

Recovery Proposal

Hurricanes Zeta and Ida

City of New Orleans

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Hurricanes Zeta and Ida Recovery Proposal

Applicant

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Introduction and Planning Context

On August 29, 2021, Hurricane Ida made landfall near Galliano, Louisiana as a strong Category 4 hurricane. In the City of New Orleans, Ida produced heavy rains and hurricane-force winds. By 11:00 August 29 SWBNO began reporting power loss at various Sewer Pump Stations. By mid-afternoon August 29 Entergy New Orleans reported 114,000 customers without power. The power grid to the entire City eventually failed, resulting in an extended outage that lasted 5-10 days in most areas of the city. In the days immediately following landfall, NWS issued excessive heat advisories as heat index temperatures consistently rose above 100F.

Housing Impacts: Damage assessments identified roughly 150,000 structures with at least minor wind damage. During the initial recovery, FEMA approved \$434 million in assistance through the Individual Assistance program. Damage from Hurricane Ida compounded pre-existing shortages of climate resilient, affordable housing statewide as well as in New Orleans. Household resources for recovery are stretched further by the stressors of the global COVID pandemic, increased construction and materials costs. The State of Louisiana has established several housing recovery programs under the RESTORE Louisiana program.

Wind damage: High winds produced by the hurricanes caused structural damage to public facilities and commercial building. Over three hundred (301) public facilities were damaged by wind and resultant water intrusion during Hurricane Ida. Initial damage estimates for public facilities and infrastructure total almost \$133 Million. Widespread damage to traffic and public safety infrastructure, damaged or destroyed historic architecture, loss of power to the EOC during emergency response, and wind and water damage to critical public safety facilities. High winds damaged newly planted and established trees across the city, which is still actively working to recover the canopy cover lost to Hurricane Katrina.

This recovery proposal is intended to address the proposed uses of CDBG-DR funds to address the unmet needs for recovery from Hurricanes Zeta and Ida. The State of Louisiana has outlined two programs Resilient Communities and Infrastructure Program and Hometown Revitalization Program.

The State of Louisiana Office of Community Development has identified the following list of Infrastructure Unmet Needs (State Action Plan Substantial Amendment 1):

- Non-Residential Facility Damages
 - EOC and other critical facility infrastructure failure
 - Structural Damages
- Power grid
 - Economic Losses/Business Disruption
 - Sewer Pump System
 - Temporary Generators at Emergency Resource Centers
 - Extreme heat: resultant exposure to extreme temperatures and the cascading public health impacts
- Debris and Solid Waste

The State of Louisiana Office of Community Development has identified the following list of Economic Revitalization Unmet Needs (State Action Plan Substantial Amendment 1):

- Business structures
- Business equipment
- Business Interruption

Recovery Planning Process

This recovery proposal was developed through a collaborative planning effort that engaged with public officials, community leaders, and the general public. The recovery proposal was developed through a series of meetings that engaged public officials, nongovernmental organizations involved in disaster response and recovery, and members of the public. The planning process was informed by the City's Comprehensive Disaster Recovery Framework (CRF).

Recovery Planning Process Overview:

1. Public Agency Input: city agencies provide initial proposals based on ongoing and planned projects. Initial proposals were screened for programmatic eligibility and evaluated using LMI benefits tests outlined by OCD.
2. CAC Meetings: City (re)convenes the recovery community advisory committee to review the programs, proposed process, and solicit further recovery proposal input.
3. Public Meetings (Virtual and In-person)
4. Public Comment Period
7. CAC Meeting to review public input and revise Recovery Proposal
8. Recovery Proposal presentation to City Council

Grantee will make efforts to ensure that public meetings are held at public libraries in the (MID) areas: Nora Navra Library. Grantee will also canvas the proposed neighborhoods days prior to the public meeting for public purposes. Grantee will also make reasonable accommodations for 3 of the most dominant non-English speaking citizens. Grantee will also share the proposal with Community Advisory Committee that will assist with recovery efforts and provide feedback, along with the Economic Development business community committees at various times.

Recovery Framework and Recovery Leadership:

At the time that Hurricane Ida made landfall, the city was in the process of developing its Comprehensive Disaster Recovery Framework. The framework was developed during the process of recovering from Ida, and many of the advisory committee members were directly involved in the response and recovery work. The Recovery Framework was used to guide leadership and management roles, the role of the advisory committee, evaluation of recovery proposals. The planning team developed qualitative evaluations of each proposed activity's impact on equity and resilience, as outlined in the Recovery Framework.

Community Advisory Committee

The purpose of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is to support the City of New Orleans by partnering to problem solve, improve access to resources, and to foster coordination between local government, nongovernmental partners, and stakeholders.

CAC membership includes public agencies, nonprofits, community leaders. The CAC is organized into six working groups, each led by two co-chairs.

The six (6) working groups are aligned with FEMA's National Disaster Recovery Framework and the Recovery Support Functions (RSFs), (RSF-1 Community Planning & Capacity Building, RSF-2 Economic, RSF-3 Health & Social Services, RSF-4 Housing Recovery, RSF-5 Infrastructure Systems, and RSF-6 Natural & Cultural Resources) relevant stakeholders and experts are brought together during planning processes and when activated post-disaster to identify and resolve recovery challenges.

One meeting of the Recovery CAC working group co-chairs was held during the planning process to brief CAC members on the recovery planning process, evaluation of unmet needs and recovery priorities, and opportunities for public input during the planning process.

Public Participation

City of New Orleans applied the processes outlined in the HUD Public Participation Plan to provide residents the opportunity to participate and comment on the development of this recovery proposal.

In accordance with CDBG-DR requirements, the CNO has developed and maintains a comprehensive website regarding all disaster recovery activities, assisted with these funds. The CNO is currently posting one (1) CDBG-DR Action Plan (AP) and amendments to the CNO's website: <https://www.nola.gov/community-development/programs-and-funding/isaac-recovery-program/>, providing citizens the opportunity to read the plan and submit comments. The website is featured prominently on and is easily navigable from the CNO's Office of Community Development Homepage: <https://www.nola.gov/community-development/>.

A paper copy of the CDBG-DR Action Plan is available in English and upon request in other languages for "Individuals with Limited English Proficiency (LEP)), as well as access of the document to persons with disabilities: Office of Community Development – 1340 Poydras St., 10th Floor – NOLA 70112. A Public Notice is placed in the local CNO newspaper and website, advertised for a thirty (30) day period and comment period of

at least seven (15) days as required for review of the AP and or subsequent amendments. Citizens are provided with names and addresses of the person (s) authorized to receive and respond to citizen questions and complaints concerning proposed and funded activities. A timely written response must be made to every citizen complaint, within fifteen (15) days of receipt, based on practicability.

Grantee agrees to comply with requirements of Title 2 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200 (Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards), except that (1) Grantee does not assume OCD's environmental responsibilities describes in 24 CFR 570.604 and (2) Grantee does not assume OCD's responsibility for initiating the review process under the provisions of 24 CFR Part 52. Grantee also agrees to comply with all other applicable Federal, state, and local laws, regulations and policies governing the funds available.

Overview of Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program Projects

Table 1 lists the priority and alternate projects proposed for the RCIP. Descriptions of each priority project follow, and alternate project descriptions are included in Attachment D.

Table 1. Resilient Communities and Infrastructure Program Projects

Project Name	Estimated Project Cost
Priority Projects	
Resilience Hub Renewable Backup Power	\$1,700,000
Reforestation Plan Phase I	\$3,000,000
Subtotal	\$4,700,000
Alternate Projects	
City Building Solar Installations	\$3,100,000
MTRCB Operations Complex Wind Retrofit	\$1,000,000
Stormwater Master Plan	\$500,000
Subtotal	\$4,600,000

Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program Priority Projects

1. Resilience Hubs Renewable Backup Power:

Arthur Monday MultiService Center, 1111 Newton St. New Orleans, LA 70114

Allie Mae Williams Multi Service Center, 2020 Jackson Ave. New Orleans, LA 70113

Hollygrove MultiPurpose Senior Center, 3300 Hamilton St. New Orleans, LA 70118

Description of the Proposed Project:

This project will design and install solar PV and battery backup power systems at three locations around the city. Each of these locations has been identified by NOSHEP as a potential resilience hub, and this project will provide backup power to these facilities to support emergency response operations during future disasters. Two of these facilities have been studied by the city and have initial specifications and cost estimates available. This project will contribute to the city's long-term grid resilience goals and climate action goals.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds:

\$1,700,000 CDBG-DR, unobligated

Funding would be used to engineer and install rooftop solar and battery storage systems, along with associated electrical equipment, at each location.

Project Context:

Grid Resilience, distributed renewable energy resources, resilience hubs, filling gaps in underserved areas.

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

This project benefits the communities of Hollygrove, Central City, and Algiers, New Orleans, LA.

Recovery Rationale:

Public facilities as resilience hubs during emergency response and recovery. Two of these three facilities were used as resilience hubs previously, and the Hollygrove MSC location will fill a critical gap in existing response capabilities. Solar installations will be constructed to newly updated IBC 2021 building code or relevant standard for critical facilities to be resilient to major hurricane force wind.

Description of Acquisition(s) Involved (if any): No acquisitions will be required for the proposed project.

Mitigation Plan:

This project will provide backup power to public facilities to support emergency response capabilities. This project will be constructed using the updated 2021 IBC standards for wind rating parameters.

FEMA Public Assistance Eligibility:

The proposed project is not eligible for FEMA public Assistance.

2. Comprehensive Reforestation Plan Increment I:

Location: Central City

Description of the Proposed Project:

Implement priority increments of the pilot projects of the New Orleans Reforestation Plan.. This activity would first prioritize concrete removal to allow for greenspace in the Central City neighborhood, followed by plantings. The pilot plan calls for a focused effort to plant trees in selected underserved neighborhoods over the next 5 years to help meet the City's Climate Action Plangoal of ensuring 10% canopy coverage citywide by 2030. The selection of pilot project locations included consideration of social vulnerability, current lack of canopy coverage, and heat exposure risk.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds:

\$3,000,000 CDBG-DR, unobligated

\$500,000 UCF, USDA, applied for in June 2023

Funding will be used to purchase materials and supplies to complete tree planting. Some locations may require A/E services, concrete removal and disposal, and other requirements to be determined during initial project scoping.

Project Context:

The reforestation plan is a multi-year plan to address reforestation across the city. Each neighborhood-level increment is an independently functional component of the plan and will be effective at improving stormwater management and reducing the Urban Heat Island effect.

Identified in the Hazard Mitigation Plan as Action Item # 2020.3.6, which speaks to a strategy of scaling up reforestation efforts by focusing efforts at neighborhood-scale efforts. Increasing canopy cover is also a major component of the city's updated Climate Action Plan (2022).

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

This project benefits the community of New Orleans, LA.

Recovery Rationale:

City of New Orleans is still engaged in restoring the tree canopy, which dropped from approximately 30% canopy coverage to 18% coverage due to wind damage and subsequent flooding from Hurricane Katrina. Hurricane Ida damaged an estimated additional 337 recently planted trees and 388 established trees, including 104 in or near Central City. The proposed project will directly address the unmet needs of recovery

from the 2020-21 storms by replacement of tree canopy that was damaged in the storms. This project will contribute to mitigation of extreme heat, "heat island" effects, and urban flood risk.

Overview of Hometown Revitalization Program Projects

Project Name	Estimated Project Cost
Priority Projects	
Food Business Incubator	\$5,000,000
Small Business Power Resilience Program	\$2,000,000
Subtotal	\$7,000,000
Alternate Projects	
Microloans for Small Businesses	\$5,000,000
Disaster Response Grant Program	\$5,000,000
Façade Renew Program	\$2,000,000
Subtotal	\$12,000,000
Total All Projects:	\$19,000,000

Food Business Incubator

Description of the Proposed Project:

New Orleans is known for its rich food culture, but we lack the infrastructure to support entrepreneurs in producing food products that can be exported beyond the city. Emerging industries at the cross-section of culture and the economy have a lot of room for growth to support culture-bearers and entrepreneurs of color to start and scale their businesses, gain workforce skills, etc.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds:

\$5,000,000 CDBG-DR, unobligated

Project Context:

This project is independent of any existing projects. However, as part of the project, the City of New Orleans will solicit an operator for the food incubator that may or may not be an existing formal partner for economic or workforce development.

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

Citywide

Recovery Rationale:

Post Hurricane Ida many businesses were negatively affected by a loss in power, food, and the financial means to bounce back financially. Additionally, Edible Enterprises, a commercial kitchen for food incubation at NORCO was irreparably damaged during Hurricane Ida and will not be rebuilt. These funds are set aside to assist small food-based businesses to start-up, grow, or expand.

Description of Acquisition(s) Involved (if any):

This project may involve the acquisition of property to serve as the food incubator facility.

Mitigation Plan:

The new or renovated facility will be designed to incorporate resilience standards for wind (IBHS fortified gold), flood risk (Federal Flood Risk Management Standard or Local Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance, as applicable), and energy efficiency.

Small Business Power Resilience Program

Description of the Proposed Project:

This project will fund the installation of solar and battery backup power systems at local businesses to provide resilient power during grid outages and protect a critical community lifeline. Resilient power will prevent economic damages due to inventory spoilage and business interruption and will empower local businesses to act as resilience hubs during disaster response. Individual locations will be determined by working with community partner and will target local SMB providing essential services in underserved areas of the city.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds:

\$2,000,000 CDBG-DR, unobligated

Project Context:

There have been multiple grassroots efforts to install solar and battery in restaurants and houses of worship through groups such as Get Lit Stay Lit and Together New Orleans. Additionally, the City of New Orleans is receiving technical assistance to create a strategy around microgrids through a competitive opportunity provided by the Department of Energy's Communities LEAP pilot program.

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

Small local businesses in disadvantaged communities throughout the city.

Recovery Rationale:

During Hurricane Ida, a lack of utilities negatively affected the restaurants and its owners for weeks. This project would assist with the ability of maintaining power for proper food storage, use, and the ability to be resilient post disaster.

Description of Acquisition(s) Involved (if any):

This project does not involve direct acquisition.

Mitigation Plan:

Installation of solar and battery systems on buildings that currently lack redundancy will mitigate business disruptions such as extended business closures and food spoilage during future grid outages. The project will require businesses to follow best practices for the installation of solar and battery systems, including ensuring building roofs are in good condition before solar installation and taking steps to reduce any issues from stormwater run-off.

FEMA Public Assistance Eligibility:

This project is not eligible for FEMA Public Assistance funding.

Attachments

For purposes of this proposal, the following documents must be attached. Subsequent documents will be required according to HUD/CDBG-DR requirements for implementation, approval of project applications, and the drawdown of funds. **These will be attached to the final copy of this Recovery Proposal**

- A. A copy of the resolution authorizing the Recovery Proposal by the parish/municipal governing body.
- B. Copy of all required Citizen Participation documents.
- C. Narrative describing the efforts to solicit input and participation from persons of low and moderate income and disadvantaged communities in the public participation process.
- D. Alternate Project Descriptions
- E. Project Maps

Resilient Communities and Infrastructure Program Alternate Projects

City Facilities Solar Installation

Description of the Proposed Project:

This project would complete installation of rooftop PV and battery storage generator systems at one or more priority locations identified by the solar feasibility study completed by CNO and C40 and/or identified as potential resilience hubs or essential services by NOHSEP. Sites may also be prioritized based on proximity to and potential integration with future area microgrids which are currently being evaluated.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds:

Site level cost estimates are preliminary and for installation/construction only. Cost estimates will be refined during the design phase for each site. Additional fees for engineering services and project management will be applicable. These estimates do not account for any credits or direct pay financing that may be available through federal incentive programs.

- Desire/Florida Multi-Service Center, 3520 Industry St. (no cost estimate available yet)
- St. Bernard Recreation Center, 1500 Lafreniere St. 70122 \$838,382
- Algiers Regional Library 3014 Holiday Drive \$298,967
- NOPD Seventh District 10101 Dwyer Road \$352,207
- Mosquito and Termite Control Board 2100 Leon C Simon Drive \$317,712
- EMS Headquarters 2929 Earhart Boulevard \$330,587

Project Context:

In 2020 CNO complete a feasibility study and financial analysis for solar PV and battery storage installation at public facilities. This study confirmed feasibility and cost effectiveness for renewable energy generation to offset long-term operating costs and GhG emissions. Since 2021, CNO has been engaged in a Grid Resilience Strategic planning effort through technical assistance with Department of Energy and is pursuing similar installations as part of a broader grid resilience strategy.

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

This project supports the city's grid resilience strategy to deploy distributed renewable energy resources widely to support grid stability and to power essential services during grid failures. The benefits of grid resilience are citywide.

Recovery Rationale:

This project will address grid resilience and provide renewable backup power to critical public facilities. Because the project will create economic activity around renewable energy, the project also supports economic recovery and workforce development in the green jobs sector.

MTRCB Hayne Boulevard Operations Complex Hardening:

5714-44 Hayne Boulevard, New Orleans LA

Description of the Proposed Project:

Wind retrofit and structural hardening of the multi-facility operations complex for the Mosquito Termite and Rodent Control Board.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds:

\$1,000,000 CDBG-DR

Funds would be used to hire a qualified construction firm to complete final designs and construction of the project.

Project Context:

The Hayne Boulevard Complex is critical to continuity of operations for MTRCB to deliver essential public services. The facility is also an emergency management continuity of operations satellite facility. Protecting these facilities from damage also helps to protect the environment, due to the hazardous nature of some of the materials stored there.

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

This project delivers citywide benefits because preventing damage to the facility will avoid disruption to the public health work of the MTRCB.

Recovery Rationale:

This facility suffered moderate wind damage during Hurricane Ida. Hardening of the facility would prevent against future damage from similar storms.

Stormwater Master Plan:

Citywide project

Description of the Proposed Project:

Develop an update to the city's comprehensive stormwater management strategy. Conduct data collection, modeling, and project scoping to develop a suite of resilient flood risk reduction projects. Completing this plan will support the city's next Hazard Mitigation Plan update, provide updated science-driven decision support tools, and position the city to develop complete project-specific proposals for future funding opportunities.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds:

\$500,000 CDBG-DR, unobligated

\$1,000,000 HMGP DR-4611, this funding has been applied for but has not been awarded at this time.

Project Context:

10-year update of the Greater New Orleans Urban Water plan's long term strategic vision. Leverage related external efforts including H+H modeling and research by Water Institute of the Gulf and Stakeholder Engagement led by GNO Inc. and GNOF as part of the 10-year plan update.

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

This citywide comprehensive planning effort would benefit the whole community.

Recovery Rationale:

Comprehensive stormwater management strategy, green stormwater infrastructure. Prevention of future flood damage.

Hometown Revitalization Program Alternate Projects

Disaster Recovery Microloans for small and local businesses:

Citywide project

Description of the Proposed Project:

Provide capital to technical assistance providers for microlending to entrepreneurs and home-based businesses to formalize their businesses, provide jobs and stimulate economic recovery.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds

\$5,000,000 CDBG-DR, unobligated

Project Context:

The Office of Economic Development administered a similar program during the pandemic response.

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

This project will benefit small businesses citywide.

Recovery Rationale:

The extended power outage and disruption of business following Hurricane Ida caused local businesses to lose revenue, which added to pandemic related economic strains. This loan or grant program will provide flexible, accessible financing to local businesses to help them recover from the storms' impacts.

Disaster Response Grant Program

Description of the Proposed Project:

In any given year, there is a disaster or disruption (tornadoes, hurricanes, building collapses, etc.) that impacts small businesses. There is a need to create a fund that can quickly be deployed to support businesses during a critical time and prevent permanent closures.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds:

\$5,000,000

Project Context:

The City has partnered with NOLABA to set up such a fund in the past. It provided grants to gig workers and for outdoor dining during the pandemic.

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

This program would benefit small businesses citywide.

Recovery Rationale:

This program would provide flexible financing to small businesses to address their unique challenges during disaster recovery.

New Orleans Redevelopment Authority Façade Renewal Program

Description of the Proposed Project:

Work with NORA to identify corridors for new rounds of funding for the Façade Renew Program, which provides grants to businesses to make improvements to the facades of their businesses to improve the overall aesthetics of the corridor.

Estimated Total Project Cost, Source, Status, and Use of Funds:

\$2,000,000

Project Context: This project does not depend on any other projects and would provide funding to restore one or more private commercial buildings.

Beneficiaries/public benefit/target area and boundaries:

This project will benefit small businesses citywide.

Recovery Rationale:

The 2020 and 2021 storms caused widespread wind damage across the city, including damage to historic structures. This project would support architectural restoration and preservation of cultural resources that were damaged by the storms.

Attachment E: Project Maps









