



Lafourche Parish, Louisiana

HUD CDBG-DR Funding

Public Hearing

Questions and Answers

Date: February 29, 2024

Time: 5:30 p.m.

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

15 members of the public attended.

Kristi Lumpkin, Lafourche Parish Government Grants & Economic Development (ED) Director, presented information regarding the program, including previous questions and comments from the prior public hearing held on July 12, 2023.

- Requirements for funding, including National Objective and how to meet the requirement.
- Two types of programs – RCIP and HRP and the funding amount for the two programs.
- Discussed the projects that came out of other planning efforts, including the previous public hearing.
- Timeline was presented. All funds are to be expended by May 31, 2027.
- Ms. Lumpkin went through the Q&A from the 7/12/2023 public hearing. Since July 2023, a business incubator has opened.

Q&A

Q: What is the total allocation?

A: \$43,385,290.25

Q: Do we have to sign the CEA for each allocation?

A: We have signed one for the first and second allocation and are waiting on the next to be sent and executed soon.

Q: Is there a date for the proposal to be submitted?

A: First round is in. Second has been extended and will be submitted at the end of March. An addendum will be made to the original proposal.

Q: Have the proposals been approved by the Parish Council?

A: Lafourche Parish Government Council has approved all projects.

Q: Will we have potential projects for other meetings? What about projects that already have other funding sources, i.e. the pharmacy for Lady of the Sea or the Raceland ballfield?

A: We cannot have a Duplication of Benefits situation. For the hospital, the new clinic will include a pharmacy. The Raceland ballfield will be developed into a nicer recreation area that can hopefully support tournaments. It will be redesigned.

Q: There is an issue from a parks & recreation use perspective – the gyms are being used for other scheduled activities (like aerobics) and the kids can't use the gym because of the other programs. Can we make another building or expand the space?

A: We have no plans to expand or build an additional building.

Q: Can we get a new head start building in Raceland and Lockport?

A: A more resilient building can be built on the same footprint. The portable classrooms would no longer exist.

Q: Regarding the Wallace Center, will there be another building in the field that was purchased beside it?

A: We do not know.

Q: Can the money be used to bring back Rouse's?

A: Lafourche Parish Economic Development is working with the property owner to get another grocery store in that area.

Q: Mobile home park doesn't have a bus stop connected to the main Thibodaux line. Can this funding be used for a bus stop there?

A: We need the details of your location and we can investigate it. Will email the Q&A to all participants that will have the information you send and what information we find out.

Ms. Lumpkin shared the list of potential projects:

1. Lady of the Sea Medical Clinic and Pharmacy
2. Raceland (241 Recreation Dr.) Park Improvements
3. New Head Start building in Lockport/Raceland
4. Thibodaux Community Recreation and Education Center, including Head Start and Early Head Start facilities that could also serve as an emergency shelter
5. Homeplace Pump Station Access Road
6. FTCC Workforce Training Program

Q: Workforce training programs should be in areas closer to the residents.

A: Fletcher Technical Community College (FTCC) is providing mobile training opportunities.

Q: Would it be possible to expand workforce training opportunities into the more southerly areas of the parish? Could we possibly use existing buildings for that purpose?

A: Fletcher is trying to use mobile classrooms and is making an effort to expand, but the movement is unfortunately slow.

Comment: There aren't afterschool programs and it would be good for teachers to train as an example - the Wallace Center which isn't open after 5 p.m. or on the weekends. Needs to be conversations with the public school, Nichols and other education providers.

Comment: Park in Lewistown is rundown and the children have nowhere to go for recreation or activities. Need to focus on activities for the kids.

A: We will look into that.

Q: Do the potential projects have to go back to the council?

A: The council has approved.

Q: Communication systems went down during the storms and need to be addressed.

A: The Parish has addressed communication systems.

Q: Can we look into building a saferoom for first responders in the South Lafourche area? First responders need access to electricity.

A: With Hurricane Zeta funds, the parish has submitted a proposal to build a saferoom at the airport, and a saferoom in Mathews is also in the process of being developed and built. C: There are no fire station buildings.

A: Lafourche Parish has submitted an application through GOHSEP to build a safe room in south Lafourche.

C: Need transportation from S. Lafourche to Thibodaux.

A: Action community group put together a plan but hasn't had an opportunity to bring to the Parish president.

Q: We as a parish need to start looking more long term. We need to develop more along the 90 corridor. We need to invest more in Raceland because the community is stagnant. I understand that is mostly privately owned, but why couldn't the parish purchase it and develop it to add more business to the Raceland area? Why can't the parish be more proactive rather than reactive?

A: We have been investigating the possibility of developing this land, but we can only move on this when the owners are ready.

Q: Can money be used for the Parish bridges in South Lafourche? Specifically, the Galliano and Valentine Bridges are big issues and cause difficulty for the residents as it raises the cost of travel in gas and time and is an impediment to emergency services access. South Lafourche is in a transportation crisis – especially considering this is a main evacuation route.

A: There is a RAISE grant to replace the Valentine Pontoon Bridge. The revisions to this project continue to go back and forth with DOTD. For these CDBG funds, we are limited to projects within

an LMI area and ties to the storm and resiliency. We understand the crisis and are actively looking for ways to fund solutions.

C: Homeless – church put lady in a hotel because there was no where for her to go. There are no facilities for a single woman but the community is working on funding to get one. Beautiful Beginnings used to be available for women and children but must also serve a father and children. The new facility will probably be in Terrebonne Parish.

C: Raceland pays the same amount of taxes as Thibodaux and Houma but there's nothing here.

C: There is leftover debris from Hurricane Ida that's not being picked up.

A: You can submit a work order to the Dept. of Public Works online (<https://www.lafourchegov.org/public-works>) and tell them where the areas are. This funding can't be used for demolition.

C: Ida destroyed the hotel in Thibodaux. Why not make it into a homeless shelter or something?

A: That will need to be addressed with the City of Thibodaux and there are probably on-going discussions regarding that.

Q: Does this funding help with small business?

A: South Central Planning & Development Commission (<https://www.scpdc.org/>) has programs that can help. ED is bringing in speakers to assist small businesses. Bayou Region Incubator in downtown Thibodaux will be discussed during the meetings held by the Economic Development Department.

Comments can be submitted via email at lumpkinkm@lafourchegov.org or by mail at Office of Grants & Economic Development, P.O. Drawer 5548, Thibodaux, LA 70302 until March 7, 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.