



# Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

## HUD CDBG-DR Funding

### Public Hearing

### Questions and Answers

Date: July 12, 2023

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Location: Mathews Government Complex. 4876 Hwy. 1, Mathews, LA 70394

15 members of the public attended.

Questions	Answers
Do the programs presented allow for small business proposals?	We are looking into a small business grant program through the HRP. It would require that low-and moderate-income (LMI) folks are benefitting. For example, you could show that you are providing LMI persons jobs and track that. There is also the OCD Small Business Loan program available and you can reach out to South Central Planning for more information or visit this website: <a href="https://www.restore.la.gov/small-business-loan-program">https://www.restore.la.gov/small-business-loan-program</a> .
Has a business incubator been considered?	Nicholls State University and Fletcher Technical Community College are working on a business incubator and the Parish could potentially partner with them.
I manage a nonprofit, a pantry of Second Harvest in Galliano, and we rely on volunteers. Volunteers are far and few between. Could these programs be used to encourage people to volunteer?	Volunteers would have to be paid employees in perpetuity. The organization does not have revenue to continue these jobs.
Can a 501c3 relocate to be in a LMI census tract? Open up another branch? Serve an LMI area?	You would need to show that it is serving LMI residents.
If some of the volunteers became paid employees and they are LMI, could the state programs assist?	Volunteers would have to be paid employees in perpetuity. The organization does not have revenue to continue these jobs.

Questions	Answers
There is no homeless shelter in the parish. The parish used to own homes but doesn't anymore.	Parish does not have a homeless shelter. No interest at this time.
Is the LRD#2-Raceland 241 Recreation Dr project connected to the plan to refurbish the building that has been out of service since the storm?	This project will follow under the FEMA PA program. FEMA has been occupying the main facility since the storm. FEMA will redo the floors, walls, and lighting once they vacate the building. We are asking them to look at how the baseball fields are laid out. We are hoping to reconfigure it for a better layout that can support tournaments with turf, so it is not muddy after a storm.
If someone proposes a project, how does it get funded?	We will look to see if it's in the spirit of the Parish's recovery plan which is posted on the website. We got feedback from the public on that. We will also see if it fits into our mitigation plan. Then we look to see if the project meets the OCD program requirements.
Can I submit a straw man of a project idea?	Yes, you can, and we will review it.
A potential new head start in Raceland was proposed. The Galliano head start was destroyed. Why isn't there rehabilitation of the Galliano head start or new head start being constructed?	We aren't advocating for money for South Lafourche Parish through these OCD programs because we are getting these needs met through FEMA funding. We are actually going to expand that Galliano head start to make it larger with library access for the kids. We will have more computers than before as well. Engineering is about 50% complete right now and roofing will start soon. Will have an open floor plan. We are rebuilding it to be more resilient. We will put out conceptual drawings for everyone to see. Hopefully have a ribbon cutting 1 <sup>st</sup> Q of 2025. We are facing challenges in having more head starts because we cannot meet the LMI requirements.
What does the bullet in the PPT mean about relocating public buildings to another area? Can the relocation be for better access for people?	That bullet provided an example of what the funds can be used for.

Questions	Answers
People don't have transportation. Thibodaux has buses, but rest of parish doesn't.	Transportation is one of the biggest challenges in our Parish. We can get grants to start up a free transportation service, but the challenge is the funding that would be required for maintenance, insurance, etc., going forward.
What is the timeline from today's meeting to submitting the recovery proposal?	Once the CEA is executed with the State, we have three months to submit the proposal. Once that is approved, we will submit the project applications. We are open to feedback and want to hear from the public on what projects you think would best serve the community.
Can the money be used for a museum? The library used to have a museum.	It would have to have a tie to the storm and benefit LMI persons. It is a good idea. Location would be key. We have talked about having a museum in South Lafourche. We do need a Cajun museum here.
We used to have a playhouse in Lockport and a museum there. Y'all should look into that.	<p><b>We have two gyms in Thibodaux about to be knocked down. One of them could be used as a shelter.</b></p> <p>Answer: We are not knocking both down. We are looking at donating one of the gyms to the City of Thibodaux. We are also looking at constructing a head start across from Heroes Park that will have a recreation center.</p>
What is being done for small businesses?	<p>We are working with Nicholls' small business development center and incubator. We also meet with small businesses through the Chamber by hosting Small Business Forum events. We also bring in people from the State to talk about incentives, labor laws, workforce development, etc. to provide training to small business owners. Our next Small Business Forum will be on 9/28/23 and the focus will be on helping small businesses with cyber security. After that, the next meeting will be a business incubator tour. You can also reach out to South Central Planning regarding the State's Small Business Loan Program.</p> <p><a href="https://www.restore.la.gov/small-business-loan-program">https://www.restore.la.gov/small-business-loan-program</a></p>

Questions	Answers
<p>What are you doing for housing assistance? I've been waiting for the Housing Authority to help me for three years.</p>	<p>The Housing Authority is not run through the Parish. The Housing Authority just got notification that FEMA will provide funding for City Place apartments in Lockport to be repaired. Affordable rentals are a challenge in the Parish due to insurance requirements.</p>