



## Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana

### HUD CDBG-DR Funding

### Public Hearing #1

### Questions and Answers

Date: July 25, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Braithwaite Auditorium, 1253 Hwy. 39, Braithwaite, LA 70040

18 members of the public attended.

Q: The presentation references "hometown revitalization," but they're not talking about homes?

A: No, this funding will not be used to address individual housing projects. "Hometown revitalization" refers to economic development and related projects.

Q: Can we get clarification on the definitions of the various types of DOT disadvantaged community designations?

A: Communities that are "disadvantaged" live in tracts that experience burdens. These burdens are related to climate change and the environment. They are also related to health and lack of economic opportunity.

- **Transportation insecurity** occurs when people are unable to get to where they need to go to meet the needs of their daily life regularly, reliably, and safely. Nationally, there are well-established policies and programs that aim to address food insecurity and housing insecurity, but not transportation insecurity. A growing body of research indicates that transportation insecurity is a significant factor in persistent poverty.
- An **environmental burden** measures factors such as pollution, hazardous facility exposure, water pollution, and the built environment. These environmental burdens can have far-reaching consequences such as health disparities, negative educational outcomes, and economic hardship.
- **Health vulnerability** category assesses the increased frequency of health conditions that may result from exposure to air, noise, and water pollution, as well as lifestyle factors such as poor walkability, car dependency, and long commute times.
- DOT views communities lacking **equity** as those that have been underserved, overburdened, and disadvantaged by past transportation decisions.
- **Jobs and economic competitiveness burdens** include reduced economic vitality of an area through construction impacts or reductions in accessibility or air quality.

- **Resilience burdens** include increased vulnerability or reduced reliability of a transportation asset by building in a way that does not account for hazards or climate-related risks.
- **Social vulnerability** is a measure of socioeconomic indicators that have a direct impact on quality of life. This set of indicators measure lack of employment, educational attainment, poverty, housing tenure, access to broadband, and housing cost burden as well as identifying household characteristics such as age, disability status and English proficiency.
- Further information regarding variables that are considered when measuring these burdens may be found here:  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/0920984aa80a4362b8778d779b090723/page/Understanding-the-Data/>

Q: Are repairs/improvements to non-federal levees an eligible activity/expense?

A: According to the initial brief consult with OCD-DRU, non-federal levees are an eligible project.

**Comments Regarding Needs:**

C: We need a back levee along the east bank.

C: West bank levees are being worked on; we need levee improvements on the east bank as well.

C: We need \$700,000 for repairs for levees on the east bank.

C: Pump stations on the east bank need improvement.

C: The Scarsdale pumping station has metal walls, but there is a gap in between the walls and the pumping station itself. This needs to be fixed.

C: FEMA rebuilt pumping stations on the east bank but left electrical down low; need to elevate the electrical.

C: Need a door/platform for those pumping stations; they seem to be poorly engineered.

C: There are cuts in the levee in Braithwaite that need to be fixed.

C: The pump stations need access improvements. The doors to enter the pump station need to be elevated. The electrical needs to be elevated as well.

C: There are issues with the flood wall. If the wall could be fixed, it would provide the residents with more opportunity to evacuate before a storm.

C: In general, residents of the east bank do not benefit from federal or general funds.

C: There are drainage issues from Phoenix to Bohemia that need to be fixed.

Comments received post-meeting (see attached):

# Louisiana OCD CDBG-DR Hometown Revitalization & Resilient Communities Infrastructure Programs Public Meeting

July 25 and 26, 2023

Comment Form

Name:

Address:

The purpose of this public meeting is to engage and solicit input from citizens in the identification of recovery priorities and the development of projects to be funded. Based on the information reviewed in the presentation what are your comments or suggestions for the use of the funding?

- ① Make Stolhaven + RX Road responsible from some type of Flood gate at Tracks in Cameron washes out every hurricane. (Stolhaven knows how to build they have them at their house in Cameron)
- ② Raise Pump at Canal to do away with sand bogs on road they wash away every hurricane.
- ③ At meeting someone said put station around in back of Breathwater Park but not electric supply.
- ④ Gaps on both sides of Pump Station at Scarsdale. Fix correctly with cement wall.
- ⑤ Longways grass cutting someone not overway; cutter on back levy.
- ⑥ holes in levy caused by erosion or log digging.
- ⑦ where is the master plan for levy construction to meet Fed regulations what happen to certification ???
- ⑧ at meeting it was mention that a project was being started to pump river sand from white ditch to wall in Cameron ???

Please turn in this form to the meeting facilitator; email to pdove@ppgov.net or via mail to Paula Dove, Plaquemines Parish Government, 333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd., Belle Chasse, LA 70037.

August 29 Katima  
2023

August 29 ISSAC  
2023

August 29 ISSA

AUGUST Make me  
CONCERNED



## Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana

### HUD CDBG-DR Funding

### Public Hearing #2

### Questions and Answers

Date: July 26, 2023

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Port Sulphur YMCA Community Center, 278 Civic Dr., Port Sulphur, LA 70083

22 members of the public attended.

C: Would the parish be able to use funds for debris removal resulting from Ida?

A: Possibly if it was something FEMA didn't cover and meets the eligibility criteria for RCIP or HRP.

C: Would we have to wait for the work to happen within the timeline for RCIP and HRP?

A: Yes.

C: What about blighted property down here? Will they use that money to clean up the parish? Still looks like Katrina just happened. There are rats.

A: If it is to facilitate economic development project, yes.

C: Debris in my community encourages vermin and contributes to blight. Would that fall under the program?

A: Yes, economic revitalization is part of what this funding is for.

C: When you get the money would it only be used for the low income in the community?

A: Yes. It is based on census block groups. We can make the maps available so you can view them.

C: What's the parish's plan for the low income areas? What are you considering low income areas?

A: The ideas that have been presented are good ideas that would benefit those areas. The money will be spent in LMI communities. We will make the maps available for you to view.

C: The reasons we have so many questions and concerns is because we have been through this so many times. We are trying hard with the new administration because we have been lied to before. I am praying in good faith that the money will be used for this area.

A: You can be assured that the funding will be used for LMI areas. That is a requirement with the grant programs.

C: I'm from Buras. I bought land then they said I can't put a trailer or a barn on it. The oil company said I had to move and won't give me a dime.

A: You will have to elevate the trailer to be there.

C: Why y'all putting businesses in when people are leaving anyway. You aren't fixing the problem. The LNG facility isn't elevated, but they are making other businesses elevate.

C: Is there anything you can do to speed up the Restore program for the people in Point a la Hache?

A: It is a State program. Please see the contact information on the flyer we have.

C: Does our government have any connection to the federal government? Why can't we get help? This lady had flood insurance, but someone at FEMA messed up and put in the computer that she did not. So now Restore won't help.

A: The Parish grant office will check into this for you.

C: What about drainage canals? Is this something we can do. The canals in Point a la Hache look like they haven't been cleaned in years. I'm concerned bc it's hurricane season.

A: Yes, that is an eligible project.

C: These projects are pending, but we need them done now. We can't do the work now and get reimbursed?

A: We cannot under this program. The Parish will explore taking care of some of these with other funding sources.

C: Can we purchase ambulances with the funding?

A: Usually CDBG-DR funds cannot be used for that.

C: What about creating a Housing Authority so we have someone we can go to with these problems?

A: The Parish has community action agencies. The Parish administration will explore this more.

C: What about lighting? A lot of houses are back on a lane. Could the funds be used to put lighting in those areas?

A: It would need to be publicly owned land. We will explore this and follow up.

C: Restore was here last Wednesday. There are so many people here that need homeowner assistance. Is there anyone with the parish that can have a meeting with Restore to get us help?

A: The Parish will reach out to Restore and work to get resolution to these issues. We agree it is important for the Parish to be involved in the community meetings that Restore is holding.

C: Existing buildings. Like the school right here. The road around it is full of potholes. Can the funding be used for that?

A: The funding cannot be used to fix potholes. It can be used for road improvements (e.g., elevations).

C: We should form committees for each community so they can put together lists of what is needed. Since we live there, we understand what is needed.

A: The Parish agrees that is a good idea and will meet with the committees.

C: Are we going to get our ditches cleaned out?

A: Yes, the parish has new equipment and we are working on getting them cleaned up.

Comments received post-meeting (see attached and below):

C. Clean up blighted properties.

C. Clean out drainage ditches.

C. Clean up dumps Stop putting out containers by highway.

C. Fix potholes around South Plaquemines Elementary School and Parish building'

C. Hire cleaning crews to clean highways.

# Louisiana OCD CDBG-DR Hometown Revitalization & Resilient Communities Infrastructure Programs Public Meeting

July 25 and 26, 2023

Comment Form

Name:

Address:

The purpose of this public meeting is to engage and solicit input from citizens in the identification of recovery priorities and the development of projects to be funded. Based on the information reviewed in the presentation what are your comments or suggestions for the use of the funding?

1. Clean up blighted properties.
2. Clean out drainage ditches.
3. Clean up dumps. Stop putting out containers by highway.
4. Fix pot holes around South Plaquemines Elementary school and around Parish Building.
5. Fix Pointe-A-la-Hache Ferry.
6. Hire cleaning crews to clean by highways.

Please turn in this form to the meeting facilitator; email to [pdove@ppgov.net](mailto:pdove@ppgov.net) or via mail to Paula Dove, Plaquemines Parish Government, 333 F. Edward Hebert Blvd., Belle Chasse, LA 70037.