Louisiana Division of Administration
Office of Community Development

Highlighting LOCD's Clearance Program

HEATHER PAUL, DIRECTOR OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

1

About LOCD

The Louisiana Office of Community Development uses federal funding to administer programs and initiatives that strengthen Louisiana communities through recovery, resilience and rehabilitation in the following areas:

Disaster Recovery	Resilience and Mitigation	Local Government Assistance

Our mission is to help Louisiana communities recover, rebuild and implement long-term resilience planning, while also supporting critical local projects that improve our infrastructure and expand opportunities statewide.

2

Highlighting LOCD-LGA

Louisiana Division of Administration
Office of Community Development
Local Government Assistance

LOCD-LGA is dedicated to strengthening Louisiana's communities from the ground up.

We work to improve quality of life for residents through state and federal grants. Our programs support local governments in meeting high-priority needs, enhancing living environments, expanding economic opportunities and investing in critical infrastructure such as water systems:

- CDBG and CDBG-CV Programs
- Water Sector Program
- Local Government Assistance Program
- Recovery Housing Program
- Environmental Protection Agency Program
- Community Water Enrichment Fund

To date, the Local Government Assistance team has awarded more than **$806 million** to **180 water systems** and **89 sewer systems** through the Water Sector Program; invested over **$5.2 million** supporting acquisition of **7 properties** through the Recovery Housing Program; and provided more than **$224 million** in Public Facilities grants and **$46 million** in CDBG-CV grants supporting HVAC upgrades, parks, homeless shelters, food banks and business incubators.

3

CDBG Programs

Through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, LOCD-LGA partners with local governments to deliver projects that:

- **Reinforce vital infrastructure,**
- **Expand economic opportunities and**
- **Improve the overall quality of life for residents.**

Approximate Annual Allocation: $22 Million

Public Facilities: Funds infrastructure projects such as sewer systems, potable water systems and street improvements to benefit communities.

Clearance Program: Supports demolition and clearance activities to eliminate blight and revitalize distressed areas.

Economic Development: Provides grants to eligible recipients for infrastructure improvements that will assist for-profit businesses. Examples include sewer, water and street/road access on public property to the private industrial/business site boundaries.

Make a Difference: Offers flexible grants for non-entitlement local governments to carry out multiple eligible community development activities under one application.

4

About the Clearance Program

The Clearance Program provides CDBG funding to Louisiana communities for the demolition and removal of blighted residential or commercial structures that threaten public safety, health or welfare.

This program helps communities eliminate slum and blight conditions, improve neighborhood safety and create opportunities for future redevelopment where deteriorated structures pose risks to residents.

National Objective: Spot Slum and Blight

CDBG Eligible Activity: 105(a)(4) Clearance



5

How the Program Started

The program was started as a pilot in 2019 at the request of the Louisiana Municipal Association.

The original pilot included four cities determined to have sufficient capacity to run the program.

While one of the cities terminated the project due to a disaster, the other three projects completed successfully.

Based on these results, we began to set aside

$6 MILLION

per year for the Clearance Program.

Awards began FY 2023.

6

Program Funding

The Clearance Program provides funds to eligible applicants for clearance and demolition activities through a competitive selection process, subject to the availability of funds.

Funding is broken out into two categories:



Non-entitlement Villages and Towns



Non-entitlement Cities and Parishes



Grant awards range from

$150,000 - $750,000

7

Application Scoring

Maximum points available: **116**

max
100
points

Impact to Low/Moderate Income Persons

max
10
points

Prior Approval to Demolish All Structures

max
2
points each

- Legal Fees Paid Locally
- Application Completeness
- Past Performance

8

Implementation

Since inception, all eligible applications have received awards.

Each year, LOCD hosts an application workshop prior to application deadlines to support technical assistance. **Applicants are not required to attend.**

No administrative costs are eligible for reimbursement.

We strongly recommend that subrecipients procure a consultant to administer the award unless they can demonstrate the capacity to do so within their agency.

Legal fees, testing and remediation costs are allowed.

If awarded, subrecipients are required to attend an implementation workshop.

9

Challenges of Implementation

- Often times, subrecipients want to use their own staff/labor for demolition to save costs.
- Local funds must be committed for program administrative costs.
- A lack of capacity and a lack of understanding regarding federal procurement can create delays or require re-procurement.
- Providing technical assistance can be administratively burdensome to the state given the small award amounts.
- Subrecipients demonstrate a lack of urgency to complete the projects within the required timeline.
- Typically, a lack of capacity and environmental review/documentation are the biggest hurdles.

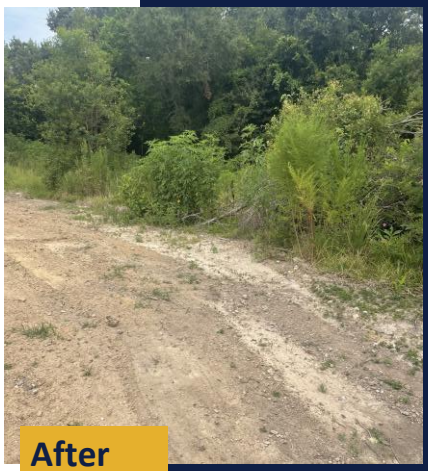
10

Project Spotlight

717 2nd St



Before



After

11

Project Spotlight

604 1st St



Before

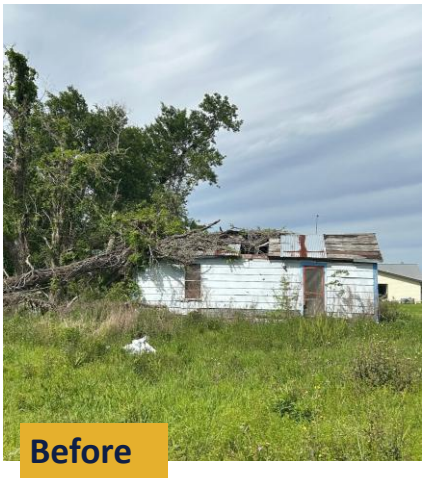


After

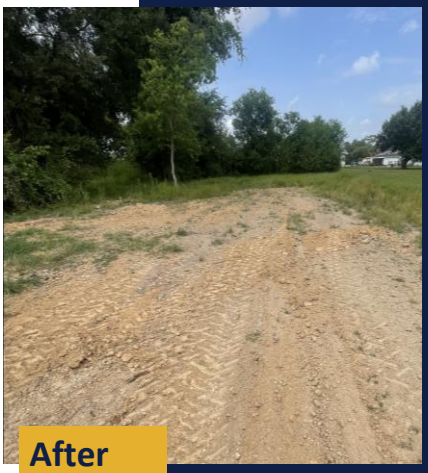
12

Project Spotlight

613 3rd St



Before

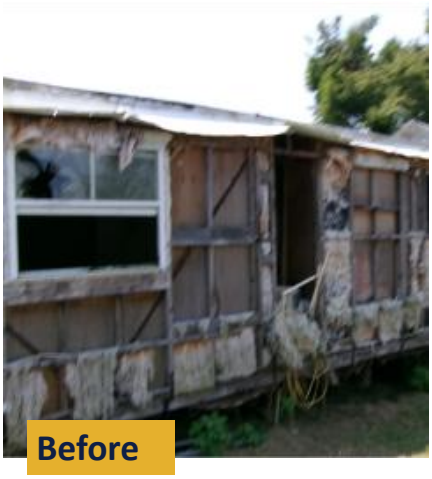


After

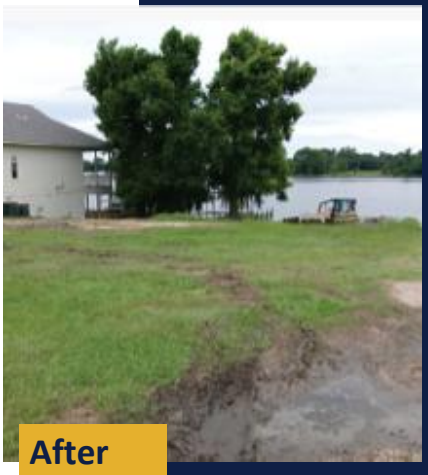
13

Project Spotlight

Point Coupee



Before



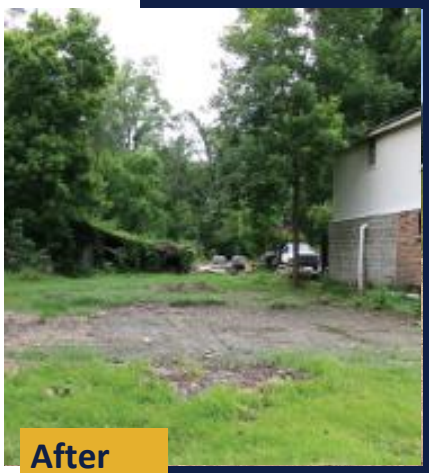
After

14

Project Spotlight

Point Coupee





15

By the Numbers

18

2023 Awards
- 1 terminated
- 4 successfully completed and closed out
- 13 ongoing

6

2024 Awards
- 6 ongoing

8

2025 Awards
- 8 ongoing

3

2026 Awards
- 3 ongoing

16

Stay in the Know

Scan the QR code to sign up for updates.

Follow us for program updates, resource suggestions and to see us in action.

- facebook.com/locddr
- linkedin.com/company/locddr

17