

Recovery Proposal

Hurricanes Zeta and Ida

City of New Orleans

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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 through the State of Louisiana's Resilient Communities and Infrastructure Program to address the unmet needs for recovery from Hurricanes Zeta and Ida.

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

Resilient Communities Infrastructure and Hometown Revitalization Project Summaries

1. Resilience Hubs Renewable Backup Power

- a. Design and install renewable energy backup power systems around the city at designated locations to include solar PV, battery storage, and electrical and efficiency retrofits. Emergency response operations and blue-sky resource benefits will be sought in coordination with educational programming and the city's long-term grid resilience goals.

2. City Facilities Solar Installations

- a. Technical assistance, design, and installation of renewable energy backup power systems on city facilities at designated locations to include solar PV, battery storage, and electrical and efficiency retrofits. Resilience Hubs with emergency response operations and blue sky resource benefits will be sought in coordination with educational programming and the city's long-term grid resilience goals.

3. Hayne Boulevard Operations Complex Hardening

- a. Technical and design assistance for wind mitigating retrofits and structural hardening of multi-facility operations complex for mosquito termite and rodent control board.

4. Stormwater Master Plan

- a. Technical assistance to develop and update the city's comprehensive stormwater management strategy, conducting data collection, modeling, and project scoping for suites of resilient flood risk reduction. Plan to support the city's next Hazard Mitigation Plan, science-driven decision support tools, and position city for future funding opportunities.

5. Comprehensive Reforestation

- a. Leaning heavily on the New Orleans Reforestation Plan, concrete removal and greenspacing projects will be piloted to achieve canopy coverage goals of the City's Climate Action Plan with a focus on underserved socially vulnerable neighborhoods to reduce heat exposure risks.

6. New Orleans Redevelopment Authority Façade Renewal

- a. 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.

7. Food Business Incubator

- a. Planning, design, equipment, facility operations, and technical assistance in support of local food entrepreneurs to start and/or expand services. New Orleans' diversity of cultural influences has fostered robust and innovative culinary arts. In a city of food history, having facilities that will allow disaster response food delivery/response addresses economic survivability from inception to consumption and every milestone of nutrition in between.

8. Small Business Power Resilience

- a. Technical assistance, Solar PV, battery storage, efficiency retrofits, and storm water runoff solutions will be assessed and installed at/on local business. Emergency response operations and blue sky resource benefits will be sought in coordination with educational programming and the city's long-term grid resilience goals.

9. Main Street Resilience

- a. Technical and design assistance for commercial corridors vulnerable to power and water intrusive disruption causing economic hardship. Resource operations on blue sky scenarios will be sought in coordination with educational programming and the city's long-term CAP and grid resilience goals. Green and blue infrastructure in service of LMI clientele business owners will improve rates of economic recovery when facing disasters and reduce business failure rates following disruptions.

10. Small Landlord Residential Resilience Retrofit

- a. Closing the gap on deferred maintenance from storm damage and improving the quality of resilience of the rental market across the City. Coordination with Healthy Homes and green energy campaigns to address mandated updates to tenant homes, offering technical assistance aimed at increasing adoption of tax incentives for solar PV battery storage, and electrical and efficiency retrofits.

11. Multifamily Residential Resilience

- a. Technical assistance, Solar PV, battery storage, efficiency retrofits, and storm water runoff solutions will be assessed and installed at/on large multilevel multifamily residential facilities with specific focus on powering common areas and critical use resources. Lighting, ventilation, elevators, medical devices, and emergency response operations and blue sky resource benefits will be sought in coordination with educational programming and the city's long-term grid resilience goals.

12. High Quality Residential Resilience for Renters

- a. Technical assistance, Solar PV, battery storage, efficiency retrofits, and storm water runoff solutions will be assessed and installed on owner occupied HUD defined single family homes (1 – 4 dwelling units) with additional rentable dwellings. Objectives are to reduce energy burdens, improve shelter in place disaster survivability, and benefit housing affordability for tenant residents.

13. Collective Community Resilience

- a. Technical and design assistance coupled with grants for the benefit of developing community solar microgrid projects that will benefit HUD Section 8 PBV LMI residents. Storm water runoff solutions will be assessed at/on facilities and designated properties. Emergency response operations and blue sky resource benefits will be sought in coordination with educational programming and the city's long-term grid resilience goals

14. Multilevel Commercial Building

- a. Technical and design assistance for urban area emergency staging and resilience quarters within multilevel commercial buildings vulnerable to power and water intrusive disruption causing economic hardship. Resource operations on blue sky scenarios will be sought in coordination with educational programming and the city's long-term CAP and grid resilience goals. Green and blue infrastructure in service of LMI clientele business owners and patrons will improve rates of economic recovery when facing disasters and reduce business failure rates following disruptions.

15. Disaster Recovery Microloans for Small and Local Businesses

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