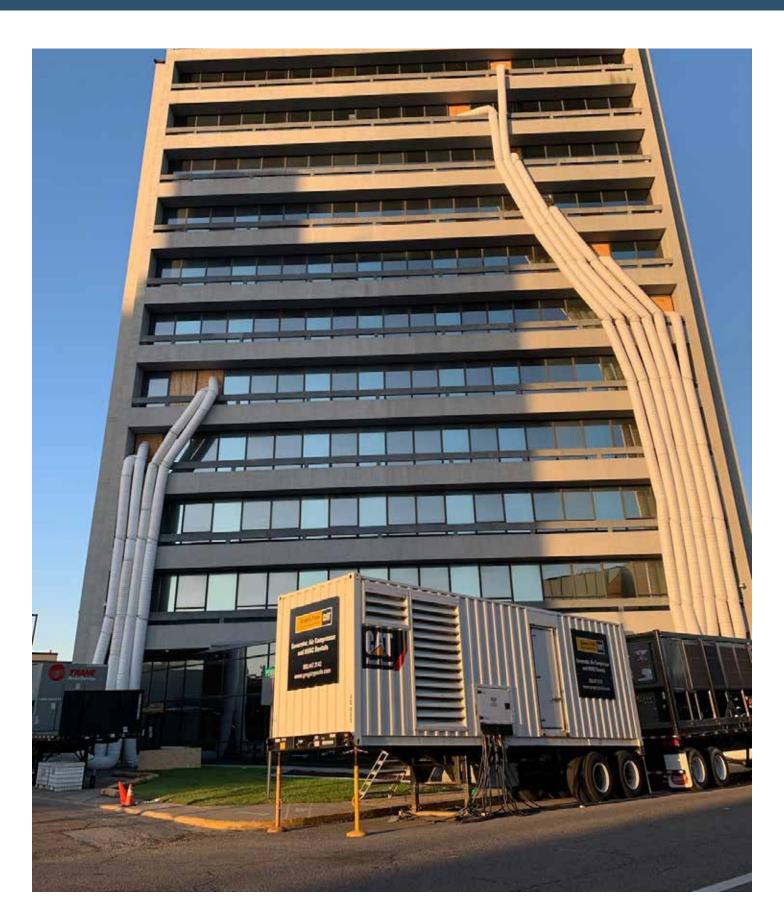
DR. KEVIN YAUDES, PH.D MCNEESE STATE UNIVERSITY

"This Long-Term Community Recovery Plan...
outlines the ways we will help our neighbors
recover both physically and spiritually
while supporting individual, economic, and
philanthropic endeavors. I look forward to the
next chapter of our story which, thanks to your
input and efforts, continues to ensure a vibrant
and resilient Calcasieu Parish."

CALCASIEU PARISH POLICE JURY ADMINISTRATOR BRYAN C. BEAM

SECTION VII

APPENDICES



ACRONYMS

BRIC - Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

CDBG-DR - Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery

ESF - Emergency Support Function

FEMA - Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA IA - Federal Emergency Management Agency Individual Assistance

FEMA PA - Federal Emergency Management Agency Public Assistance

GOHSEP - Louisiana Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

HMGP - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

HUD - U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

NGO - Non-governmental Organization

OCD - Louisiana Office of Community Development

RSF - Recovery Support Function

SBA - U.S. Small Business Administration



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 108 JBE 2020

STATE OF EMERGENCY – TROPICAL STORM LAURA AND TROPICAL DEPRESSION 14

WHEREAS, the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act,

La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., confers upon the Governor of the State of Louisiana emergency powers to deal with emergencies and disasters, including those caused by fire, flood, earthquake or other natural or manmade causes, in order to ensure that preparations of this State will be adequate to deal with such emergencies or disasters and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of

Louisiana;

WHEREAS, when the Governor determines that a disaster or emergency has occurred, or the

threat thereof is imminent, La. R.S. 29:724(B)(l) empowers him to declare a state of emergency by executive order or proclamation, or both;

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service has indicated that Tropical Storm Laura and Tropical Depression 14 are expected to move toward the porthern Gulf of Mexico.

Tropical Depression 14 are expected to move toward the northern Gulf of Mexico over the next few days;

over the next few days

WHEREAS, Tropical Depression 14 is anticipated to be upgraded to Tropical Storm Marco

over the next 12 hours;

WHEREAS, both storms have the potential to strengthen into hurricanes once they reach the

Gulf of Mexico;

WHEREAS, due to the possibility of two tropical systems making landfall in such close

proximity to each other, there is a significant risk for storm surge, high winds,

and flooding from rainfall in all southern parishes;

WHEREAS, many parishes across the state will need to take protective measures to help

mitigate flooding and wind damage in response to this imminent threat, as well as prepare additional evacuation and sheltering measures required during the

COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, five parishes have declared states of emergency, the state anticipates that many

more parishes will declare states of emergency, and assistance may be needed to

assist parishes in their response to this developing threat.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: Pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and

Disaster Act, La. R.S. 29:721, et seq., a state of emergency is hereby declared to exist statewide in the State of Louisiana as a result of the imminent threat of emergency conditions that threaten the lives and property of the citizens of the

State.

- SECTION 2: The Director of the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) is hereby authorized to undertake any activity authorized by law which he deems appropriate in response to this declaration.
- SECTION 3: Pursuant to the La. R.S. 29:732, during a declared state of emergency, the prices charged or value received for goods and services sold within the designated emergency area may not exceed the prices ordinarily charged for comparable goods and services in the same market area at or immediately before the time of the state of emergency, unless the price by the seller is attributable to fluctuations in applicable commodity markets, fluctuations in applicable regional or national market trends, or to reasonable expenses and charges and attendant business risk incurred in procuring or selling the goods or services during the state of emergency.
- **SECTION 4:** All departments, commissions, boards, agencies, and officers of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions the State may take in response to the effects of this severe weather event.
- SECTIONS 5: This order is effective upon signature and shall remain in effect from Friday, August 21, 2020 to Sunday, September 20, 2020, unless terminated sooner.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 21st day of August, 2020.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE

Office of the Governor State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.Ö. Box 94004 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004 (225) 342-7015 GOV.LA.GOV

REQUEST FOR MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION COVER LETTER

October 14, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump President of the United States The White House Washington, D. C.

Through: George A. Robinson

Regional Administrator FEMA Region VI 800 North Loop 288 Denton, TX 76209-3698 **SENT VIA EMAIL**

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 C.F.R. §206.36(D), I hereby request an expedited Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Louisiana as a result of Hurricane Delta. This Category 2 storm caused major damage to private homes, public facilities, and caused the state and local governments to incur significant costs associated with saving lives and preserving public health and safety. The damages from the hurricane, in conjunction with the State's response efforts related to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery efforts after Hurricane Laura, has overwhelmed the capabilities of state and local resources. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments, and that in accordance with 44 C.F.R. §206.36, federal assistance is necessary to supplement the efforts and available resources of the state and local governments, disaster relief organizations, and compensation by insurance for disaster-related losses.

I took the appropriate action under state law and declared a statewide emergency (133 JBE 2020) on October 6, 2020. Furthermore, I directed the execution of the State Emergency Operations Plan in support of the statewide emergency declaration in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. A copy of that declaration is attached. Local jurisdictions took similar emergency measures, and began executing their own emergency plans. A total of 56 parishes declared states of emergency.

For the parishes directly in the path of Hurricane Delta that were significantly damaged, I am requesting Public Assistance, Category A (Debris Removal) and Category B (Emergency Protective Measures), and all categories of Individual Assistance. Those parishes are:

Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Jefferson Davis, and Vermilion.

After further damage assessments are completed, I anticipate that there will be additional parishes that will be requested. Under Individual Assistance, I request Housing Assistance, Disaster

Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Care Management, Crisis Counseling, and Other Needs Assistance including but not limited to medical, dental, childcare, and funeral expenses. Finally, I am requesting Hazard Mitigation statewide.

Background

Louisiana began preparing for Hurricane Delta on October 5, 2020, after the National Weather Service ("NWS") forecast the storm to make landfall on Louisiana's coastline. This was the sixth time during the 2020 hurricane season that a hurricane was projected to strike the State. Unlike many of the previous forecasts, however, NWS advised Louisiana that it had high confidence of a Louisiana landfall. Based upon this projection, I ordered the execution of Louisiana's Emergency Operations Plan on October 6, 2020. The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness ("GOHSEP") increased the activation level of its Emergency Operations Center ("EOC"), which was already activated due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Laura recovery efforts.

Hurricane Delta quickly established itself as a devastating storm, reaching major hurricane status even before it reached the Gulf of Mexico. It weakened slightly while crossing the Yucatan Peninsula, but Delta soon regained its major hurricane status after entering the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Although the NWS projected that Hurricane Delta would weaken prior to making landfall, the storms winds were still recorded at 100 mph when it struck Cameron Parish in southwest Louisiana on the evening of October 9, 2020. Outer bands from Hurricane Delta began impacting Louisiana almost 24 hours before landfall, bringing significant amounts of rainfall during the evening of October 8, 2020. When Delta struck Louisiana as a strong Category 2 hurricane, it brought high storm surge and heavy rain. Parts of Calcasieu Parish received 16-17 inches of rain by the time Delta made landfall. In addition to the impacts in southwest Louisiana, the NWS reported life threatening storm surge across much of south central Louisiana.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Delta followed a very similar path to Hurricane Laura, one of the strongest storms to ever strike Louisiana, which made landfall just six weeks prior to Delta on August 27, 2020. In fact, Hurricane Delta's point of landfall near Creole, Louisiana, was less 15

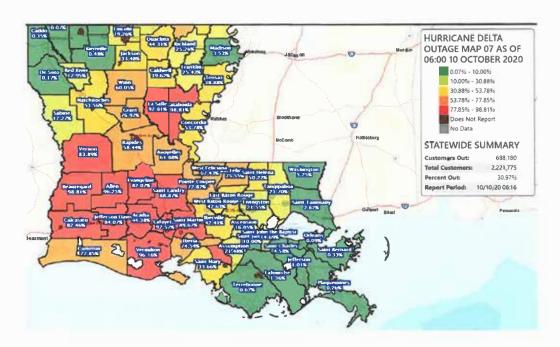
miles from Hurricane Laura's point of landfall near Cameron, Louisiana. The image below illustrates the similarities in the two hurricanes' paths. Although the citizens and local governments in southwest Louisiana have been working nonstop to conduct recovery operations after Hurricane Laura, there are still hundreds of buildings that have not yet been repaired. Over 8,000 blue tarps could be seen on rooftops prior to Hurricane Delta's landfall, and piles of debris that had not yet been removed dotted the landscape. The remaining debris was a particular concern, and I warned citizens of the danger posed by Hurricane Delta's winds converting that debris into life-threatening projectiles. Survivors who were forced to evacuate for extended periods due to utility outages barely had time to evaluate their homes before once again being forced to evacuate ahead of

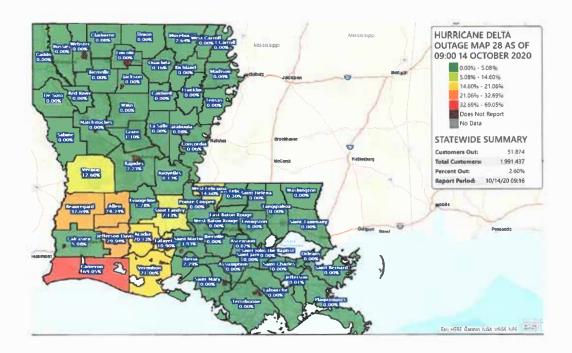
Hurricane Delta. Many Hurricane Laura survivors are now dealing with buildings and residences that were flooded by Delta just six weeks after being damaged by Laura's winds.



State and local government officials began assessing damages from Hurricane Delta once the conditions were clear enough to allow safe entry. Of course, the primary concern was the safety and health of those citizens who remained in the path of the storm. While we are unaware of any fatalities during Hurricane Delta's landfall, we unfortunately experienced two deaths in the hurricane's aftermath. Both victims expired in fires, one related to a generator and one to a natural gas leak. Another victim of one of the fires is hospitalized and in critical condition.

Hundreds of thousands of citizens are struggling without basic utilities in the aftermath of the hurricane. As of 6:00 a.m. on October 10, 2020, the Louisiana Public Service Commission ("PSC") reported that over 688,000 Louisiana citizens were without power. Below are two graphics showing power outages for each parish in the state. Hurricane Delta's path is clearly shown by the massive amounts of power outages in the initial graphic, reported in the immediate wake of the storm. The second graphic, reported today, shows that tremendous efforts are being made to have all power restored within one week. However, this still leaves many citizens without power for a significant period of time.





Essentially all of the parishes in southwestern Louisiana and many in central and northern Louisiana received catastrophic damage from Hurricane Delta. Trees and power lines caused numerous road blockages. The Louisiana Department of Health has reported that 71 water systems serving a population of over 32,000 were impacted, and 74 Boil Water Advisories are currently in effect for over 220,000 survivors. In several parishes, a lack of power and cellular service has limited our ability to assess the needs of the local governments. State assets are conducting flyovers to get a better understanding of the overall destruction left in Hurricane Delta's path.

Due to inaccessibility issues from flooding and road damages as well as the continued mandatory evacuations that remain in place in certain areas, the extent of new damages will take some time to assess. Response efforts to saves lives and preserve public health and safety will continue for some time before we can fully transition to recovery. Because of these issues, full Preliminary Damage Assessments ("PDAs") for both Public Assistance and Individual Assistance are not feasible at this time. The survivors who have been dislocated from their homes will need assistance immediately, however. For these reasons, I am requesting an expedited Major Disaster declaration in order to bring immediate relief to these struggling communities.

Parish Information

Although we are still gathering information and beginning to assess damages, parishes are reporting hurricane impacts as they are able to obtain the information. As of this date, GOHSEP has been able to capture the following information for the requested parishes:

Acadia Parish

FEMA has validated \$140,000 in estimated costs for debris removal, as well as \$330,975 in costs for emergency protective measures associated with establishing Points of Distribution ("PODs") within the parish. Additionally, 53 homes with major damage have been reported and 8 more were destroyed.

Calcasieu Parish

FEMA has validated \$4,000,000 in estimated costs for debris removal. Additionally, 226 homes with major damage have been reported and 25 homes destroyed.

Cameron Parish

Many areas in Cameron Parish are still inaccessible, and the parish has not yet determined it safe to lift the mandatory evacuation order. As a result, assessing damages will be delayed until it is safe for residents and local government to return to the area. So far, FEMA has validated \$920,000 in estimated costs for debris removal. Due to mandatory evacuation orders, only four (4) homeowners have reported their information so far, but all of those reports show major damage. Distinguishing between damages from Laura and Delta will be particularly problematic in Cameron Parish. However, based on a windshield survey by the Parish Emergency Manager, the estimated number of homes major and destroyed is over 700.

Jefferson Davis Parish

FEMA has validated \$600,000 in estimated costs for debris removal. Additionally, 33 homes with major damage have been reported and so far one more was found destroyed.

Vermilion Parish

FEMA has validated \$3 million in estimated costs for debris removal. Additionally, 26 homes with major damage have been reported and 4 more were destroyed.



Calcasieu Parish



Cameron Parish



Jefferson Davis Parish



Vermilion Parish

It is certain that once state, local, and federal authorities are able to conduct a full assessment of damages, the cost of Hurricane Delta will be much higher.

State and Local Resources Committed to Alleviating Results from Disaster

When I declared a state of emergency, GOHSEP increased the EOC readiness level and began processing support requests from local governments and other state agencies. Numerous other agencies also activated and manned their own EOCs to provide assistance and coordination within their areas of responsibility. State agencies have so far incurred \$17 million in costs to respond to Hurricane Delta. Those response efforts include the following:

Evacuation/ Sheltering

Over 21,000 survivors from Hurricane Laura evacuated and were sheltered in non-congregate shelters ("NCS") at some point. Congregate shelters are not utilized for long-term sheltering in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. During the ensuing six weeks after Laura, Louisiana agencies and their partners were able to return all but 8,000 survivors to their home parishes. Approximately 2,000 of those survivors were returned during the week prior to Hurricane Delta. At the time of Delta's landfall, approximately 6,000 evacuees were in NCS shelters spread across several Louisiana hotels, and another 2,000 evacuees were sheltered in Texas hotels. Louisiana has contracted with the American Red Cross to oversee the NCS operations.

As of the date of this request, almost 1,000 additional evacuees reported to Louisiana shelters as a result of Hurricane Delta. They are being staged in congregate settings while state and local governments ascertain the condition of the evacuees' homes. Those without major damage in their homes will be able to leave the shelters, but evacuees with major damage will need to be sheltered in additional hotels.

Numerous incarceration facilities are located within Hurricane Delta's path. To protect offenders housed in those facilities, the Department of Corrections ("DOC") evacuated numerous offenders from those facilities to facilities that are located outside of the path of the storm.

The Louisiana Department of Health ("LDH") has activated all available assets and contracted for additional staff since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to Hurricane Delta, LDH has continued to address COVID-19 concerns among the general evacuee population, as well as the Medical Special Needs Shelter, at which 52 evacuees are currently sheltered. Additionally, LDH is responsible for monitoring and providing assistance to hospitals and other medical facilities impacted by the hurricane. Three (3) hospitals in the most impacted areas remain evacuated, as well as three (3) nursing homes.

Search and Rescue

Louisiana has assembled a SAR force consisting of public employees and private individuals. SAR assets include representatives from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, LANG, the U.S.

Coast Guard, the State Fire Marshal's Office ("SFM"), and volunteer organizations. SAR teams conducted more than 30,000 secondary searches and damage assessments in southwest and south central parishes.

Flood Fighting

For those areas that experienced flooding, GOHSEP and the Louisiana Coastal Preservation and Restoration Authority ("CPRA") worked together to provide numerous pumps and other flood fighting equipment in order to mitigate the damaging effects of rising water and saltwater intrusion into water supply systems.

Power Generation

GOHSEP coordinates with other agencies to provide generators to critical locations in order to retain power. Currently, the State has fulfilled 324 generator requests from the affected areas.

Points of Distribution ("PODS")

GOHSEP is coordinating the distribution of thousands of MREs, water, and ice to 7 parishes experiencing a lack of utilities and food supply. Louisiana National Guard ("LANG") troops are working at these sites, and local governments will provide assistance such as security. LANG has 151 troops devoted to providing security at numerous locations.

Debris

In addition to providing transportation for many evacuees, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development ("DOTD") is fully engaged in removing debris along all state roads.

EMAC

Responding to Hurricane Delta required assets beyond Louisiana's current capabilities. We reached out to other states for assistance and brought in a number of disaster response specialists to supplement Louisiana's capabilities.

Summary

I have determined that this incident, a strong Category 2 hurricane that made landfall in almost the exact location and just six weeks after one of the strongest storm to ever make landfall in Louisiana, is of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery is beyond the capabilities of the state and local governments and that supplemental federal assistance is necessary. For the parishes directly in the path of Hurricane Delta that were significantly damaged, I am requesting Public Assistance, Category A (Debris Removal) and Category B (Emergency Protective Measures), and all categories of Individual Assistance.

Because of the magnitude of damages in the southwestern Louisiana parishes, I urge you to provide an expedited declaration in order to provide immediate federal relief to these highly impacted communities. I anticipate that, after we have the opportunity to assess the damages in other parts of the state, a number of additional parishes will need federal assistance to allow them to recover from this disaster. I hereby certify that state and local government obligations and expenditures for the current disaster will comply with all applicable cost sharing requirements of the Stafford Act

I have designated James B. Waskom as the Governor's Authorized Representative ("GAR") and Casey Tingle as the Alternate GAR and also as the State Coordinating Officer ("SCO") for this request. Director Waskom and Mr. Tingle will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and will provide further information and justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards

dovernor

Enclosures:

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13 Proclamation 133 JBE 2020

Office of the Governor State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



P.O. Box 94004 Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9004 (225) 342-7015 GOV.LA.GOV

January 22, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

It was a tremendous privilege and very memorable experience for me and my son to attend your inauguration this week. Your message of unity and hope were inspiring and your administration represents an opportunity for a fresh start, new energy and bold leadership to meet the challenges before us. In fact, I want to thank you for your quick action waiving the local match for the FEMA COVID-19 costs and implementing the 100 percent cost-share. This will greatly benefit Louisiana by relieving the heavy financial burden from our local governments.

As we briefly discussed during our conversation after your election, Louisiana was struck by three devastating hurricanes over the course of just two months: Hurricane Laura, August 27, 2020 – Category 4

Hurricane Delta, October 9, 2020 - Category 2 (same geographic area as Hurricane Laura)

Hurricane Zeta, October 28, 2020 - Category 3

We are very grateful for the responsiveness of our federal partners as Louisiana rebuilds from these catastrophic hurricanes; however, the effective recovery from these storms requires additional federal support consistent with previous storms of similar magnitude and impact.

Please see the attached PowerPoint detailing the destruction caused by Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

These three hurricanes have been devastating for much of coastal Louisiana, more specifically: Cameron Parish and Calcasieu Parish, which is home to the community of Lake Charles. In addition, they had significant impacts across the entire state causing destruction to homes, businesses, and public infrastructure. As a result, all sixty-four parishes are now included in the Major Disaster Declaration. Many of these communities were in the midst of recovering from the first storm only to be hit again by a subsequent storm - all under the shadow of the COVID 19 Pandemic.

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden January 22, 2021 Page 2

As in previous times of difficulty, Louisianans have once again risen to meet the challenges of rebuilding by helping their friends, families, neighbors and even total strangers begin the process of starting anew. While we do not doubt the ability of our citizens to recover, we need the help of the federal government to make that recovery complete. Thus, after careful consideration of Louisiana's needs, I respectfully request your support for a disaster appropriations package to address the significant recovery needs faced by thousands of Louisiana families and communities across the state.

The disaster appropriations package would focus primarily on Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. The FEMA Individual Assistance funds that will be available for all three storms, while critical, will simply not be sufficient to allow our citizens to rebuild their homes and communities; and the Public Assistance funds to rebuild infrastructure will not be adequate to make our communities more resilient in the future. Without an appropriation of CDBG-DR funds, many neighborhoods and communities will not be able to recover. I ask that you request a supplemental appropriation from Congress to fill the enormous gap that will exist between the available funds and the costs to rebuild. Based on information available to date, the initial estimate is \$3 billion for the unmet needs of the citizens of Louisiana with respect to homeowner and rental housing, infrastructure and economic development.

In Louisiana, we clearly understand the federal focus on investing in mitigating damage from future disasters to shrink the need for future disaster recovery packages. In the appropriations for 2016-17 disasters, Congress included CDBG-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds for just that purpose. In Louisiana, we are using those funds to institute fundamental changes in our statewide approach to flood risk reduction, an initiative that we believe will dramatically reduce damages from flooding in our state for decades to come. We are firm believers in the value of mitigation, and request that additional CDBG-MIT funding be included in the recovery package, as well.

In addition, other important areas of need and opportunity are provided here for consideration:

- 1. Social Services Block Grant funding. The widespread cumulative impact of COVID-19 along with multiple hurricanes in one year is unprecedented. The toll that these multiple stressors have taken on our people, our infrastructure, and our economy is immense. It has created a level of behavioral health needs that the state cannot meet with current resources. To assist in our recovery, I am seeking supplemental SSBG funding to meet the striking rise in behavioral health care, child welfare, community social services, child care, and household-related needs of residents in hurricane impacted communities across the state. This funding would increase access to evidence-based behavioral health services, provide enhanced crisis care coordination, promote access to health insurance coverage and care for impacted residents who qualify for Louisiana Medicaid, and stabilize the child welfare network and social services supports that aid in the complete recovery of citizens.
- 2. Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) Program funding. The catastrophic impact of these events on the housing sector, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, have resulted

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden January 22, 2021 Page 3

in a range of significant housing and sheltering needs. ESG funding provides critical assistance to the most vulnerable populations that cannot be effectively served with other programs or funding opportunities. Without this funding, many of these families will face the reality of homelessness and further burden the social service network that is already challenged by the impacts of these events.

- 3. FEMA Cost Share Reduction. Consistent with your action on COVID-19 funding, granting a reduction for the 25% cost share for communities across the state for these disasters would provide an immediate relief to these communities. The previous administration provided a 30 day waiver of the cost share under sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act for debris removal and emergency protective measures for Hurricane Laura (DR-4559), which has been very helpful. To maximize the benefit of this waiver, I am requesting the flexibility to allow each eligible entity to establish their own waiver period. Further, I am asking that the period of this waiver be extended to 45 days consistent with the approval provided for the State of Florida for Hurricane Michael (DR-4399)¹. This flexibility will ensure every eligible entity is helped by this waiver, as there is a significant difference in the timing of costs across the impacted area exacerbated by the interruption of Hurricane Laura recovery efforts triggered by the response to Hurricane Delta. This flexibility can be implemented while also minimizing the administrative burden of state and federal partners.
- 4. United States Army Corps of Engineers funding. The Southwest Coastal Louisiana Study is the first Federally-authorized feasibility-level study with the dual purpose of hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, through the National Economic Development plan, and coastal restoration through the National Ecosystem Restoration plan for the southwest Louisiana parishes of Cameron, Calcasieu and Vermilion. We request federal investment for the Southwest Coastal project, which has been thoroughly studied by the US Army Corps of Engineers and the State of Louisiana and is ready for implementation. Additionally, the federal protection project on Grand Isle was severely impacted during multiple tropical events resulting in failure of the dune as a result of Hurricane Zeta. We ask that federal funding be made available to the US Army Corps of Engineers to address the chronic erosion on the west end of the Grand Isle & Vicinity Project.
- 5. Natural Resource Conservation Service funding. Funding for the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program and the Emergency Watershed Protection Floodplain Easement Program (EWP-FPE) is needed to assist with critical projects to reduce future losses and address critical impacts from these storms not covered by other agencies or authorities. The cumulative impact of multiple storms has resulted in trees and other debris clogging stream channels increasing the flood risk in the future rainfall events. This funding has been very helpful for Louisiana communities in the recovery from

¹ https://www.fema.gov/disaster-federal-register-notice/amendment-no-8-77

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden January 22, 2021 Page 4

previous disasters and I am requesting support for funding to address issues caused by Laura, Delta, and Zeta.

The people of Louisiana remain strong and resilient in the face of the compounding impact of these storms. The recovery from these storms requires additional funding and support to address the significant unmet needs that persist despite the great efforts of our citizens and communities. Recovery is always slow and difficult, but these unique circumstances require additional federal support. I ask for your favorable consideration of these requests and that you encourage your administration to continue its strong support for Louisiana's recovery.

Finally, although we have major challenges to address, we are extremely optimistic about the future under your outstanding leadership and experience. We look forward to working with you and your administration on these and other challenges that face our State and Country.

Sincerely,

John Bel Edwards Governor

cc: U.S. Senator William G. "Bill" Cassidy

U.S. Senator John Kennedy

U.S. Congressman Stephen J. Scalise

U.S. Congressman G. Clay Higgins

U.S. Congressman J. Michael "Mike" Johnson

U.S. Congressman Garret N. Graves



WHEREAS, Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana were severely impacted by Hurricane Laura, which struck the area on August 27, 2020, as a significant Category 4 Hurricane, causing extensive and widespread destruction to residential, commercial and public assets of the communities; and

WHEREAS, a mere six weeks later, on October 9, 2020, Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana were again targeted by a hurricane from the Gulf of Mexico, Hurricane Delta, making landfall as a Category 2 storm and bringing devastating winds and rainfall to the already distressed region; and

WHEREAS, these two hurricanes caused extensive personal, emotional, and financial impacts across the region to the citizens who call Southwest Louisiana home, severely affecting thousands of homes, businesses, our workforce, both public and private infrastructure systems, the region's agricultural assets, and the areas numerous natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, at the time when both storms struck the region, Southwest Louisiana and its citizens - much like the rest of our nation and world - was already responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in spite of all of these compounded challenges, the people of Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana rose to meet every adversity, preparing themselves and their families for all of the natural disasters in the face of the pandemic, quickly assessing damages following their impacts, lending helping hands to friends, families, neighbors, and strangers during this time of unprecedented need, and focusing in the immediate and intermediate aftermath of the storms on the rebuilding task at hand for our community; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, has communicated the unmet needs of Calcasieu Parish, Southwest Louisiana, and Louisiana to both the previous Presidential Administration, as well as the current Presidential Administration, respectfully requesting support for a disaster appropriations package to address the overwhelming recovery needs faced by so many thousands of citizens and families in Southwest Louisiana and across our state; and

WHEREAS, the request from Governor Edwards to the Joseph Biden Administration took into account the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance and Public Assistance being made available to our community following the devastating storms, and shows that, while critical and very much appreciated, this assistance will simply not be sufficient to allow the citizens of Southwest Louisiana to rebuild their homes and communities, nor will our local governments be able to sufficiently rebuild and harden damaged infrastructure in order to protect our community from future storms and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the request from Governor Edwards for a supplemental appropriation from Congress to aid our region and state was for \$3 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to address the unmet needs of our communities, and was based on data available following the storms; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the CDBG-DR funds, Governor Edwards also requested that a disaster supplemental appropriation from Congress also consider Social Services Block Grant funding, Emergency Solutions Grant Program funding, FEMA Cost Share Reduction (this has been granted through FEMA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding, and Natural Resource Conservation Service funding.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE POLICE JURY OF CALCASIEU PARISH, LOUISIANA, convened in Regular Session on the 8th day of April, 2021, as follows:

- The members of the Police Jury, on behalf of all citizens of Calcasieu Parish, lend our full support to the disaster supplemental appropriations request from Governor Edwards to the administration of President Joseph Biden.
- We call upon our entire Louisiana Legislative and Congressional Delegations
 to fully support and lend the full effort and influence of their office to work
 with the Biden Administration and fellow members of Congress toward a
 disaster appropriations package for our region that gives every consideration
 to the data provided by Governor Edwards' Administration towards
 addressing the significant unmet needs of our region and state.
- While the people of Southwest Louisiana are some of the most resilient and brave citizens in the United States when faced with adversity, the recovery from these devastating storms requires additional funding and support to address the significant unmet needs that persist despite the tremendous efforts of our citizens and communities.
- These unprecedented and unique circumstances of two severe hurricane events just six weeks apart, on top of an already devastating global pandemic, require that additional federal support be provided to Southwest Louisiana by our federal government.

BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that a certified copy of this resolution be forwarded to The Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, and to all members of the Louisiana Legislative and Congressional Delegations.

THUS DONE AND PASSED on the date above inscribed.

STATE OF LOUISIANA PARISH OF CALCASIEU

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original resolution as adopted by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury in Regular Session convened on the 8th day of April, 2021. TO SECOND AND A CAREAR SECONDARIANCE AND A CAREAR SECOND SECOND SECONDARIAN ASSESSED ASSESSED ASSESSED ASSESSEDARIAN ASSESSED ASSESS

and the seal of the Parish of Calcasiery, Louisiana, op this the "And day of "Calcasier, Louisiana, op this

Kathy P. Smith, Parish Secretar

CLAY HIGGINS

COMMITTEES
HOMELAND SECURITY
OVERSIGHT AND REFORM

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-1803

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Joseph Biden President of the United States 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20500

President Biden:

Nearly nine months have passed since Hurricanes Laura and Delta devastated Southwest Louisiana. Two major hurricanes hitting the same parishes a month apart presented significant challenges and requires an extended, large-scale recovery effort. On May 17, 2021, the area again experienced torrential rainfall that resulted in significant flooding for homes and businesses. These new floods present new challenges to families that have still not recovered or been made whole from the 2020 hurricanes. As these communities continue to rebuild and recover, they will need continued assistance from the federal government.

Congress and the federal government have worked together to provide resources to support housing and rental assistance, utility repairs, debris removal, hazard mitigation, and many other disaster response costs. You delivered increased federal assistance in the form of a 100% federal cost-share for 30 days and a 90% federal cost-share for remaining Hurricane Laura public assistance program expenses. These federal commitments have greatly eased the financial burden for local governments.

While these efforts help address Southwest Louisiana's immediate needs, there is a need for long-term recovery resources for the region, especially in light of this major rain flooding event. Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards wrote to you in January 2021 with a request for additional funding for hurricane recovery and mitigation efforts, which my office supports.

For nine months, the Louisiana delegation has been working to build support in Congress for supplemental disaster relief. As you know, supplemental disaster relief programs greatly streamline direct access to recovery monies for local governments, small businesses, and individuals. I respectfully urge you to expedite a request to Congress for a disaster supplemental to provide the region with specific funding for the CDBG Disaster Recovery Grants, as well as additional funds for mitigation efforts.

I respectfully urge you to swiftly implement a supplemental disaster relief plan that provides for the many thousands of severely impacted Americans in Southwest Louisiana.

Respectfully,

Clay Higgins Member of Congress

572 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, OC 20515 (202) 225-2031 600 JEFFERSON STREET, SUITE 608 LAFAYETTE, LA 70501 {337} 703-6105

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RESOLUTION 1

WHEREAS, Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana were severely impacted by Hurricane Laura, which struck the area on August 27, 2020, as a significant Category 4 Hurricane, causing extensive and widespread destruction to residential, commercial and public assets of the communities; and

WHEREAS, a mere six weeks later, on October 9, 2020, Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana were again targeted by a hurricane from the Gulf of Mexico, Hurricane Delta, making landfall as a Category 2 storm and bringing devastating winds and rainfall to the already distressed region; and

WHEREAS, these two hurricanes caused extensive personal, emotional, and financial impacts across the region to the citizens who call Southwest Louisiana home, severely affecting thousands of homes, businesses, our workforce, both public and private infrastructure systems, the region's agricultural assets, and the areas numerous natural and cultural resources; and

WHEREAS, at the time when both storms struck the region, Southwest Louisiana and its citizens - much like the rest of our nation and world - was already responding to the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in spite of all of these compounded challenges, the people of Calcasieu Parish and Southwest Louisiana rose to meet every adversity, preparing themselves and their families for all of the natural disasters in the face of the pandemic, quickly assessing damages following their impacts, lending helping hands to friends, families, neighbors, and strangers during this time of unprecedented need, and focusing in the immediate and intermediate aftermath of the storms on the rebuilding task at hand for our community; and

WHEREAS, The Honorable John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana, has communicated the unmet needs of Calcasieu Parish, Southwest Louisiana, and Louisiana to both the previous Presidential Administration, as well as the current Presidential Administration, respectfully requesting support for a disaster appropriations package to address the overwhelming recovery needs faced by so many thousands of citizens and families in Southwest Louisiana and across our state; and

WHEREAS, the request from Governor Edwards to the Joseph Biden Administration took into account the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Individual Assistance and Public Assistance being made available to our community following the devastating storms, and shows that, while critical and very much appreciated, this assistance will simply not be sufficient to allow the citizens of Southwest Louisiana to rebuild their homes and communities, nor will our local governments be able to sufficiently rebuild and harden damaged infrastructure in order to protect our community from future storms and natural disasters; and

WHEREAS, the request from Governor Edwards for a supplemental appropriation from Congress to aid our region and state was for \$3 billion in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds to address the unmet needs of our communities, and was based on data available following the storms; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the CDBG-DR funds, Governor Edwards also requested that a disaster supplemental appropriation from Congress also consider Social Services Block Grant funding, Emergency Solutions Grant Program funding, FEMA Cost Share Reduction (this has been granted through FEMA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funding, and Natural Resource Conservation Service funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE POLICE JURY OF LOUISIANA HEREBY URGES AND SUPPORTS THE LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR, TO

- 1. Lend full support to the disaster supplemental appropriations request from Governor Edwards to the administration of President Joseph Biden.
- 2. We call upon our entire Louisiana Legislative and Congressional Delegations to fully support and lend the full effort and influence of their office to work with the Biden Administration and fellow members of Congress toward a disaster appropriations package for our region that gives every consideration to the data provided by Governor Edwards' Administration towards addressing the significant unmet needs of our region and state.
- 3. While the people of Southwest Louisiana are some of the most resilient and brave citizens in the United States when faced with adversity, the recovery from these devastating storms requires additional funding and support to address the significant unmet needs that persist despite the tremendous efforts of our citizens and communities.
- 4. These unprecedented and unique circumstances of two severe hurricane events just six weeks apart, on top of an already devastating global pandemic, require that additional federal support be provided to Southwest Louisiana by our federal government.