



# Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana

## HUD CDBG-DR Funding

### Public Hearing #1

## Questions and Answers

**Date:** September 27, 2023

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Location:**

Allen P. August Multipurpose Center

2000 Moeling St.

Lake Charles, LA 70601

26 members of the public attended.

### Questions & Answers

**Q:** A long-term master plan has already been developed. How are you prioritizing projects?

**A:** The parish has participated in multiple planning efforts following the disasters to establish a plan for recovery and has continued to keep the community engaged in these planning efforts. These efforts and the community's frequent engagement have helped to clarify projects that would be a good fit for this program.

**Q:** At what point will you decide what projects will be done?



**A:** The parish issued a call for projects in September to obtain information on potential projects that may be eligible, and will determine what projects to include in the recovery proposal by the end of October or early November.

**Q:** Will the police jury vote on which projects are selected?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** Can you combine different funding sources for the projects?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** You mentioned that the location of a project does not matter as long as it benefits LMI. Will you be looking at projects that are done in the LMI area?

**A:** Yes, the funding is geared towards assisting low-to-moderate income populations. Projects will not qualify if they don't benefit LMI populations.

**Q:** Once projects are selected, and you have bids that are too high, what happens?

**A:** The architect/engineer (A/E) is hired based on qualifications. Cost estimates will be carefully evaluated so that hopefully this doesn't happen. However, if it does, the project will be scaled down and re-bid.

**Q:** Is there a timeline for getting the project going?

**A:** Yes, there are milestones set in the program that must be met. The projected timeline for projects funded are as follows:

- Submission of the Recovery Proposal to OCD: Three (3) months from the date the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) is executed.
- Submission of Project Application to OCD: Three (3) months from the date the Recovery Proposal is approved.
- Submission of each Project-Specific Environmental Review Record: Six (6) months from the date the Project Application is approved.
- Submission of Final Project Plans, Specifications, and Cost Estimate (if required): Six (6) months from the date the Project Application is approved

**Q:** Does the parish have a map of the LMI communities? What are the guidelines? Will the public know if a bid comes out?

**A:** LMI is based on census data. Attached is a map of the Parish's LMI. The Parish's procurement policies will be followed to include publicly publishing bids.

**Q:** Do you consider underserved historic businesses?



**A:** Yes, this is part of the HRP.

**Q:** Will consideration be given to businesses that are already here in the parish?

**A:** We will follow our regular parish bid process and are required to follow federal bid requirements. We can't penalize someone for not being in a certain geographic area. The parish will consider parish businesses when evaluating projects.

**Q:** Will CMAR be acceptable?

**A:** No, CMAR is not allowed. CMAR stands for "construction management at risk," a type of project delivery method.

**Q:** Will the recording of this event be shared publicly?

**A:** The presentation will be posted on the parish website along with Q&A.

**Q:** Is funding available for programming/operation or just construction and capital cost?

**A:** Services are eligible in the Hometown Recovery Program (HRP) under SECTION 105(A)(8): Provision of public services, including but not limited to those concerned with employment, crime prevention, childcare, health, drug abuse, education, energy conservation, welfare or recreation needs.

**Q:** Can the funding be used to improve drainage?

**A:** Yes, the funding can be used for drainage projects.

**Q:** Could funds be used to expand public transportation services

**A:** No

**Q:** Does the call for projects form include a bid?

**A:** A cost estimate will be required on the call for projects form.

**Q:** You mentioned that you already have some projects in the master plan that you are already considering?

**A:** There are no specific projects identified, but we have been discussing projects that address needs in the community such as blight, drainage, etc.



# Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana

## HUD CDBG-DR Funding

### Public Hearing #2

### Questions and Answers

**Date:** September 28, 2023

**Time:** 5:30 p.m.

**Location:** West Cal Arena and Events Center

401 Arena Rd

Sulphur, LA 70665

8 members of the public attended.

**Q:** Do projects have to have a mitigation component?

**A:** Yes. Projects must include resiliency measures.

**Q:** Can you explain in more detail revitalization of LMI areas? What is the parish looking for?

**A:** A project that makes the community more desirable to live in. Parks, assistance to businesses, commercial area revitalization, commercial structure façade improvements, sidewalks, streetscapes, lighting, and other physical improvements, etc.

**Q:** As a group of nonprofit organizations working together, we are looking for those areas that are more rural in the parish that haven't received a lot of help. As our group is working on putting together a project proposal for these areas, can you let me know what the parish is considering to help us structure our proposal better? How do we revitalize areas like Gilis or Starks because they are spread out?



**A:** You might try getting ideas from other community members to decide on a project for these areas. You can submit your ideas on the public comment form.

**Q:** How does a smaller community take advantage of grants? Those types of towns don't have the political framework and the grant writers to be able to do these projects. But we need to find a way to serve these populations.

**A:** The parish wants to use this funding to fund projects that could not be funded through previous grants. There are restrictions though. With the LMI criteria, it will be difficult to assist some of the rural areas. The parish is working to implement projects that have an impact across the parish—corner to corner—and meet the LMI criteria. We want to know what your ideas are for projects in a rural area that we haven't thought of yet.

**Q:** There may be money, but the small communities don't have the resources to write the grant or administer it. Will the grant funding help pay for a grant writer?

**A:** Yes, the parish has hired a consultant, and the consultant is actually writing the application and helping administer the projects.

**Q:** Will the money be spent on areas that were damaged by the storm?

**A:** There must be a tie to the storm and benefit the area.

**Q:** Can the funding be used to build something good for the community that also helps with mitigation, such as a park that can also serve as a detention basin?

**A:** Correct

**Q:** Can the project be new infrastructure?

**A:** Yes

**Q:** Can the funding be used to clean the laterals? In the industrial park, they concreted everything so things would flow better

**A:** The money can be used for drainage projects.

**Q:** Food banks were mentioned. Can you give some examples of food bank projects that would be a fit?

**A:** The Parish and the City of Lake Charles have met with Second Harvest and received some information on a potential project.

**Q:** You said the timeline is for 6 years. Can you explain that?

**A:** Funds must be expended by July 31, 2028.



## Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana HUD CDBG-DR Funding Social Media Questions and Answers

**Q:** 26.7 Million: This is for low-income area and undeserved communities for infrastructure and community planning. SWLA This is your opportunity to have the US Army Core of Engineers fix those drain pumps and install flood prevention dams (which can lower flood insurance). This is your opportunity to have parks built with localized shelters that can be also utilized as recreation centers. Don't let those Nelson road investors STEAL another dollar from you.  
FB 9-25-23

**A:** This is for LMI areas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is not a recipient of these funding programs. These are eligible projects that will be taken into consideration.

**Q:** I would like to see some of the funds go to tear down structures no longer inhabitable. Also Street and road repair that includes fixing all the water leaks around Sulphur and repairing the roads properly afterwards. FB 9-26-23

**A:** Demolition of damaged and dilapidated structures and drainage rehabilitation are eligible projects. Road repairs are only eligible if drainage improvements are made in the roadway.

**Q:** I would like to see some of the monies invested in the North Lake Charles community to help close some of the ditches that are no longer useful to the area and widen some of the streets that are not up to today's standards. There are streets that two cars can't pass at the same time both because of the poor road and being bordered by open ditches. Also I would like to see some of these monies used to assist the city with the Enterprise extension which is both a city and parish street. Doing this would also assist the parish with eliminating some of the objectives that they have laid out in their earlier plans in which they stated that one of the goals was to create another North / South evacuation route. Helping to develop this road would also open this area up to economic development. This would go hand in hand with the newly created Lake Charles North Development District that was created by the legislature in its last session. FB 9-27-23

**A:** Drainage projects are eligible; however, road repair is not unless it is a major evacuation route in a low-moderate income area or if a roadway is being elevated in a LMI area.



**Q:** There is a great need for serious consideration to be given to spending some of this money in North Lake Charles. It is an area of our city already running behind in infrastructure improvements and economic development. This money provides an opportunity for the local parish government to help North Lake Charles catch up. The Railroad Avenue area from Enterprise Blvd to Ryan Street could really have Infrastructure improvements with some of this money. FB 9-27-23

**A:** Infrastructure improvements are eligible in LMI areas. These improvements will be considered if this is an LMI area.

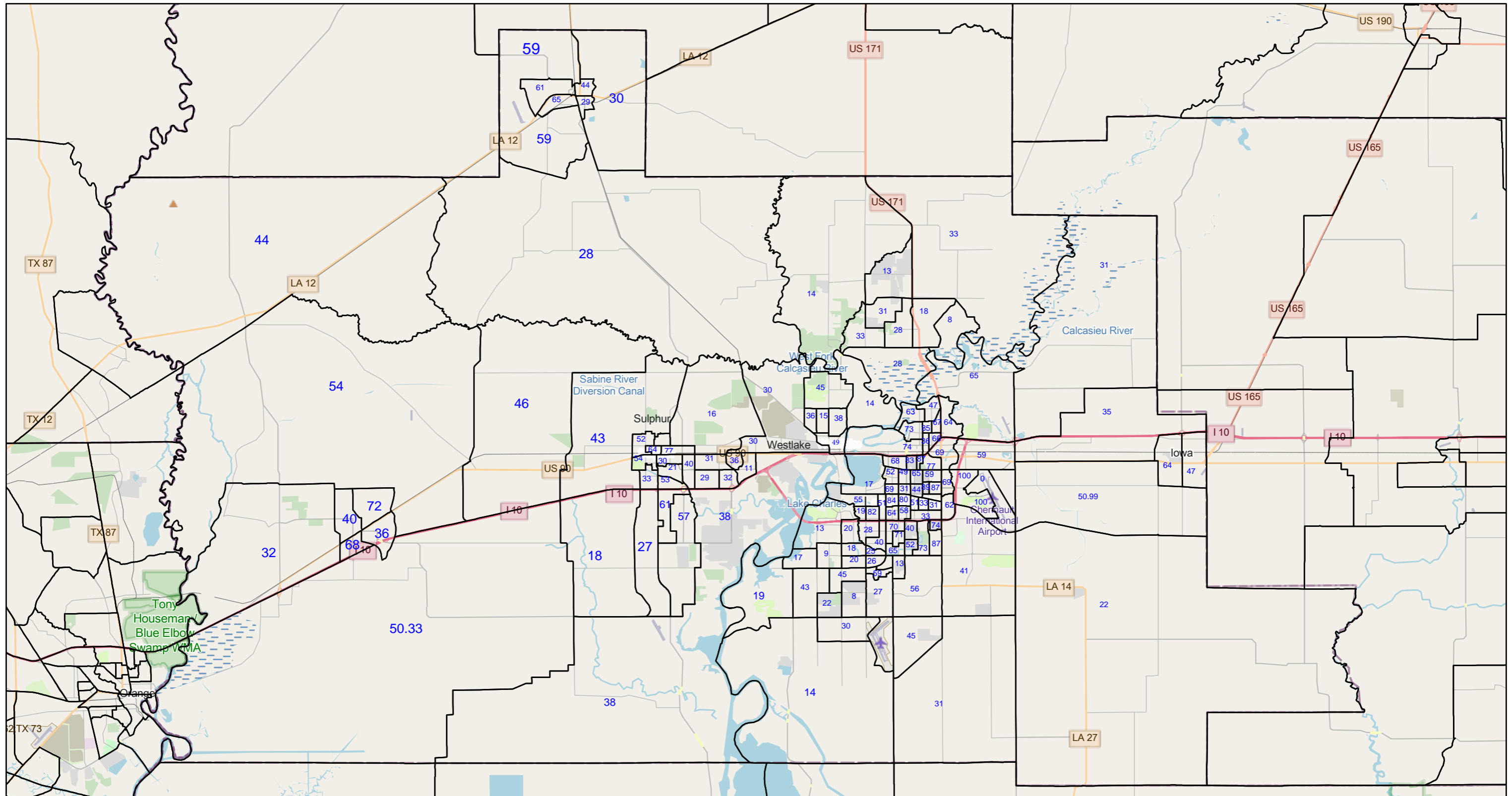
**Q:** Here are some ideas for the use of much needed monies to be used on infrastructure within the Village and the Terrance communities. Both of these areas suffer from extremely poor drainage.

Investments in fire prevention in rural areas.

Addressing current and future thorough cleaning of the laterals one behind the old Moss Regional Hospital, another runs off of LA Ave through the Village. One that runs in the Willowick subdivision, another in the Hillcrest area and one that crosses 5th Ave. All of which are suffering from major erosion issues in which residents are dealing with corrosion due to drainage issues. These precautions, if taken could really help in the event we experience any future flooding. FB 9-27-23

**A:** These improvements will be considered if these are LMI areas and the projects are eligible for CDBG-DR funding.

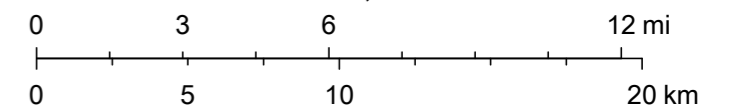
# Low- and Moderate-Income Data, based on 2011-2015 ACS 5-year Estimates



6/14/2023, 2:48:21 PM

LMISD by Block Group

1:288,895



Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Web  
Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Inc. and its affiliates, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer by Esri |