

OFFICE OF HOUSING POLICY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

LATOYA CANTRELL
MAYOR

TYRA JOHNSON BROWN
DIRECTOR

During the public comment period, the City of New Orleans received 4 e-mailed comment cards and 57 comments submitted electronically using the eComment card tool. There were fourteen citizens who attended the public meeting held at the New Orleans Public Library. In attendance were various community workers, whether non-profit, for profit or self-involvement. Mostly all of Orleans parish were represented in this meeting from New Orleans East to Algiers.

Please see comments submitted:

Kelsey Foster (Executive Director) Algiers Economic Development Foundation
kfoster@algierseconomic.com

Hello, Following last night's public meeting at the New Orleans Public Library, I'd like to submit the following public comment on behalf of the Algiers Economic Development Foundation:

1. Investment in cold storage space is crucial to preventing product loss following a storm. If new spaces aren't able to be built, forming relationships with existing cold storage facilities is important for coordinating in the immediate day after a storm. Following the December tornado in Algiers, we arranged to move all meat and cheese products from the Algiers Meat Market (their entire holiday stock) to Crescent Towing's cold storage typically used for storing supplies for offshore work. Though another business owned by relatives ultimately took on the product, the ability to quickly arrange this partnership was important.

2. Cash assistance should be prioritized over even very advantageous disaster loans. Following the December tornado in Algiers, we worked with United Way SELA to distribute cash assistance grants to local business owners who sustained damage. The cash helped them immediately following the storm and before insurance claims paid out, when they needed it most. It also helped improve beyond existing conditions, which helped at least one business owner get out from under blight lines from the City. Following back-to-back disasters like Ida, Zeta, and COVID-19, many of our small businesses have maxed out their ability to take on debt.

3. There are currently no commercial kitchen spaces publicly available for lease on the entire West Bank. An affordable commissary space would help small businesses like caterers, food trucks, and pop ups thrive during blue sky conditions while also absorbing overflow from any damaged commissaries following a storm and allow for disaster food aid prep from groups like World Central Kitchen. This project would have the single-largest impact on our small business community regardless of weather conditions.

4. Following Ida, access to gas was a major issue for people trying to leave the city or power generators. We could not establish contact with a single gas station owner in Algiers to arrange for them to receive a commercial generator, so while there was gas in tanks below ground, we couldn't help getting it to residents or first responders. Gas station owners should be required to own a commercial generator and to staff their businesses to enable their use following a storm, or a registry of gas station owners with active points of contact should be established to allow groups like ours to coordinate disaster response.

5. Further funding of existing programming like the NORA Facade Renew program would be helpful to allow business owners to invest in signage or exterior renovations that may have taken a hit during a storm.

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6. Formalizing communications with groups like the Algiers Economic Development Foundation who have direct contact with small business owners and community groups should be a priority for any programming funded through this funding to ensure meaningful connections with underserved communities like Algiers.

7. When considering programs for multifamily post-disaster relief, consider implications of funding known bad actors in the industry (those with significant tenant complaints, blight liens, code violations, etc.) and the impact of allowing disaster funds to cover delayed maintenance rightfully the responsibility of the owner while also ensuring that tenants are not punished for their management company's poor track record.

8. Most importantly, we ask that you ensure a focus on geographic equity when considering implementation of this funding across the City of New Orleans. While hurricanes, tornadoes, and other severe weather events impact us all, some communities have fewer resources to rely on even in blue sky conditions. Neighborhoods like Algiers and New Orleans East should be of especial focus when considering community access to post-disaster resources.

CNO Replied:

The public comment period for Restore Louisiana Program funding is currently open until May 25th. Please follow the link below to submit public comment on how these funds (~\$30+ million) are to be allocated and forward to any others of interest in your networks: You made so many key points and this list is appreciated. We will definitely add this data to our comment collection and review after the end of the comment period. Don't forget to continue to spread the word about our meeting and need for feedback with the comment period ending in a matter of days.

Peter Waggoner (Public Policy Director) Greater New Orleans, Inc.

pwaggoner@gnoinc.org

Hey Ruda! I'll send in a formal comment that reiterates this soon, but here's some more background per my comments at the public meeting. This may pertain to proposed projects numbers 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14. Any building upgrade or retrofit that has any relation to roofs or structural implications should account for:

1. Construction Code – The Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council (LSUCCC) has adopted a new Uniform Construction Code, taking us from the 2015 International Building and Residential Codes to the latest 2021 versions. They have also adopted amendments that take us beyond international standards, and essential mandate Fortified construction techniques for stronger roofs in wind areas. This is a big deal, as recognized by the Insurance Institute for Home and Building Safety (IBHS). This also means that all new construction and substantially damaged structures will have to be built to these standards. Maybe there's a way to get ahead of substantial damage and put money towards proactive adaption and compliance with these standards. Buildings built to these standards should have cheaper and more options from insurers.

2. Fortified Standards – Act 1 of the 2023 Session, now part of RS 22:1483, requires insurers to provide discounts for fortified roofs. These mandatory discounts apply to fortified homes and fortified commercial standards, so both residences and commercial buildings are benefiting.

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3. Wind Mitigation Discounts – There’s a longstanding (and poorly advertised) insurance premium discount available for residential properties that “install mitigation improvements or retrofit...to reduce the amount of loss from a windstorm or hurricane.” Since the 2007 Legislative Session, insurers have been required to offer this discount. This also lives within RS 22:1483. This discount is available once a “Wind Mitigation Surveyor” completes a “Louisiana Hurricane Loss Mitigation Survey Form” and submits to the insurer. Per state law, “the mitigation improvements or construction techniques shall include but not be limited to roof deck attachments; secondary water barriers; roof coverings; brace gable ends; construction techniques which enhance or reinforce roof strength; roof-covering performance; roof-to-wall strength, wall-to-floor-to-foundation strength; opening protection; and window, door, and skylight strength.”

Getting more properties in good condition will prevent losses and make insurance premiums more palatable for us all!

CNO Replied:

Thank you for this critical information pertaining to possible properties. This will be added to our data collection and reviewed after the comment period ends. We are only a few days away from the comment period ending so don't be afraid to spread the word and the electronic comment card (link below) for gaining more feed back.

Michael Hecht (President & CEO) Greater New Orleans Inc.

Dear Office of Community Development,

Please find GNO, Inc.’s public comment on the City’s proposed use of Restore Louisiana funding attached.

Be in touch with any questions and keep us posted as your proposal is reviewed and projects get underway. Thanks for your work in preparing this proposal, and thanks in advance for the implementation of these valuable projects.

On behalf of Greater New Orleans, Inc. (GNO, Inc.), we commend the City of New Orleans, its Office of Community Development, Office of Economic Development, Office of Resilience and Sustainability, and all other partners in preparing project proposals and ensuring prudent stewardship of Restore Louisiana funding. GNO, Inc. affirms that the City’s proposed projects under the Hometown Revitalization Program and Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program will advance business growth, economic recovery, unmet infrastructure needs, and resilient community planning. GNO, Inc. also thanks the Louisiana Office of Community Development for administering funds and allocating monies to Southeast Louisiana local government across our ten parishes, including the City of New Orleans.

GNO, Inc., administrator of the 2013 Greater New Orleans Urban Water Plan with CBDG-DR funds, supports the City’s Stormwater Master Plan update, which will position the City for future funding opportunities and deployment of projects that reduce flood risk, property losses, and economic disruption. GNO, Inc. encourages planning for projects that address underlying issues of groundwater management and subsidence, in order to lessen risk of further infrastructure failures, from surface roadways to subsurface drainage, water, and sewer lines. The plan update will be helpful in incorporating pending and completed stormwater projects, like the Mirabeau Water Garden, the Pontilly Stormwater Network, and the Downtown Stormwater Improvement Project. While the plan update is under development, the City’s complementary proposals like Main Street Resilience can advance concentrated property-level, green

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infrastructure deployment, reducing flooding and business interruption rates for commercial corridors.

GNO, Inc. also supports Comprehensive Reforestation and implementation of the New Orleans Reforestation Plan. This project will remove concrete removal and expand green spacing, which can further reduce flood risk. In all, urban canopies can slow storm winds, lower air temperatures, absorb stormwater, and clean the air. This can also lower utility bills for businesses and residents alike, while particularly benefiting underserved, Justice40 communities, which are experiencing extreme heat island effect impacts. New Orleans is cited as having the worst heat island effect in the nation, with temperature differences of up to 16 degrees between neighborhoods. Addressing this, via reforestation, water management, and smart surfaces, may promote economic mobility and health outcomes in our region, while lowering cost burdens.

GNO, Inc. manages the 200-member New Orleans Food and Beverage (NOFAB) group and its related programming. We have worked closely with the City of New Orleans and other regional economic development partners over the last year to assess our region's technical assistance, resources, and physical infrastructure currently available to regional food entrepreneurs. NOFAB is supportive of the Orleans Parish Food Business Incubator project, which is a longstanding regional need that has been exacerbated by the closures of Edible Enterprises in St. Charles Parish, due to Hurricane Ida damage, and Fresh Food Factor near Downtown New Orleans. A new facility can support burgeoning brands and advance foodservice, prepared foods, and consumer packaged goods, as well as our region's storied history of culinary arts, food culture, and food manufacturers. Recognizing that Jefferson Economic Development Commission (JEDCO) in neighboring Jefferson Parish is now in the pre-construction and engineering phase to build a new food incubator on the Westbank of the Mississippi River, which will be focused on food consumer packaged goods (CPG) manufacturing businesses, the City of New Orleans may consider establishing a food incubator on the Eastbank, focused on foodservice and prepared foods businesses. Based on our needs assessment, this facility should be complete with a large-scale commercial kitchen; ample dry, cold, and frozen storage; warehouse; and office space. Ideally, these resources would be offered at below market-rate pricing to better support emerging entrepreneurs, particularly those from underserved communities.

GNO, Inc. compliments the City's proposals to improve energy resilience and structural resilience of buildings – commercial and residential – through many projects. Lowering energy costs, through solar installations and other adaptations, aligns with GNO, Inc.'s H2theFuture project, clustering a green hydrogen ecosystem in South Louisiana, and our Louisiana Future Energy initiative, broadcasting South Louisiana as an economic hub for new energy industry and innovation. Moreover, GNO, Inc. encourages coordination between the City's proposed projects and current State of Louisiana codes, laws, and programs that promote, or mandate, reduced property losses and insurance costs. Lower insurance costs, and less damage from storms, can enhance insurance coverage uptake and amount of coverage. This will improve policyholders' and the communal economy's ability to recover quickly and fully following a future storm.

Thus, GNO, Inc. recommends consideration of comments below when designing and implementing pertinent projects, which may include Resilience Hubs Renewable Backup Power, City Facilities Solar Installations, Hayne Blvd. Operations Complex Hardening, Business Façade Renewal, Small Business Power Resilience, Main Street Resilience, Small Landlord Residential Resilience Retrofits, Multifamily Residential Resilience, High Quality Resilient Resilience for Renters, Multilevel Commercial Building Resilience, and Disaster Recovery Microloans for

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Small and Loan Businesses. Any program affecting building upgrades or retrofits or any program with a relationship to roofs or structural implications should account for:

1. Uniform Construction Code – The Louisiana State Uniform Construction Code Council (LSUCCC) has adopted a new Uniform Construction Code, taking the State from the 2015 International Building and Residential Codes to the latest 2021 versions. LSUCCC has also adopted amendments that are beyond international standards and require Fortified construction techniques for stronger roofs in wind areas. Louisiana’s improvement has been commended by the Insurance Institute for Home and Building Safety (IBHS). With updated codes, all new construction and substantially damaged structures will have to be built to these standards. By investing in proactive adaptation and compliance with these standards, substantial damage may be prevented. From examples and accounts provided by stakeholders like the Homebuilders Association of Greater New Orleans, buildings built to these standards should have cheaper and more options from insurers.

2. Fortified Standards – Act 1 of the 2023 Regular Session, now part of RS 22:1483, requires insurers to provide discounts for Fortified roofs, a construction technique developed by IBHS. These mandatory discounts apply to Fortified home and Fortified commercial standards, so both residences and commercial buildings benefit from this mandatory discount.

3. Wind Mitigation Discounts – The State of Louisiana, since 2007, has mandated insurance premium discounts for residential properties that “install mitigation improvements or retrofit...to reduce the amount of loss from a windstorm or hurricane.” This requirement also lives within RS 22:1483. This discount is available once a “Wind Mitigation Surveyor” completes a “Louisiana Hurricane Loss Mitigation Survey Form,” and the form is submitted to the insurer. Per state law, “the mitigation improvements or construction techniques shall include but not be limited to roof deck attachments; secondary water barriers; roof coverings; brace gable ends; construction techniques which enhance or reinforce roof strength; roof-covering performance; roof-to-wall strength, wall-to-floor-to-foundation strength; opening protection; and window, door, and skylight strength.”

Improving the condition of commercial and residential properties, in advance of a storm, will proactively improve economic recovery, while reducing insurance costs for all property owners. It will allow the workforce in New Orleans to afford housing and experience minimized disruption and losses, so they can afford to remain in their homes during blue sky days and return quicker following a storm. It will lessen costs – in premiums and repairs – for business owners, too. We are committed to supporting the City’s Restore Louisiana projects and are eager to collaborate with all stakeholders to highlight benefits and ensure successful implementation. We believe that this package of projects will ensure a more resilient future for the Greater New Orleans region and our economy.

Sincerely,
Michael Hecht President & CEO

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it’s proposed uses. We will incorporate your suggestions into our projects while developing them.

Shana Hartmann
shanahartmann@yahoo.com

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Small businesses also need rent and payroll grants following storms, and ALL senior centers needs natural gas/solar/ backup generators to serve as cooling stations after storms. Finally, transportation needs to be provided to cooling centers for seniors (and potentially other people) especially in the East.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are currently developing projects that address the needs of all citizens post disaster.

Kelsey Foster

kfoster@algierseconomic.com

Investment in cold storage space is crucial to preventing product loss following a storm. If new spaces aren't able to be built, forming relationships with existing cold storage facilities is important for coordinating in the immediate day after a storm. Following the December tornado in Algiers, we arranged to move all meat and cheese products from the Algiers Meat Market (their entire holiday stock) to Crescent Towing's cold storage typically used for storing supplies for offshore work. Though another business owned by relatives ultimately took on the product, the ability to quickly arrange this partnership was important.

Cash assistance should be prioritized over even very advantageous disaster loans. Following the December tornado in Algiers, we worked with United Way SELA to distribute cash assistance grants to local business owners who sustained damage. The cash helped them immediately following the storm and before insurance claims paid out, when they needed it most. It also helped improve beyond existing conditions, which helped at least one business owner get out from under blight liens from the City. Following back-to-back disasters like Ida, Zeta, and COVID-19, many of our small businesses have maxed out their ability to take on debt. There are currently no commercial kitchen spaces publicly available for lease on the entire West Bank. An affordable commissary space would help small businesses like caterers, food trucks, and pop ups thrive during blue sky conditions while also absorbing overflow from any damaged commissaries following a storm and allow for disaster food aid prep from groups like World Central Kitchen. This project would have the single-largest impact on our small business community regardless of weather conditions.

Following Ida, access to gas was a major issue for people trying to leave the city or power generators. We could not establish contact with a single gas station owner in Algiers to arrange for them to receive a commercial generator, so while there was gas in tanks below ground, we couldn't help getting it to residents or first responders. Gas station owners should be required to own a commercial generator and to staff their businesses to enable their use following a storm, or a registry of gas station owners with active points of contact should be established to allow groups like ours to coordinate disaster response. Further funding of existing programming like the NORA Facade Renew program would be helpful to allow business owners to invest in signage or exterior renovations that may have taken a hit during a storm.

Formalizing communications with groups like the Algiers Economic Development Foundation who have direct contact with small business owners and community groups should be a priority for any programming funded through this funding to ensure meaningful connections with underserved communities like Algiers.

When considering programs for multifamily post-disaster relief, consider implications of funding known bad actors in the industry (those with significant tenant complaints, blight liens,

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code violations, etc.) and the impact of allowing disaster funds to cover delayed maintenance rightfully the responsibility of the owner while also ensuring that tenants are not punished for their management company's poor track record.

Most importantly, we ask that you ensure a focus on geographic equity when considering implementation of this funding across the City of New Orleans. While hurricanes, tornadoes, and other severe weather events impact us all, some communities have fewer resources to rely on even in blue sky conditions. Neighborhoods like Algiers and New Orleans East should be of especial focus when considering community access to post-disaster resources.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience efforts and clean energy usage with these funds many of your suggestions are being developed to create projects.

Tajma Johnson

Xaviolestates@gmail.com

Would like to see grant dollars go towards the development of LMI housing for storm affected areas.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Unfortunately,

Chris Justin

chris@emergentgrids.com

Would love to see this opportunity used to help small business owners be more self-sufficient in the face of what seems like more frequent outages. New Orleans will need a more resilient grid if we're to compete with the best cities for talent and new businesses. Distributed solutions that put more figurative and literal power in the hands of small business owners could help address both the need for growth and resilient solutions!

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses.

Jonathan Kirkland

jon.m.kirkland@gmail.com

The Institute of Utopian Hospitality is looking for funding to replicate its Environmental Resource Center (ERC) on blighted vacant lots throughout New Orleans. ERC's provide flood protection and fresh fruit and vegetables to food deserts in addition to creating jobs.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Unfortunately, the grant doesn't allow for an ERC, however, please keep an eye out on the Food Incubator project as this appears similar in nature.

Leroy Brown

leroy@ohub.at

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I am writing to express my endorsement for implementing the Pothole Pillow, an innovative solution to one of our community's most persistent and costly issues—potholes. The product is provided by Chim Okoye, Founder Oga Street Tech, LLC and OHUB NETI winner. As an advocate for enhancing road safety and community resilience, I am confident that the Pothole Pillow offers an effective and immediate answer to the challenges posed by deteriorating road conditions.

The Pothole Pillow fills and cushions potholes, providing a smoother and safer driving experience. This reduces the risk of vehicle damage and accidents, contributing to the well-being of all road users. This is especially important after heavy rains, when submerged potholes become virtual land mines for vehicles.

We propose conducting a pilot project on one of the most affected and difficult streets in our area. This project will involve key partnerships with Tulane University, Tulane Innovation Institute, and potentially Loyola University. Additionally, the support of District City Councilpersons and the Public Works Department will be instrumental in showcasing the benefits of the Pothole Pillow to a wider audience.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Unfortunately, the grant does not allow for this activity, however, please keep an eye out on future procurement actions as the City of New Orleans is working to alleviate this matter.

Michelle Stanton

mnixon1932@gmail.com

Disaster Recovery Grants for Small and Local Business

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. There's an alternative project that supports this comment.

Jami Attenberg

jamiattenberg@gmail.com

I support resilience hubs in my community!

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hubs.

Rosary Beck

robeck3@gmail.com

Solar for renters.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience efforts.

Paul Troyanon

ptroyano1@gmail.com

Resilience Hubs are a priority

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CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hubs.

Liam Norton

lnort72@gmail.com

Resilience hubs are critical to maintaining a strong, safe community in times of crisis. I think building out these hubs should be the main priority for funding.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hubs.

Troy L. Yancy

tyancyyouravon@yahoo.com

Harden public facilities: Retrofit existing public facilities to be more resilient to wind and flooding. This could include adding shutters and roof tie downs for wind hardening, and floodproofing and switches to turn off equipment in case of flooding. Improve flood protection infrastructure: Rebuild barrier islands and wetlands, construct levees and flood gates, and raise houses. Enhance evacuation plans: Develop evacuation plans before a hurricane enters the Gulf. Strengthen building codes: Ensure that future public facilities are resilient to wind and flooding. Educate the public: Provide information about how to prepare for power and water outages. Address climate change: Sustainably fund resilience measures and coordinate among government agencies

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We have a project that supports your suggestion.

Wendy King

wking70118@yahoo.com

The Resilience Hubs will enable residents to keep their vital electronic devices charged, and to have their cell phones ready for use. The community lighthouses will be a vital resource during disasters and emergencies.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hubs.

Chris Cantin

ccantin@solalt.com

Community Solar and Community Lighthouse Projects are so important for the resilience of our community. These are great initiatives!

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience efforts and clean energy usage with these funds.

Connie Corkern

cjcorkern9@att.net

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Having Hubs to house people without power could possibly be the biggest impact based on all options.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub

Logan A. Burke

Logan@all4energy.org

Homes in our city need significant investments to be ready for climate change year-round, not just in storm season. This is true for health and safety, but also to address the home insurance crisis. We must invest in resilience for both renters and homeowners. The Alliance for Affordable Energy's top priority is investments in housing stock that protect life and safety, reduces energy bills, and transitions to energy sources that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This can look like addressing structural damage to roofs, making buildings more efficient, and installing solar and storage. Where rooftop solar is not possible, Community Solar is an important tool to make that clean and affordable energy available to everyone.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience efforts and clean energy usage with these funds.

Elizabeth Galante

beth@secureenergysolutions.net

Rooftop solar + energy efficiency + battery backups should be top priorities.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience efforts and clean energy usage with these funds.

Monica Lawal

monicalawal53@gmail.com

All of these are important for the city of New Orleans, especially with hurricane season upon us. We need infrastructure work done badly and quickly.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience efforts and clean energy usage with these funds.

Christiane Geisler

cgeisler08@gmail.com

I am particularly supportive of the Lighthouse project, which will provide all residents with electricity, and respite in case of power loss after a hurricane. Please continue to fund this important program.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience efforts and clean energy usage with these funds.

Sarah Carter

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sarah3@ipa.net

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During Ida, because we have a whole house generator, we turned our front porch into a neighborhood cooling and charging station, providing fans, power strips and cold water and internet access. From the number of people (many Strangers) I saw how valuable and needed neighborhood resilience hubs could be. This is why I give that high priority.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Erin Hansen

erin.ruth.hansen@gmail.com

Together New Orleans is building neighborhood-level resilience through its Community Lighthouse program, and I would like to see Community Lighthouse win some of this funding. Community Lighthouse makes a difference to me because we already have one up and running at my church, First Grace United Methodist Church. Next time a storm comes, we will be able to provide essential services for people in the neighborhood. We already canvassed around the church and met many people who we know we'll be able to help if the power goes out. To me, having Community Lighthouse in New Orleans means that I can envision this being a safe and comfortable place to continue living and to raise a family, even as climate change makes it harder and harder to survive.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Unfortunately, our plan is to provide essential services in a community center this will allow everyone access as these are federal funds.

Desha Greely

desha.greely@gmail.com

Climate change education

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses.

Allison Freeman

allimfreeman@gmail.com

Having hubs for folks to safely be after storm will be a huge help for elderly, infirm, or those in need.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Sharon Kirkpatrick

Skirkpatrick09@gmail.com

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The resilience hubs are crucial. People need access to power to charge phones and stay informed during a disaster.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Katelynd Sandusky

ufsharkbait@gmail.com

Community Lighthouse resilience hubs are especially important for residents with medical and other needs that require power even in times of crisis. For example, two people in my immediate family have medical needs that require power recharging and refrigeration.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience efforts post disaster.

Mimi Ayers

Mimiayers@gmail.com

Some senior housing was destroyed and never restored.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Unfortunately, the proposed projects must have a tie back to the storm and the storms that affected our area were solar based. Therefore, the projects address these concerns directly. Please be on the look out for affordable housing for future CDBG funds.

Ian deBoisblanc

iandeboisblanc@gmail.com

Reforestation has so many positive impacts—stormwater management, city beautification, heat-island-effect mitigation.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the long term positive impacts of the Reforestation Project.

Chim Okoye

chim@ogastreettech.com

Hurricane erosion, constant flooding and freeze-thaw cycles lead to many large dangerous potholes. Using Pothole Pillows, the fastest pothole filler and the ONLY reusable pothole filler known to man, road crews or a contractor could fill more potholes faster, with easily deployable reusable material, for life.

CNO Replied:

Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Unfortunately, this grant does not have a focus on pothole recovery.

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Christina Kiel

christina.kiel@gmail.com

I strongly support the Community Lighthouse resilience hubs that keep power on in neighborhoods

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Alex

(614) 439-8123 tealxharrison@gmail.com

prioritize resilience hubs and resources /services for renters as well as the unhoused

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience efforts with these disaster funds.

Jacob Webster

Jake@jakewebster.com

Continue on the path set by Together New Orleans for community solar lighthouses (and Krewe of Red Beans "Lit" efforts).

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Dr. Cathy Hightower

cshightow@bellsouth.net

Creating solar hubs you proved power for seniors and children is critical to avoiding the suffering created for most citizens who do not have any source of power after hurricanes knock out power

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Michelle Jackson

Michelle@ohub.at

I am writing in support of the Pothole Pillow technology as a pilot program for the city of New Orleans. This product is designed by a recipient of the OHUB New Energy Technology Incubator, a part of GNO Inc's H2thefuture program.

CNO Replied:

Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Unfortunately, this grant does not have a focus on pothole recovery.

OFFICE OF HOUSING POLICY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

LATOYA CANTRELL
MAYOR

Elizabeth Argus

Eargus.Ea@gmail.com

Resilience hubs renewable backup power are a proven initiative, and they benefit people who actually live and work here.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Gary de Leumont

mrmimi28172gmail.com

Community centers, drug stores, police and fire stations should be some of the first to receive resilient grants.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hubs as they will be used on community centers.

Anna

Gretna, LA

annalise.lellelid@gmail.com

Please find the community lighthouse program. It creates community hubs for people to access electricity provided by solar panels as well as other support that may be needed.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Janice Taylor Brown

zfire_1@msn.com

More funding for hurricane residents that fall short of repairing their homes. With the cost of insurance, it is awful what homeowners are going through right now. Fix all streets and levees in this city

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Please be on the look for future funds that address your concerns.

Hannah Miller

hannahgvm@gmail.com

Resilience Hubs give the city its own lifeline and give power back to the people! It gives a way that we can aid ourselves and each other, we have a way to get to air-conditioning and charging without waiting on federal aid.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

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Shana Sassoon

shanasassoon@gmail.com

We know we need back-up power and I believe community resilience hubs are essential for people to have access to it.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Cynthia Scott

cynthiascott2000@bellsouth.net

Do not allow City Park to move or alter Grow Dat!

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses.

David duPlantier

cccdean@aol.com

Community light house projects are extremely important and innovative

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

M'issa Fleming

missalined@yahoo.com

The item that most closely aligns with my interest in the Community Lighthouse plan is #1 (Resilience Hubs Renewable Backup Power). Having a resilience hub in my neighborhood could make a significant difference for me and my neighbors. Many of the folks on my block are older and are not able to easily walk to the cooling centers that generally operate after storms. If all of the community lighthouses get funded, we run a greater chance of being close enough to walk to a place that reliably has cooling and power. Thanks for your consideration.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Gary Lloyd

avlreiki@gmail.com

The resilience hubs, like the Solar Lighthouse project of Together New Orleans are very important. There were many disabled people who were in great difficulty after hurricane Ida. We need to help safeguard them. Also Community solar projects that provide solar PV access for

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those who are financially challenged need to have access expanded to provide them with less expensive electricity.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Margaret Washington

mfwashy1@gmail.com

The canals of the city, especially in the East need to be dredged to remove the vegetation so that the water can flow unobstructed.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Unfortunately, the current grant does not address dredging of vegetation. Please be on the look out for future funding that may address your comment.

Katey Lantto

klantto@harrytompsoncenter.org

Supporting existing Community Hubs to become Community Resiliency Lighthouses sounds like an excellent idea, one that deserves extra funding and attention because many existing community center hubs do major legwork to keep neighborhoods afloat after disasters. I work at the Rebuild Center, the main day shelter in New Orleans that provides basic resources like meals and showers to unhoused and low-income community members. We operate like a community center in many ways and do our best to come back quickly after disasters to be able to meet the needs of our community. We are located at 1803 Gravier St, and have in the past been able to provide services to our community immediately after disasters because we often maintain power when the majority of the city is in the dark because we're on the same power grid as the hospitals. I hope you consider the Rebuild Center as one of the 85 Community Lighthouses.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Dana Eness

Noladana@gmail.com

Please invest in the Community Resilience Hubs! This so important to ensure New Orleans' most vulnerable can weather increasingly dangerous climate impacts

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We are also excited about the resilience hub.

Kevin Fitzpatrick

knbfitz@yahoo.com

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For most of us, loss of power is an inconvenience, but for some people it is a matter of life and death. As long as we are on the frontlines of climate change, we need to have solutions to learn to live with frequent storms and power loss.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Please view the resilient hubs project as the entire grant uses this as a focus. We value your input and will consider them when submitting the proposal.

Kati Johnston

Katimjo@yahoo.com

It seems to be community-based hubs and solar solutions should be top priority. Stormwater master plan as well as my neighborhood keeps flooding.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. The focus on resilient hubs is a priority. We value your input and will consider them when submitting the proposal.

Bryen Hoffmann

bryen123@aol.com

Resilient Hubs with renewable backup power is very important for the community. Luckily after IDA we had neighbors with gas powered generators that let us charge our devices and use the internet.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We value your input and will consider them when submitting the proposal.

Brad Ott

bradott@bellsouth.net

Please make sure that Algiers and eastern New Orleans also has enhanced support for "Community Lighthouses" during and following storms

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We value your input and will consider them when submitting the proposal.

Charlotte Fournier

cfournier91@gmail.com

Community Lighthouse program is already working to make resilience hubs in the city and should be supported in their work.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We value your input and will consider them when submitting the proposal.

Zera Johnson

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

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zerajohnson90@gmail.com

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I support these priorities because they address issues of environmental resiliency in communities impacted by longstanding disinvestment. This disinvestment has led to higher instances of disaster-related fatalities, housing damage that destabilizes normal and critical life activities (like going to school and work), resident displacement, and insurmountable economic setbacks that result in business and job loss.

In addition to the stated priorities, I recommend including projects that combine environmental resiliency, beautification, and community gathering. These projects should be supported by culturally responsive community engagement efforts that encourage community input for location, design, and usage, along with education on its importance and how to contribute to its longevity and success. An example would be transforming an underutilized vacant lot into a thriving community green space and garden. This space would feature native plants, vegetable beds, and seating areas to create a welcoming environment for residents to gather, learn, and enjoy nature.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Please visit our Office of Community Development website ([Community Development - City of New Orleans \(nola.gov\)](http://CommunityDevelopment-CityofNewOrleans.nola.gov)) and view some of our NDR projects focusing on some of your mentioned recommendations. We value your input and will consider them when submitting the proposal.

Jourdan Bazley

jourdanbazley96@gmail.com

We need to provide accessible emergency hubs by engaging with community and neighborhood associations with a focus first on low-income areas as they are often most affected. If we were able to use existing neighborhood associations networks/connections with the community, we can easily have a point of contact to disseminate information in times of emergency.

In the time of disaster, accessibility becomes harder and staying in the neighborhood could help. This includes food rescue and donation stations, microgrid energy with solar generator options, EV accessibility, emergency response stations and accessible roads. Maybe consider investing in solar generators to power public facilities in times of disaster.

Resources available to small businesses to help reinvest in their actual brick/mortar locations would be best deployed by nonprofits. We should look to local nonprofits (which you can easily access a network through Love Your City) that are already administering grants to businesses. If we can provide maps showing covered areas, where CDBG-DR can be applied, these nonprofits can easily funnel money to partners they are already working with.

Community fridges already took off during the last several hurricanes. Communities were stocking and managing fridges for the public to access at any point in time while the disaster was ongoing – free of charge. You can find this information on social media. Use this informal set-up that was already established and formalize it by backing it with funding. A local NGO or CDC could easily step in to manage. Post an RFP.

In tandem with the comprehensive reforestation goals/plans, consider incentivizing retrofits that incorporate green rooftops, establishing a tree fund for developers to pull from as

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part of the multifamily residential resilience, and integrate incentives to in commercial development initiatives.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Orleans Parish as a whole qualifies for LMI related funding, and we have proposed projects and resilient hubs projects to tackle some of these needs. We value your input and will consider them when submitting the proposal.

Lisa Y Williamson
Knb005@gmail.com

It's of quintessential importance for the city to support this initiative in order to build and sustain recovery centers for our communities.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We value your input and will consider them when submitting the proposal.

Keely Lewis
utopiantemple@gmail.com

I'm frustrated by the lack of investment into a comprehensive program to address our climate needs. Not only do we need a massive community education program, we also need to diversify the city's green infrastructure program while building our green workforce. I'm at my whit's end because rather than embracing a wholistic approach to solving this issue, it seems the city (government, ngo, and businesses alike) prefers to let the land and her people suffer while refusing to act for the good of all.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We have \$141 million invested in Green Infrastructure and can be viewed on our website for more information: [Community Development - Restore Louisiana - City of New Orleans \(nola.gov\)](http://CommunityDevelopment-RestoreLouisiana-CityofNewOrleans.nola.gov)

Rosane Archery-McGowan (Co-Chair Climate Reality GNO Chapter)
rmcgowan@tfresources.com

1. Accelerate the City's implementation of City of New Orleans' Climate Action Plan. This plan contains the big ideas that address the root cause of climate disasters.
2. Provide seed grants, start-up lab, and workforce development to help spark new ventures in the clean energy and sustainable living.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. We have a microgrid project as well as Resilience Hubs that support clean energy.

Tajma Johnson
Xaviorestates@gmail.com

Development of LMI housing and grant funding to developers in that industry of LMI housing

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CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Unfortunately, LMI housing is not a part of this current allocation.

Harley Winer

harley.mesh@cox.net

Hello, I found the link to your comment card but in order to use the comment card I would have to print it and then scan it after filling it out. Without a printer or a scanner, I would not be able to add my two cents worth to the discussion. Currently my printer and scanner are out of commission.

I do have a suggestion on how to spend 33 million on resiliency. That would be to invest in solar panels for neighborhood bars, restaurants and/or other meeting places or establishments that would be open to the public, so that if electricity is lost due to a storm, people in the neighborhood will be able to charge their phones and have air conditioning, and the restaurants will not lose the food in the freezers and refrigerators.

CNO Replied: Thanks for your feedback concerning our Restore LA. Funds and it's proposed uses. Please note there is an interactive comment card that can be found on the Restore Louisiana website. [Community Development - Restore Louisiana - City of New Orleans \(nola.gov\)](http://CommunityDevelopment-RestoreLouisiana-CityofNewOrleans.nola.gov) Due to grant restrictions, we cannot invest in bars. Please read the resilient hubs project description and this will assist with your suggestions along with the food incubator project description.

Please see items discussed on the May 9th in-person second public meeting.

1. Use of waiver to use public buildings
2. Solar hubs and equity to not leave New Orleans East out of the equation due to continued awareness of flooding dangers and flooding recovery focus
3. Use of funds for roof replacements as storms affected LMI homeowners
4. The accountability of funds in the community of multi-family homes and commercial properties
5. Resilient Hubs and power cooling options included in amenities for the hubs
6. Overview of the 4 actual hub locations for commercial generators
7. Explanation of no small cash grants in funds for small businesses
8. Having no access to gasoline for residents