2025–2029

CONSOLIDATED DEVELOPMENT PLAN & 2025 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

EAST BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

Developed for the Office of Community Development for the City-Parish of East Baton Rouge

EAST BATON ROUGE
MAYOR-PRESIDENT'S
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Thank you to all of the community members who participated in the survey and community workshops. Your input was an invaluable component to the Consolidated Development and Action Plan for East Baton Rouge.

MAYOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Kelly LeDuff, Director of the Office of Community Development
Laci Sherman, Community Development Program Manager - Special Projects
Daryl Blacher, Chief Grant Administrator
Debra Holden, Program Analyst - Compliance
Denise Vermon, Senior Admin Specialist - Rehab
Jennifer Robin, Chief Program Analyst
Kasadey Grear, Confidential Secretary
Leonard Briscoe, Community Development Program Manager - Rehab
Matthew Wheeler, Community Development Program Manager - Development
Pamela Davis, Grants Administrator
Rebekah Strickland, Community Development Program Manager - Services
Tian Hatch, Program Analyst - Contracts

SPECIAL THANKS TO

East Baton Rouge Parish Library
Department of Information Services

PLAN PARTICIPANTS

Honorable Emile "Sid" Edwards, Mayor-President of East Baton Rouge Parish
Ada Bell, Louisiana Small Business Development Center
Alfredo Cruz , Lets Fix It!
April Hawthorne, Baton Rouge North Economic Development District
Bianca Chandler, Capital Area United Way
Brandon Songy , Capital Area Transit System
Carl Dillon, UREC
Carrie Patterson, Lousiana Housing Corporation
Charlotte Claiborne, Bridge Center for Hope
Cheri Soileau, Capital Area Transit System
Chisolu Isiadinso, DreamHer
Doris Mejia, East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority
Falon Brown, Mayor's Office
Fred Raiford , Transportation and Drainage
Girlie Anderson, EmployEBR
Jamie Barney, HAART
Jasmine Thomas, Planning Commission
Jordyn Mancuso, Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank
Karen Lee, South Burbank Crime District/Gardere Initiative
Kendra Hendricks, Build Baton Rouge
Lakeisha Robicheaux, Chief of Minds
Marlee Miller, Build Baton Rouge
Mattie Hawkins, Louisiana Public Health Institute
Rachel Lambert, Department of Development
Rene Taylor, Family Services of Baton Rouge
Rinaldi Jacobs, Real Women Connecting
Sarah Harrell, LSU Social Research & Evaluation Center (Youth Programs)
Suzanne Hamilton, Capital Area Family Justice
Tekoah Boarner, Youth Oasis
Thomas Pate , HAART/Open Health
Vance Baldwin, Planning Commission
Veronica Mathis , East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority
Whitney Hoffman Sayal, Downtown Development District
Woodrow Muhammed, Capital Region Planning Commission
Justin Priola, Information Services

This plan was produced by Bayou Rouge Environmental & Planning and Atlas Community Studios in partnership with the East Baton Rouge Mayor-President's Office of Community Development.

PLANNING TEAM

Maggie Gleason, AICP, Bayou Rouge Environmental & Planning
Savannah R. Morales, PWS, Bayou Rouge Environmental & Planning
Alex Holland, Atlas Community Studios
Jamie Greene, Atlas Community Studios
Lindsey Lowery, Atlas Community Studios
Meghan Risinger, Atlas Community Studios

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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INTRODUCTION

In accordance with federal regulations, the City-Parish of East Baton Rouge, a designated entitlement community and participating jurisdiction, must prepare a Five-Year Consolidated Plan and an Annual Action Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This designation allows Baton Rouge to receive formula grant funds, administered by the Mayor's Office of Community Development, for the following programs:

- Community Development Block Grant
- HOME Investment Partnership Program
- Emergency Solutions Grant
- Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS

The Five-Year Consolidated Plan, for fiscal year 2025 through fiscal year 2029, is a comprehensive document that describes the city's housing market conditions, identifies the need for affordable housing and community development, and offers strategies to address these needs over a five-year period. The plan coordinates several of Baton Rouge's housing, economic development, transportation, and other plans with public, private, and nonprofit service providers.

Additionally, Baton Rouge produces the required Annual Action Plan, along with the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report, to provide specific information on how the funds awarded each year will be used to meet the priority needs identified in the Consolidated Plan. The resulting Consolidated Plan creates a unified vision for community development and housing actions, with the primary goal of improving the lives of low-to-moderate income households in Baton Rouge.

Executive Order Assurances

The city of Baton Rouge agrees that its compliance in all respects with all applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws is material to the U.S. Government's payment decisions for purposes of section 3729(b)(4) of title 31, United States Code.

The city of Baton Rouge will not operate any programs that violate any applicable Federal anti-discrimination laws, including Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The city of Baton Rouge shall administer its grant in accordance with all applicable immigration restrictions and requirements, including the eligibility and certification requirement that apply under title IV of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, as amended (8 U.S. C. 1601-1646) (PRWORA) and any applicable requirements that HUD, the Attorney General, or the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services may establish from time to time to comply with PRWORA, Executive Order 14218 or other Executive Orders or immigration laws. The city will not use funding under this grant in a manner that by design or effect facilitates the subsidization or promotion of illegal immigration or abets policies that seek to shield illegal aliens from deportation. Unless excepted by PRWORA, the city must use SAVE, or an equivalent verification system approved by the Federal government, to prevent any Federal public benefit from being provided to an ineligible alien who entered the United States illegally or is otherwise unlawfully present in the United States.

The city of Baton Rouge shall not use grant funds to promote "gender ideology," as defined in Executive Order (E.O.) 14168, Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.

SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES IDENTIFIED IN THE PLAN NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The assessment revealed widespread housing cost burdens, particularly among renters earning less than 30% of the area median income, and highlighted how aging housing, limited funding, and demographic disparities exacerbate the crisis. Cost-burdened households and low-income renters and homeowners must make significant sacrifices to pay for housing, leaving minimal funds for other necessities such as medical care, transportation, childcare, and food.

The needs assessment also documented the disproportionate impact of housing challenges on our Black/African American and Hispanic households and special populations with complex service needs. Public engagement efforts surfaced additional priorities beyond housing, such as legal aid, youth services, and infrastructure improvements, underscoring the need for a holistic strategy that integrates affordable housing development with supportive services and neighborhood investment.

TO ADDRESS THESE CHALLENGES, THE BATON ROUGE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WILL ASSIST IN PROJECTS AIMED AT:

REHABILITATING EXISTING HOMES

ADDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS TO THE STOCK

PROVIDING ANTI-DISPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE UNDERGOING HOME REHABILITATIONS

CONTINUING TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH HIV/AIDS

SUPPORTING LOCAL EFFORTS TO SERVE HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

EVALUATION OF PAST PERFORMANCE

The Office of Community Development and its partners implemented rehabilitation, homeownership, housing development programs, rental assistance, and housing for homeless persons, families, and other special needs populations.

PAST PERFORMANCE AND SUCCESS IN THIS AREA INCLUDE:

TRANSFORMATIVE HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

Secured $6 million in funding to develop 132 affordable housing units in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Supported YWCA's 36-unit Providence Place Apartments for women and families in crisis.

Broke ground on the Ardendale Choice Neighborhood with 96 mixed-income units.

EXPANDED HOME REPAIR SERVICES

Completed initial lead remediation projects with full compliance.

Rehabilitated 17 low-income homes through streamlined partnerships.

Received a $1.5 million Lead Home Repair Grant and leveraged $12 million more with nonprofit partners.

HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVES

Launched Home First BR, housing 105 homeless or chronically homeless residents.

Advanced the development of Baton Rouge's first non-congregate shelter.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPROVEMENTS & COMPLIANCE

Passed the HUD CDBG Timeliness Test for the first time in six years.

Doubled the department's staff from 4 to 9, expanding to 16 by 2025.

Launched an online grant portal to enhance transparency and reduce confusion.

Closed 3 Disaster Recovery programs, saving the Parish millions by avoiding additional repayments.

YOUTH & COMMUNITY INVESTMENT

Allocated $1 million to renovate the Youth City Lab, and construct the new Inspiration Center and for underserved youth and families.

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Redesigned the department's website and launched a newsletter for updates. Hosted public workshops, focus groups, and awarded 22 MLK Day of Service grants.

ADVISORY & COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP

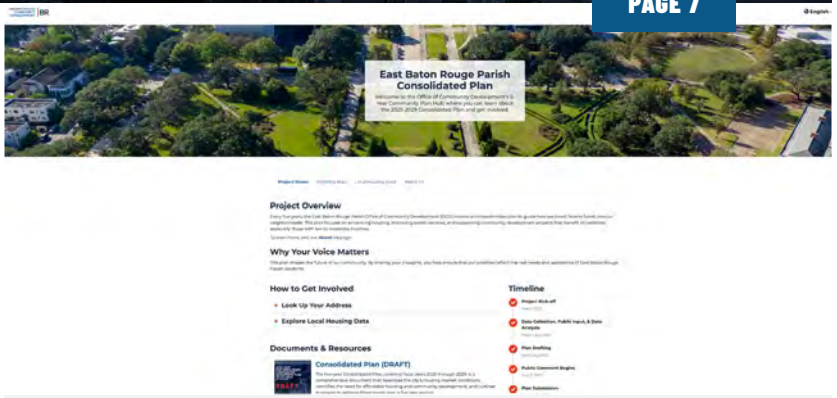
Advised on the Florida Boulevard Master Plan for corridor redevelopment. Co-chaired the Safe Hopeful Healthy initiative to deter crime through design. Participated in initiatives for parks, libraries, and community redevelopment.

photo from the May 13, 2025 community workshop

SUMMARY OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROCESS & CONSULTATION PROCESS

The citizen participation process for this plan was designed to ensure inclusive and transparent community engagement, meeting federal requirements and local priorities. The process began in February 2025 with the launch of a project website and creation of the Citizen Participation Plan (CPP). The CPP established the framework to involve citizens of Baton Rouge through multiple channels and ensure reasonable access to information and opportunities to participate.

Throughout the process, residents had access to data and direct communication channels with OCD staff and the project consultant team. Citizen participation and stakeholder consultation were conducted via in-person events, targeted focus groups, a community-wide survey, verbal announcements at events, telephone interviews, and written comments.



screenshot of the interactive project website

PROJECT WEBSITE

A dedicated project website was launched in February and remained active throughout the planning process. It provided interactive tools, including a low-income local data mapping tool and a housing snapshot page. Communication through the project website was ongoing throughout the process and included a link to the community-wide survey, timelines for plan submittal, dates and locations for workshops, contact information for staff, and a repository for planning documents related to the project. Project announcements and documents were also available on the OCD website at https://www.brla.gov/3185/Office-of-Community-Development.

photo from the May 15, 2025 community workshop

IN-PERSON EVENTS

These included two community workshops and four focus groups. The workshops were open to the public and held on the evenings of May 13 and 15 at central locations in Baton Rouge. The first workshop, held at the Goodwood Main Library, focused on affordable, healthy, and stable housing. The second workshop, held at the BREC Milton Womack Center, focused on community and neighborhood development.

Four focus groups were convened to gather insights from agencies, departments, and stakeholders engaged in community development initiatives. The purpose and topics of the focus groups were as follows:

- May 13th, 2025, Affordable, Healthy & Stable Housing
- May 13th, 2025, Stable Housing and Homelessness
- May 15th, 2025, Community Development
- May 15th, 2025, Community Programming

This comprehensive engagement approach aimed to reflect the needs and priorities of East Baton Rouge residents and to create a collaborative foundation for community development in the Consolidated Plan.

COMMUNITY-WIDE SURVEY

A web-based survey was conducted from April 14, 2025, to May 18, 2025. The survey provided opportunities for residents of Baton Rouge to provide input on community planning issues related to the Consolidated Planning Process. The survey was announced at a public presentation to the Metropolitan Council, disseminated through a database of stakeholder emails, posted on the city's social media channels, included on flyers distributed at partner events, distributed through press releases to the media, and announced at the two community workshops. The East Baton Rouge library system and the Capital Area Transit system were given flyers with QR codes to post at central locations. The full survey and analysis are included in the Appendix.

The OCD staff and planning consultant team were aware that not all citizens have internet access; therefore, council members were contacted and made aware that paper surveys were available. Paper surveys were also made available at both community workshops. A total of 489 responses to the survey were received.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

Public comments were received through the community survey, focus group meetings, community workshops, and directly by staff via email or phone call. The community survey generated the most responses, with 489 survey submissions and 273 individual comments. Survey responses centered on seven key topics: housing concerns, community investment and development, crime and public safety, youth and education, access to government processes, mental health services, and transportation.

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photo from the May 13, 2025 community workshop

THE FOUR FOCUS GROUP MEETINGS ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

FOCUS GROUP 1: AFFORDABLE, HEALTHY & STABLE HOUSING

Participants stressed the importance of aligning housing efforts with transportation, utilities, and public space planning. They also called for more visible investment and coordinated community outreach to build trust.

FOCUS GROUP 2: STABLE HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

Participants emphasized that housing affordability, precarious employment, and limited access to supportive services are major contributors to local housing challenges. They identified vulnerable groups that often fall through the cracks and stressed that local shelters remain at capacity, causing placement issues.

FOCUS GROUP 3: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Participants prioritized workforce development and emphasized that sustainable economic growth, including support for small businesses, youth entrepreneurship, and job training, must come before physical infrastructure investments.

FOCUS GROUP 4: COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

Participants emphasized the importance of mentorship, access, and community-based delivery in effective youth and family programming.

photo from the May 13, 2025 community workshop

The first community workshop focused on affordable, healthy, and stable housing. Community members identified a strong need for mixed-income and multi-family housing, home repair support, and more accessible emergency shelter services, particularly for families and youth aging out of foster care. Key barriers included high housing costs, inadequate funding for repairs, and limited shelter options. Participants called for greater investment in affordable housing, healthier living conditions, and expanded support for vulnerable populations.

The second community workshop focused on community and neighborhood development. Community members emphasized the need to address blighted properties, succession issues, and infrastructure improvements such as lighting, sidewalks, and drainage. Participants suggested using CDBG funds for code enforcement to address private property violations and nonprofit-led redevelopment. Participants also called for expanded youth programs, job training, and elder support services, and highlighted blight removal, affordable housing, and homelessness prevention as top funding priorities.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS OR VIEWS NOT ACCEPTED & THE REASONS FOR NOT ACCEPTING THEM

All comments received during the citizen participation period were considered in developing the priorities and goals for the Consolidated Plan.

SUMMARY

The 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan for East Baton Rouge Parish outlines a strategic vision for advancing housing stability, community development, and economic opportunity for low- to moderate-income residents. The plan is grounded in extensive public engagement and a data-driven needs assessment. It outlines clear priorities, measurable goals, and coordinated strategies to address persistent challenges, including the shortage of affordable, quality housing and the need for holistic community investment.

The Needs Assessment and Market Analysis data, guided by the community needs survey and public input, identified 7 core programming objectives for the next five years. These are described on the following page.

The Mayor's Office of Community Development, in collaboration with public and private partners, will oversee implementation of the plan and leverage local, state, and federal resources to maximize community impact.

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HOUSING ASSISTANCE
Expand the supply of affordable rental and homeownership housing, particularly for extremely low-income households, special populations, and individuals living with HIV/AIDS.

HOUSING REHABILITATION
Rehabilitate aging housing stock to promote healthy, stable living conditions

HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION
Prevent homelessness and expand access to shelter and supportive housing for individuals and families experiencing housing instability

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
Improve public infrastructure, eliminate blight, and promote neighborhood and business revitalization

PUBLIC SERVICES
Invest in youth services, job training, and community-based programming to expand opportunity and reduce intergenerational poverty

HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY
Provide funding for mental health services, reduce lead exposures in aging buildings, address hazards and public safety issues in prioritized neighborhoods

PLANNING & ADMINISTRATION
Building capacity and providing training for the Office of Community Development

THE PROCESS

PR-05 LEAD & RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES 24 CFR 91.200(B)

DESCRIBE AGENCY/ENTITY RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING THE CONSOLIDATED PLAN & THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ADMINISTRATION OF EACH GRANT PROGRAM & FUNDING SOURCE

The following are the entities responsible for preparing the Consolidated Plan and those responsible for administration of each grant program and funding source.

TABLE 1: RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES

AGENCY ROLE	NAME	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
CDBG Administrator	Baton Rouge	Office of Community Development
HOPWA Administrator	Baton Rouge	Office of Community Development
HOME Administrator	Baton Rouge	Office of Community Development
ESG Administrator	Baton Rouge	Office of Community Development

Narrative

The Baton Rouge Mayor's Office of Community Development is responsible for preparing the FY 2025–2029 Baton Rouge Consolidated Plan. The Office of Community Development also administers the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) programs.

Consolidated Plan Public Contact Information

Kelly LeDuff
Director of Community Development
City of Baton Rouge-Parish of East Baton Rouge
Office of Community Development
222 St. Louis Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

EAST BATON ROUGE MAYOR-PRESIDENT'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

PR-10 CONSULTATION - 91.100, 91.110, 91.200(B), 91.300(B), 91.215(I) AND 91.315(I)

INTRODUCTION

The Baton Rouge Mayor's Office of Community Development (OCD) strives to create affordable, healthy, resilient, and vibrant communities where everyone can find a place to call home. OCD serves as a pillar of the Baton Rouge community, providing vital support services to low-income households through programs that promote stability, opportunity, and self-sufficiency. Recognizing that the challenges and issues surrounding low-income communities are complex and that funding is often limited, the OCD prioritizes collaboration with other agencies to maximize impact and deliver more comprehensive solutions.

During the development of the 2025 - 2029 Consolidated Plan, the OCD used a multi-faceted approach to reach members of the community. Consultation efforts included digital communications, social media, a community-wide survey, in-person focus group meetings, community workshops, and one-on-one meetings with stakeholders. This plan was informed by data analysis, direct community and stakeholder feedback, and local expertise to guide a targeted strategy designed to maximize impact and support successful outcomes.

Provide a concise summary of the jurisdiction's activities to enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health and service agencies (91.215(l)).

To enhance coordination between public and assisted housing providers and private and governmental health, mental health, and service agencies, the OCD will implement a structured engagement and resource-sharing strategy. The Office of Community Development will continue to convene a series of focus groups and community workshops throughout the 5-year plan implementation. These events will be designed to strengthen cross-sector partnerships, which are critical to effective service delivery.

Stakeholder meetings will include presentations and roundtable discussions focused on identifying service gaps, reducing duplication of services, aligning funding priorities, and promoting integrated care strategies. Participants will include (but not limited to):

- Public Housing Agencies and affordable housing developers (both private and non-profit)
- Behavioral health and healthcare providers
- Small Business Support agencies
- Workforce and Job Training
- City-Parish departments (Development, Planning, Transportation & Drainage, HealthyBR, EmployBR, Downtown Development District, Council on Aging, Department of Human Development & Services, Police etc.)
- Homeless social service agencies
- Child and Youth service agencies (Youth Oasis, DCFS etc.)
- Law enforcement and public safety entities
- Transportation authorities (CATS, Department of Transportation & Drainage, LADOTD etc.)
- Local economic development and job training organizations

Community meetings will provide opportunities for residents, service users, and community-based organizations to offer input through presentations, public comment periods, and Q&A sessions. These meetings will ensure that local lived experience informs planning decisions and coordination efforts.

Beyond data gathering, these forums will serve as platforms for building and reinforcing collaborative relationships. Housing providers and health and service agencies will be encouraged to explore shared goals, coordinate care models, and leverage resources more efficiently. Outcomes from these meetings will directly inform Consolidated Plan priorities, strategic goals, and funding allocations under CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA programs.

Describe coordination with the Continuum of Care and efforts to address the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans, and unaccompanied youth) and persons at risk of homelessness

Baton Rouge takes a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of homeless people, especially the chronically homeless, homeless families, veterans, and unaccompanied youth. The Office of Community Development recognizes the importance of enhancing coordination among the public agencies that provide healthcare services, housing, and basic needs such as food to homeless communities and those at risk of becoming homeless.

Through focus groups and consultation with the Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care, it was determined that at-risk groups should be better identified and rapidly rehoused to help prevent homelessness in Baton Rouge.

Describe consultation with the Continuum(s) of Care that serves the jurisdiction's area in determining how to allocate ESG funds, develop performance standards and evaluate outcomes, and develop funding, policies and procedures for the administration of HMIS

The Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (BOSCOC), the Continuum of Care for the Baton Rouge region, was consulted throughout the Consolidated Plan development phase. BOSCOC provided valuable information and input that was integrated into the plan. A focus group meeting was held to discuss issues affecting the homeless and low-income populations. Leaders and community stakeholders representing local homeless shelters, food banks, agency representatives, and others who work to provide services to the homeless population attended this meeting. Their input helped inform priorities and strategies outlined in the plan.

DESCRIBE AGENCIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS & OTHERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE PROCESS & DESCRIBE THE JURISDICTIONS CONSULTATIONS WITH HOUSING, SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES & OTHER ENTITIES

TABLE 2: AGENCIES, GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS WHO PARTICIPATED

AGENCY, GROUP, OR ORGANIZATION	TYPE	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	HOW WERE THEY CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES?
Urban Restoration Enhancement Corp.	Housing Foundation	Housing Need Assessment Lead-Based Paint Strategy Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 1 | Affordable, Healthy Housing Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
Build Baton Rouge	Housing Services—Housing Services—Narrowing the Digital Divide Other Government—State	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 1 | Affordable, Healthy Housing OCD works closely with this agency on several projects and will continue to coordinate on a regular basis.
East Baton Rouge Planning Commission	Planning Organization	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 1 | Affordable, Healthy Housing Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.

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AGENCY, GROUP, OR ORGANIZATION	TYPE	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	HOW WERE THEY CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES?
Family Services of Greater Baton Rouge	Services—Housing Services—Children Services—Persons with Disabilities Services—Persons with HIV/AIDS Services—Homeless Services—Education Services—Employment Foundation	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homeless Needs—Families with Children Homelessness Needs—Unaccompanied Youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 1 | Affordable, Healthy Housing Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority	Housing Public Housing Authority	Housing Need Assessment Public Housing Needs Homelessness Strategy Economic Development	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 1 | Affordable, Healthy Housing EBRPHA staff also participated in both May 13 & 15 community workshops, one stakeholder interview, and provided data to the 5-year plan. Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
East Baton Rouge Department of Development	Agency—Managing Flood Prone Areas Other Government—Local	Housing Need Assessment Lead-Based Paint Strategy Public Housing Needs Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy Blight	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 1 | Affordable, Healthy Housing May 15, 2025 Focus Group 4 | Community Development Public Safety The planning team worked with this department closely to understand the severe blight conditions in Baton Rouge, the barriers to removing blight, and interventions to prevent blight. The permitting system and the difficulties with aging housing stock was also discussed. OCD works with this office closely and will continue to coordinate with them on a regular (minimum monthly) basis.

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AGENCY, GROUP, OR ORGANIZATION	TYPE	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	HOW WERE THEY CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES?
Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care	Housing Services—Victims of Domestic Violence Services—Homeless	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs—Chronically homeless Homeless Needs—Families with children Homelessness Needs—Veterans Homelessness Needs—Unaccompanied Youth Non-Homeless Special Needs Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 2 | Stable Housing and Homelessness OCD will improve coordination with this agency through monthly meetings.
Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank	Services—Children Services—Elderly Persons Services—Homeless Foundation	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs—Chronically homeless Homeless Needs—Families with Children Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 2 | Stable Housing and Homelessness Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
HAART	Services—Persons with HIV/AIDS Services—Homeless Services—Health Foundation	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs—Chronically homeless Homeless Needs—Families with children Non-Homeless Special Needs HOPWA Strategy Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 2 | Stable Housing and Homelessness Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
Capital Area Family Justice Center	Services—Victims of Domestic Violence Foundation	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs—Families with children Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 2 | Stable Housing and Homelessness Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.

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AGENCY, GROUP, OR ORGANIZATION	TYPE	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	HOW WERE THEY CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES?
The Bridge Center for Hope	Services—Housing Services—Homeless Services—Health Foundation	Housing Need Assessment Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs—Chronically homeless Homelessness Needs—Veterans Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 13, 2025 Focus Group 2 | Stable Housing and Homelessness Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
DreamHER	Services—Employment Foundation	Economic Development Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 15, 2025 Focus Group 3 | Community Development Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
Real Women Connecting	Services—Employment Services—Narrowing the Digital Divide Foundation	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 15, 2025 Focus Group 3 | Community Development Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
EmployBR	Services—Employment Other government—Local	Economic Development Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 15, 2025 Focus Group 3 | Community Development Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
Louisiana Small Business Development Center—Southern University	Services—Employment Foundation	Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 15, 2025 Focus Group 3 | Community Development Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.

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AGENCY, GROUP, OR ORGANIZATION	TYPE	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	HOW WERE THEY CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES?
Baton Rouge North Economic Development District	Services—Employment Other government—State Business and Civic Leaders Foundation	Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 15, 2025 Focus Group 3 | Community Development Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
Capital Region Planning Commission	Regional Organization Planning Organization	Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 15, 2025 Focus Group 4 | Community Programs Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
LSU Social Research & Evaluation Center	Services—Children Services—Health Services—Victims Other Government—State Social Research	Economic Development Anti-Poverty Strategy Public Safety	May 15, 2025 Focus Group 4 | Community Programs Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
The Gardere Initiative	Services—Children Services—Health Civic Leaders Community Navigators Foundation Neighborhood Organization	Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 14, 2025 Interview and consultation. June 6, 2025 Staff invitation to the monthly meeting Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
Youth Oasis	Services—Children Services—Homeless Services—Health Service—Fair Housing Civic Leaders Foundation	Homelessness Strategy Homeless Needs—Chronically homeless Homeless Needs—Families with Children Homelessness Needs—Unaccompanied Youth Anti-Poverty Strategy	May 27, 2025 Consultation. Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.

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AGENCY, GROUP, OR ORGANIZATION	TYPE	WHAT SECTION OF THE PLAN WAS ADDRESSED BY CONSULTATION?	HOW WERE THEY CONSULTED AND WHAT ARE THE ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES?
Capital Area Transit System	Other Government—Local Public Transportation Agency	Housing Need Assessment Homeless Needs—Chronically homeless Economic Development Anti-Poverty Strategy Transportation Needs	June 10, 2025 Consultation with the agency. Coordination with their Empower Baton Rouge plan and overlapping target areas of Gardere and Plank Road Corridor. Bi-annual Stakeholder meetings will improve coordination with this partner.
Let's Fix It! LLC	Housing Services—Housing Services—Health Service—Fair Housing Civic Leaders	Housing Need Assessment Economic Development Market Analysis Anti-Poverty Strategy Health Needs	June 27, 2025 Consultation with stakeholder for integration of past plans and studies regarding health and housing. Bi-annual Stakeholder meeting will improve coordination with this partner.

Identify any Agency Types not consulted and provide rationale for not consulting

A good faith effort was made to contact and consult with all relevant agencies; no agencies were identified for non-consultation.

Other planning efforts considered when preparing the Plan

TABLE 3: OTHER LOCAL / REGIONAL / FEDERAL PLANNING EFFORTS

NAME OF PLAN	LEAD ORGANIZATION	HOW DO THE GOALS OF YOUR STRATEGIC PLAN OVERLAP WITH THE GOALS OF EACH PLAN?
Continuum of Care	Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care	Data, information, and planning efforts are coordinated among the agencies and providers.

Describe cooperation and coordination with other public entities, including the State and any adjacent units of general local government, in the implementation of the Consolidated Plan (91.215(l))

The OCD has established partnerships and regularly works closely and collaboratively with other local organizations and agencies that share the mission of providing safe, affordable, and supportive communities to residents.

PR-15 CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – 91.105, 91.115, 91.200(C) AND 91.300(C)

SUMMARY OF CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PROCESS/ EFFORTS MADE TO BROADEN CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Summarize citizen participation process and how it impacted goal-setting

The citizen participation process for the East Baton Rouge Parish 2025–2029 HUD Consolidated Plan was designed to ensure inclusive and transparent community engagement, meeting both federal requirements and local priorities. The planning process was launched with a public-facing project website in February 2025. The website provided citizens with project background, a project progress tracker, access to the community needs survey, local maps, and other documentation. Project information was also linked and available on the Office of Community Development's website. An email address for submitting public comments was posted on all flyers, social media announcements, the Office of Community Development's website, and the project website.

To maximize outreach, project announcements and event information were posted on the City-Parish's social media, on the Office of Community Development's website, through the project website, and distributed to local community leaders, including council members, for dissemination to their constituents. Radio podcast interview with the OCD team members and local radio host on 107.3 was held on May 9, 2025, introducing and

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photo from the May 15, 2025 community workshop

giving an overview of the Consolidated planning process and announcing upcoming in-person community engagement events.

The City-Parish engaged a diverse range of residents, stakeholders, and public and private agencies. Community engagement efforts included a community-wide survey, four focus group meetings with local stakeholders and community leaders, and two public community engagement workshops. Additional one-on-one meetings and coordination with community stakeholders who could not attend the focus group meetings were conducted throughout the plan development process. The draft Consolidated Plan was published for a 30-day public comment period before submission.

The focus group meetings and community workshops were held in public spaces in areas with a high prevalence of low- to moderate-income households. All meetings were conducted in ADA-accessible buildings, and hard-copy community surveys were made available. A Spanish-speaking translator was present at all four focus group meetings and both community workshops. The project website included a language translation feature to accommodate non-English speakers.

TABLE 4: CITIZEN PARTICIPATION OUTREACH

MODE OF OUTREACH

Internet Outreach

TARGET OF OUTREACH

Minorities

Non-English Speaking
Specify Other Language: Spanish

Persons with Disabilities

Non-Targeted/Broad Community

Residents of Public and Assisted Housing

All Baton Rouge Stakeholders

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE/ATTENDANCE

2 emailed comments

1,681 unique visitors
to the project website from March 24, 2025-June 12, 2025

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

These comments were integrated into the plan.

One comment was related to zoning code enforcement, and the other comment was about a model community development program called the Gardere Initiative.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS NOT ACCEPTED & REASONS

All comments accepted.

URL (IF APPLICABLE)

brla.gov/communityplan

MODE OF OUTREACH

Community Survey

TARGET OF OUTREACH

Minorities

Non-English Speaking
Specify Other Language: Spanish

Persons with Disabilities

Non-Targeted/Broad Community

Residents of Public and Assisted Housing

Transit Riders

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE/ATTENDANCE

489 responses

273 public comments

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Comments received focused mainly on 7 topics: Housing Concerns, Community Investment and Development, Crime and Public Safety, Youth and Education, Access to Government Processes and Equity, Mental Health Services, and Transportation.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS NOT ACCEPTED & REASONS

All comments accepted.

URL (IF APPLICABLE)

brla.gov/communityplan

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MODE OF OUTREACH

Public Meeting

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE/ATTENDANCE

Comments were received via survey link.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS NOT ACCEPTED & REASONS

All comments accepted.

TARGET OF OUTREACH

Non-Targeted/Broad Community

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

OCD team members attended an EmployBR sponsored job fair to disseminate project information and collect survey responses. Comments are included in the community survey responses.

URL (IF APPLICABLE)

N/A

MODE OF OUTREACH

Public Hearing

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE/ATTENDANCE

The meeting was well attended by the community as it was a regular Metropolitan Council Meeting and was advertised in the local newspaper and through the city's agenda system.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS NOT ACCEPTED & REASONS

No comments were made.

TARGET OF OUTREACH

Non-Targeted/Broad Community

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

No comments were made at the April 9, 2025, public hearing. The project website, community workshops, dates, timelines, and contact information were presented at this public hearing. Flyers were also handed out. A copy of the presentation was uploaded to the project website.

URL (IF APPLICABLE)

brla.gov/communityplan

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MODE OF OUTREACH

Focus Groups

TARGET OF OUTREACH

Key Stakeholders of Affordable Housing

Healthy Homes

Non-Profits

Economic Development Agencies

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE/ATTENDANCE

Focus Group 1
13 attendees

Focus Group 2
13 attendees

Focus Group 3
10 attendees

Focus Group 4
7 attendees

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Focus Group 1: Participants stressed the importance of aligning housing efforts with transportation, utilities, and public space planning, and called for more visible investment and coordinated community outreach to build trust.

Focus Group 2: Participants emphasized that housing affordability, precarious employment, and limited access to supportive services are major contributors to local housing crises. They identified vulnerable groups that often fall through the cracks and stressed that the local shelters remain at capacity causing placement issues.

Focus Group 3: Participants prioritized workforce development and emphasized sustainable economic growth, including support for small businesses, youth entrepreneurship, and job training, must come before physical infrastructure investments.

Focus Group 4: Participants emphasized the importance of mentorship, access, and community-based delivery in effective youth and family programming.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS NOT ACCEPTED & REASONS

All comments accepted.

URL (IF APPLICABLE)

brla.gov/communityplan

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MODE OF OUTREACH

Public Workshops

TARGET OF OUTREACH

Minorities

Non-English Speaking
Specify Other Language: Spanish

Persons with Disabilities

Non-Targeted/Broad Community

Residents of Public and Assisted Housing

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE/ATTENDANCE

Workshop 1
44 attendees

Workshop 2
25 attendees

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

Workshop 1: Affordable, Healthy, and Stable Housing
Community members identified a strong need for mixed-income and multi-family housing, home repair support, and more accessible emergency shelter services, particularly for families and youth aging out of foster care. Key barriers included high housing costs, inadequate repair funding, and limited shelter options, with residents calling for increased investment in affordable housing, healthier living conditions, and support for vulnerable populations.

Workshop 2: Community and Neighborhood Development
Community members emphasized the need to address blighted properties, succession issues, and infrastructure improvements such as lighting, sidewalks, and drainage, with suggestions to use CDBG funds for code enforcement and nonprofit-led redevelopment. Participants also called for expanded youth programs, job training, and elder support services, highlighting blight removal, affordable housing, and homelessness prevention as top funding priorities.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS NOT ACCEPTED & REASONS

All comments accepted.

URL (IF APPLICABLE)

brla.gov/communityplan

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MODE OF OUTREACH

Newspaper Ad

SUMMARY OF RESPONSE/ATTENDANCE

A newspaper ad in The Advocate was used to announce the plan at both the beginning of the citizen participation and once again before the 30-day public comment period. A copy of both ads are attached to this plan.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS NOT ACCEPTED & REASONS

All comments emailed and/or mailed during the 30 day public comment period were accepted.

TARGET OF OUTREACH

Non-Targeted/Broad Community

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED

One comment from EBRPHA was emailed to correct data. Another emailed comment from the DDD was to encourage connectivity between the core Downtown area and Downtown East through lighting, landscape and public safety measures. Another comment was emailed requesting to integrate transit, both CATS and Tiger-Tails, into the plan. Another comment was emailed to suggest practical help on maintaining households, and training for head of households, a request for transparency on the effectiveness of the plan, and opportunities for training community leaders.

URL (IF APPLICABLE)

N/A

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

NA-05 OVERVIEW

NEEDS ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

The housing needs assessment for East Baton Rouge Parish reveals significant challenges, particularly for low- and extremely low-income residents. Approximately 70% of households earn less than the area median income (AMI), and the most common housing problem is cost burden, with 79% of affected households spending more than 30% of their income on housing. Renters, especially those earning less than 30% of AMI, are disproportionately impacted, with over 41,000 cost-burdened renter households compared to 11,000 owner households. Baton Rouge's aging housing stock further complicates the issue, as repair costs for deteriorating homes often exceed available HUD funding, particularly for elderly and disabled homeowners who have difficulties keeping up with routine maintenance.

While income remains the primary driver of housing needs, racial disparities highlight how race and poverty intersect, deepening vulnerability for some groups. Black/African American and Hispanic households are overrepresented among those experiencing housing problems in the extremely low-income category. For instance, 79% of extremely low-income Black/African American households and 88% of Hispanic households face serious housing challenges such as overcrowding, lack of plumbing or kitchen facilities, or extreme cost burdens.

Special populations, including elderly residents, individuals with disabilities, those with HIV/AIDS, at-risk youth, and victims of domestic violence, face heightened housing and service needs. These groups often require affordable, accessible housing and supportive services such as case management, transportation, and medical coordination. Notably, over 3,700 people live with HIV in the parish, many of whom face co-occurring challenges like poverty and housing instability. The limited funding for permanent supportive housing and services like Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) further exacerbates these issues.

Public input through workshops and surveys also identified critical community development needs beyond housing. These include infrastructure improvements such as

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sidewalk installation, road repairs, and public safety enhancements, especially in low-income neighborhoods. Residents emphasized the need for expanded shelter space, adaptive reuse of public buildings for housing, and youth-focused programs that provide job training and recreation. Legal services for title clearing and domestic violence victims, as well as improved code enforcement and community outreach, were also cited as high priorities.

In summary, Baton Rouge faces complex, deeply rooted housing challenges that disproportionately affect its most vulnerable populations. Addressing these needs will require a coordinated approach that combines affordable housing development, expanded supportive services, and strategic community investment.

NA-10 HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT - 24 CFR 91.205 (A,B,C)

SUMMARY OF HOUSING NEEDS

Baton Rouge has an aging housing stock and a large population of low-income households. The poverty rate in East Baton Rouge Parish is 20.2% compared to 18.9% in the state of Louisiana and just 12.5% nationally (ACS 2023). These low-income households, including a significant share with elderly residents, commonly experience crowding, cost burden, and severe housing problems including homes that lack a kitchen or full plumbing.

Roughly 70% of Baton Rouge households earn less than the area median income (AMI), and housing stress is overwhelmingly concentrated in this group, especially among renters. Renters account for 88% of overcrowded units, with extremely low-income single-family renters alone making up more than half of all crowded households. Cost burden, paying more than 30% of income on housing, is by far the most prevalent issue, representing 79% of all HUD defined housing problems. There are approximately 41,000 cost burdened renter households, compared to 11,000 owner households; two-thirds of these renters earn less than 30% of AMI. Extremely low-income and very low-income households also make up the vast majority of those experiencing multiple housing problems, from crowding to substandard plumbing or kitchens.

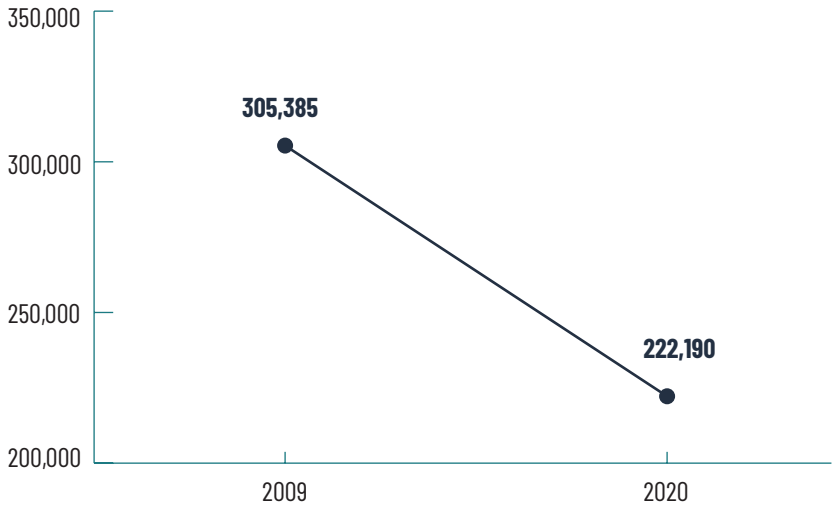
Compounding matters, Baton Rouge's aging housing stock leaves many low-income owners with repair needs that far exceed available HUD Home Rehabilitation funds. Applications often arrive only after homes have deteriorated to the point where rehabilitation costs surpass program limits. In short, the city's most severe housing challenges, crowding, deep cost burdens, and deferred maintenance, fall heaviest on its lowest-income renters and on elderly homeowners living in aging homes.

TABLE 5: HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT DEMOGRAPHICS
POPULATION, HOUSEHOLDS & MEDIAN INCOME (2009-2020)

DEMOGRAPHICS	BASE YEAR: 2009	MOST RECENT YEAR: 2020	% CHANGE
Population	305,385	222,190	-27.0% ▼
Households	117,295	85,090	-27.0% ▼
Median Income	$39,876.00	$44,177.00	+11.0% ▲

Data Source: Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

POPULATION



HOUSEHOLDS

MEDIAN INCOME

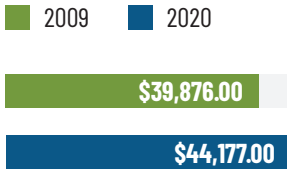
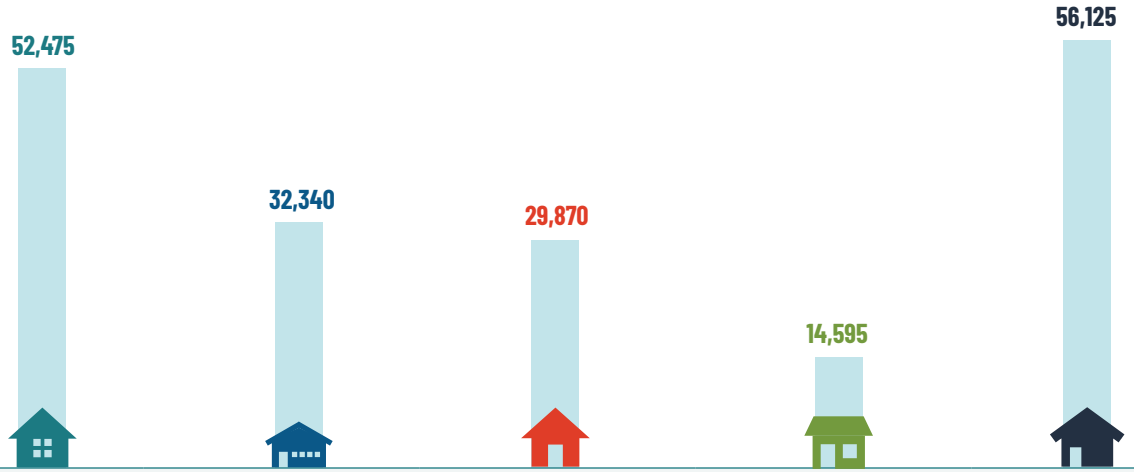


TABLE 6: TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS TABLE



	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	>100% HAMFI
Total Households	**52,475**	**32,340**	**29,870**	**14,595**	**56,125**
Small Family Households	16,760	8,325	11,875	8,120	22,360
Large Family Households	3,425	3,650	1,859	290	4,200
Household contains at least one person 62-74 years of age	7,420	8,530	7,055	4,570	10,570
Household contains at least one person age 75 or older	6,742	8,370	3,929	2,834	14,630
Households with one or more children 6 years old or younger	12,146	4,274	2,889	1,199	3,264

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

TABLE 7: HOUSING PROBLEMS TABLE 1
HOUSING PROBLEMS (NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONE OF THE LISTED NEEDS)

	RENTER					OWNER				
	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	TOTAL	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	TOTAL
Substandard Housing Lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities	399	30	14	0	443	4	50	39	4	97
Severely Overcrowded With >1.51 people per room (and complete kitchen and plumbing)	130	820	109	20	1,079	0	4	0	0	4
Overcrowded With 1.01-1.5 people per room (and none of the above problems)	3,325	944	140	30	4,439	104	10	545	64	723
Housing Cost Burden Greater than 50% of Income (and none of the above problems)	16,790	4,045	450	25	21,310	4,240	980	949	45	6,214
Housing Cost Burden Greater than 30% of Income (and none of the above problems)	4,485	8,465	3,075	330	16,355	2,434	1,650	1,094	595	5,773
Zero/Negative Income (and none of the above problems)	4,905	0	0	0	4,905	1,475	0	0	0	1,475

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

TABLE 8: HOUSING PROBLEMS TABLE 2
HOUSEHOLDS WITH ONE OR MORE SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS
(LACKS KITCHEN OR COMPLETE PLUMBING, SEVERE OVERCROWDING, SEVERE COST BURDEN)

	RENTER					OWNER				
	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	TOTAL	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	TOTAL
Having 1 or More of Four Housing Problems	20,795	5,835	710	75	27,415	4,375	1,035	1,540	125	7,075
Having none of four housing problems	18,910	15,210	13,840	6,925	54,885	8,385	10,255	13,645	7,460	39,745
Household has negative income, but none of the other housing problems	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

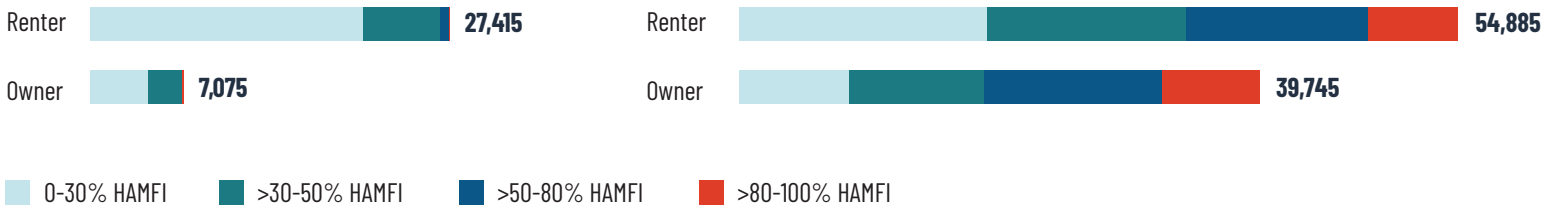


TABLE 9: COST-BURDEN >30%

	RENTER				OWNER			
	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	TOTAL	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	TOTAL
Small Related	9,800	2,199	1,319	13,318	830	444	1,074	2,348
Large Related	2,365	1,240	115	3,720	305	90	74	469
Elderly	2,564	5,379	267	8,210	3,966	1,647	549	6,162
Other	10,280	3,900	1,845	16,025	1,685	474	348	2,507
Total need by income	25,009	12,718	3,546	41,273	6,786	2,655	2,045	11,486

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

TOTAL NEED BY INCOME

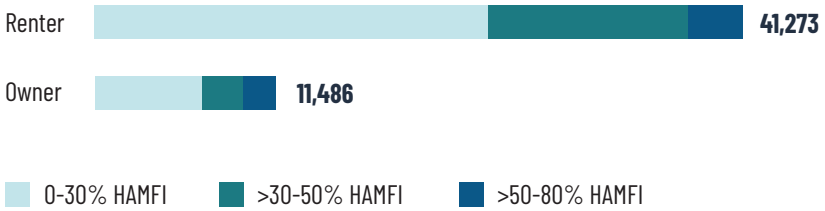


TABLE 10: COST-BURDEN >50%

	RENTER				OWNER			
	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	TOTAL	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	TOTAL
Small Related	0	0	455	455	755	205	0	960
Large Related	0	0	75	75	275	45	0	320
Elderly	1,445	2,535	80	4,060	2,859	555	85	3,499
Other	0	8,915	1,035	9,950	355	0	0	355
Total need by income	1,445	11,450	1,645	14,540	4,244	805	85	5,134

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

TOTAL NEED BY INCOME

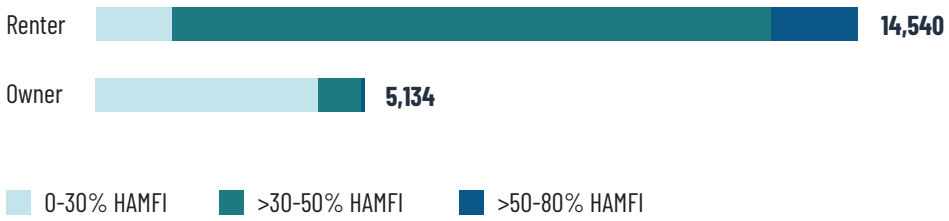


TABLE 11: CROWDING TABLE
CROWDING (MORE THAN ONE PERSON PER ROOM)

	RENTER					OWNER				
	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	TOTAL	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	>80-100% HAMFI	TOTAL
Single family households	3,360	1,469	153	20	5,002	0	4	70	24	98
Multiple, unrelated family households	84	290	70	30	474	104	10	475	34	623
Other, non-family households	25	4	19	0	48	0	0	0	0	0
Total need by income	3,469	1,763	242	50	5,524	104	14	545	58	721

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

TABLE 12: CROWDING TABLE 2
CROWDING (MORE THAN ONE PERSON PER ROOM)

	RENTER				OWNER			
	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	TOTAL	0-30% HAMFI	>30-50% HAMFI	>50-80% HAMFI	TOTAL
Households with Children Present	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

Describe the number and type of single person households in need of housing assistance.

East Baton Rouge Parish has 175,408 occupied housing units, of which 58,578 are occupied by single-person households, according to the American Community Survey (ACS) 2023 5-year estimates. Elderly individuals aged 65 or older living alone account for 12% of the parish's occupied households. The 2024 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count reported 410 homeless individuals in the Baton Rouge region. The PIT data does not specify household size.

Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance who are disabled or victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

The 2024 PIT data for the State of Louisiana lists 124 homeless domestic violence victims/survivors. According to the 2023 Legislative Report on the Louisiana Domestic Abuse Facility Review, Louisiana has ranked in the top five states almost every year since 1997 for domestic homicides.

According to ACS 2023 5-year estimates, approximately 65,215 individuals, or 14.5% of the EBR population, are disabled. Approximately 11,309 individuals, or 46.4% of the disabled population, are considered extra elderly, defined as persons aged 75 and older. Elderly persons aged 65 to 73 account for 30.5% of the disabled population. Sixteen percent of the Black/African American population is disabled, followed by people of two or more races, who account for 15% of the EBR population, and White individuals with disabilities, who account for 13%.

What are the most common housing problems?

FUTUREBR, the City-Parish's Master Plan, identifies several key housing needs: affordable options for both renters and homeowners, a greater supply of smaller homes such as townhomes and condos, and housing that accommodates elderly and disabled residents. One of its stated goals is to expand affordable housing for seniors. Baton Rouge also has a large stock of older homes in need of repair.

The most common housing challenge across all income levels is cost burden, with 79% of households in the jurisdiction spending more than 30% of their income on housing (Table 7). Overcrowding is the second most common issue, affecting 8% of homeowner households.

Based on focus group and workshop input, the most common housing problems identified in East Baton Rouge include: a lack of affordable housing for both low-income and middle-income residents; high construction and rehabilitation costs that limit development; bureaucratic barriers such as slow permitting and complex regulations; and widespread title issues that block redevelopment and access to assistance. Residents also emphasized the shortage of mixed-income housing, the need for better coordination between housing and infrastructure investments, and the limited availability of funding for down payment assistance and home repair programs.

Are any populations/household types more affected than others by these problems?

Extremely low-income, single-family households represent the largest group (32%) of low-income households (Table 6). Similarly, small related, extremely low-income households who rent account for the greatest number of categorized cost-burdened households—18.5% (Table 9). Extremely low-income, single-family households who rent are disproportionately affected by crowding, accounting for 54% of all overcrowded households and 61% of overcrowded renter households (Table 11). Most households with one or more severe housing problems are extremely low-income, accounting for 75.9% of renter households and 61.8% of owner households with severe housing problems.

Describe the characteristics and needs of Low-income individuals and families with children (especially extremely low-income) who are currently housed but are at imminent risk of either residing in shelters or becoming unsheltered 91.205(c)/91.305(c)). Also discuss the needs of formerly homeless families and individuals who are receiving rapid re-housing assistance and are nearing the termination of that assistance.

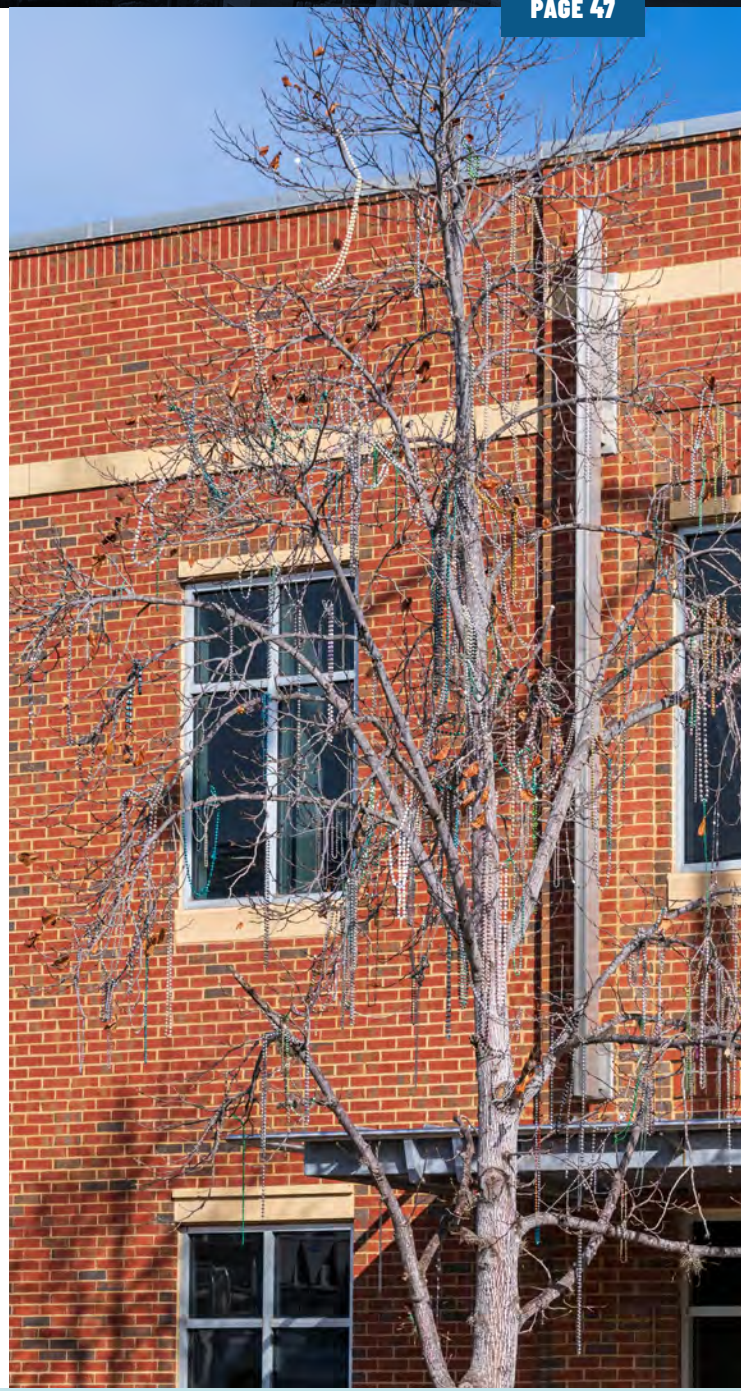
The ALICE population, those who are Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, have incomes above the poverty level but below what is required for a basic cost of living in their area. These are working households who often earn too much to qualify for assistance such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) but may still be one emergency away from homelessness. The 2024 ALICE in East Baton Rouge Parish report revealed that 46% of families with children are either ALICE or living in poverty (attached image). There is also a notable disparity in ALICE and poverty populations by race: 65% of Black/African American, 62% of Hispanic, 50% of Asian, and 36% of White households fall below the ALICE threshold. Among cities and neighborhoods identified in the report, the top five with the greatest percentage of households living below the ALICE threshold are Merrydale (69%), Baton Rouge (60%), Brownfields (56%), Gardere (54%), and Baker (50%).

If a jurisdiction provides estimates of the at-risk population(s), it should also include a description of the operational definition of the at-risk group and the methodology used to generate the estimates:

East Baton Rouge City-Parish does not provide estimates of the at-risk population. The homeless population is tracked through the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) operated by the Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care. EBR follows HUD guidance and definitions of at-risk persons under § 576.2 of the ESG Program Interim Rule and § 578.3 of the CoC Program Interim Rule.

Specify particular housing characteristics that have been linked with instability and an increased risk of homelessness.

Lack of housing stability for cost-burdened renters or homeowners puts them at risk of becoming homeless, especially if they face sudden expenses like medical bills or vehicle repairs. Households who spend more than 30 percent of their income on monthly housing costs are at risk of becoming homeless. The age of a home can also contributes to housing instability. Older homes often have less weather protection and energy efficiency. This can lead to high utility costs for households, which can further strain limited household budgets and increase the risk of housing loss.



DISCUSSION

INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Almost two-thirds (61.9%) of all households are considered by HUD to be moderately low, low, very low, or extremely low income (0–80% of Area Median Income, Table 6). Seventeen percent of moderate- to extremely low-income households include an extra elderly person aged 75 or older.

CROWDING

Renting households are more affected by crowding, accounting for 88% of the total overcrowded households. This is especially true for extremely low-income single-family renting households (Table 11). These households account for 54% of the total overcrowded households. Among owner households, multiple unrelated family households show the greatest need, accounting for 10% of the total overcrowded households.

COST BURDEN

Cost burden is the most common housing problem for moderate- to low-income households, accounting for 79% of the housing problems (Table 7). There are 2.6 times more cost-burdened renters than owners in the area, 41,273 renters compared to 11,486 owners (Table 9). Extremely low-income households (0–30% AMI) make up the greatest need, accounting for 61% of the cost-burdened renters. Similarly, among households spending more than 50% of their income on monthly housing costs, there are almost twice as many (183%) extremely cost-burdened renters as owners (Table 10). In the group of extremely cost-burdened households, the very low-income category (30–50% AMI) makes up the greatest need, accounting for 79%. Extremely low-income (0–30% AMI) owner households show the greatest need, accounting for 83% of the extremely cost-burdened owner households.

HOUSING PROBLEMS

Households experiencing one or more of the four HUD-defined housing problems are disproportionately low- to extremely low-income households. Cost burden is the most common housing problem among moderate- to low-income households (Table 7). Of the households who have one or more of the four housing problems, 97.2% of renter households are very low- or extremely low-income (between 0–50% AMI), and 76.4% of owner households fall within the very low- to extremely low-income categories (Table 8). Extremely low-income households make up 75.9% of the renter and 61.8% of the owner households who have one or more of the four housing problems. These housing problems include substandard homes that lack a kitchen, substandard homes that lack complete plumbing, overcrowding, or being cost burdened. Eleven percent of the low- to extremely low-income households are overcrowded or severely overcrowded. Table 7 reports that 540 households, or 1% of those with housing problems, are living in substandard housing conditions.

As Baton Rouge has an aging housing stock and a large population of moderate- to low-income households, there is a greater need for home repairs than current funding can cover. In addition to the number of homes in need of repair, the necessary repairs to bring a home up to code are often so extensive that the cost exceeds what the HUD-funded Home Rehabilitation Program can reasonably support. Community engagement efforts revealed that repair requests often are not submitted until the home has deteriorated to the point that the cost of repairs exceeds the program's funding limits.

NA-15 DISPROPORTIONATELY GREATER NEED: HOUSING PROBLEMS – 91.205 (B)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

INTRODUCTION

Housing hardship in Baton Rouge rises sharply as incomes fall. More than three-quarters (76.6%) of extremely low-income households (0–30% AMI) confront at least one serious problem, cost burden, overcrowding, or substandard plumbing/kitchen, while just 13.5% of moderately low-income households (80–100% AMI) do. Across all brackets, Black/African American and Hispanic residents shoulder the heaviest load: in the extremely low-income tier, 79% of Black/African American and 88% of Hispanic households have housing problems, and Black/African American households make up 64% of all cases at that income level. Very low-income households (30–50% AMI) show a similar pattern, with nearly two-thirds affected, and Black/African American households again the majority. Even among those spending more than half their income on housing, Black/African American renter households dominate, underscoring how race and deep poverty intersect.

At higher incomes, the racial gap narrows, yet imbalances persist. Roughly one-third of low-income households (50–80% AMI) have housing problems; White and Black/African Americans account for almost equal shares of that group. In the moderately low-income tier, incidence drops to one in seven, but Whites still represent two-thirds of cases, mirroring their larger presence in that income range. The overall pattern suggests that need is driven primarily by income, but race amplifies vulnerability where poverty is deepest: Black/African American and Hispanic households are overrepresented both in the lowest income brackets and among those facing multiple housing stresses, pointing to the importance of income-targeted, race-conscious housing interventions.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, and cost burden greater than 30%.

TABLE 13: DISPROPORTIONALLY GREATER NEED 0-30% AMI

HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS ONE OR MORE OF FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS NONE OF THE FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HOUSEHOLD HAS NO/NEGATIVE INCOME, BUT NONE OF THE OTHER HOUSING PROBLEMS
Jurisdiction as a whole	19,330	5,895	0
White	5,509	1,883	0
Black / African American	12,170	3,319	0
Asian	294	334	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	1,014	143	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

30%-50% of Area Median Income

The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, and cost burden greater than 30%.

TABLE 14: DISPROPORTIONALLY GREATER NEED 30-50% AMI

HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS ONE OR MORE OF FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS NONE OF THE FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HOUSEHOLD HAS NO/NEGATIVE INCOME, BUT NONE OF THE OTHER HOUSING PROBLEMS
Jurisdiction as a whole	13,474	7,632	0
White	4,873	3,007	0
Black / African American	7,499	3,949	0
Asian	340	295	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	674	378	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

50%-80% of Area Median Income

The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, and cost burden greater than 30%.

TABLE 15: DISPROPORTIONALLY GREATER NEED 50-80% AMI

HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS ONE OR MORE OF FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS NONE OF THE FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HOUSEHOLD HAS NO/NEGATIVE INCOME, BUT NONE OF THE OTHER HOUSING PROBLEMS
Jurisdiction as a whole	8,420	15,579	0
White	3,924	5,984	0
Black / African American	3,599	8,405	0
Asian	88	348	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	40	0
Pacific Islander	85	0	0
Hispanic	393	496	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

80%-100% of Area Median Income

The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than one person per room, and cost burden greater than 30%.

TABLE 16: DISPROPORTIONALLY GREATER NEED 80-100% AMI

HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS ONE OR MORE OF FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS NONE OF THE FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HOUSEHOLD HAS NO/NEGATIVE INCOME, BUT NONE OF THE OTHER HOUSING PROBLEMS
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,954	12,500	0
White	1,279	5,619	0
Black / African American	462	5,015	0
Asian	74	242	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	49	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	80	318	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

DISCUSSION

Housing hardship in Baton Rouge rises sharply as incomes fall. A clear pattern can be seen where the proportion of households who have one or more housing problems increases as income decreases. Seventy-six percent of the extremely low-income households have one or more housing problems while only 13.5% of the moderately low-income (80%-100% AMI) households have one or more housing problem.

PROPORTION OF TOTAL JURISDICTION WITH HOUSING PROBLEMS		
Extremely low-income (0-30% AMI, Table 13)	76.6%	
Very low-income (30-50% AMI, Table 14)	63.8%	
Low-income (50-80% AMI, Table 15)	35.1%	
Moderately low-income (80-100% AMI, Table 16)	13.5%	

In the extremely low-income and very low-income categories, Black/African Americans are shown to have the highest incidence of having one or more housing problems. Seventy-seven percent of extremely low-income households have one or more of the four housing problems. Of these, Black/African American households make up 64.1%, with White households following at 29.0% (Table 13). The distribution in very low-income households is similarly patterned, though less pronounced. Sixty-three percent of very low-income households have one or more housing problems. Black/African American households make up 56% of these households, with White households following, constituting 36.4% of the very low-income households who have one or more housing problems (Table 14).

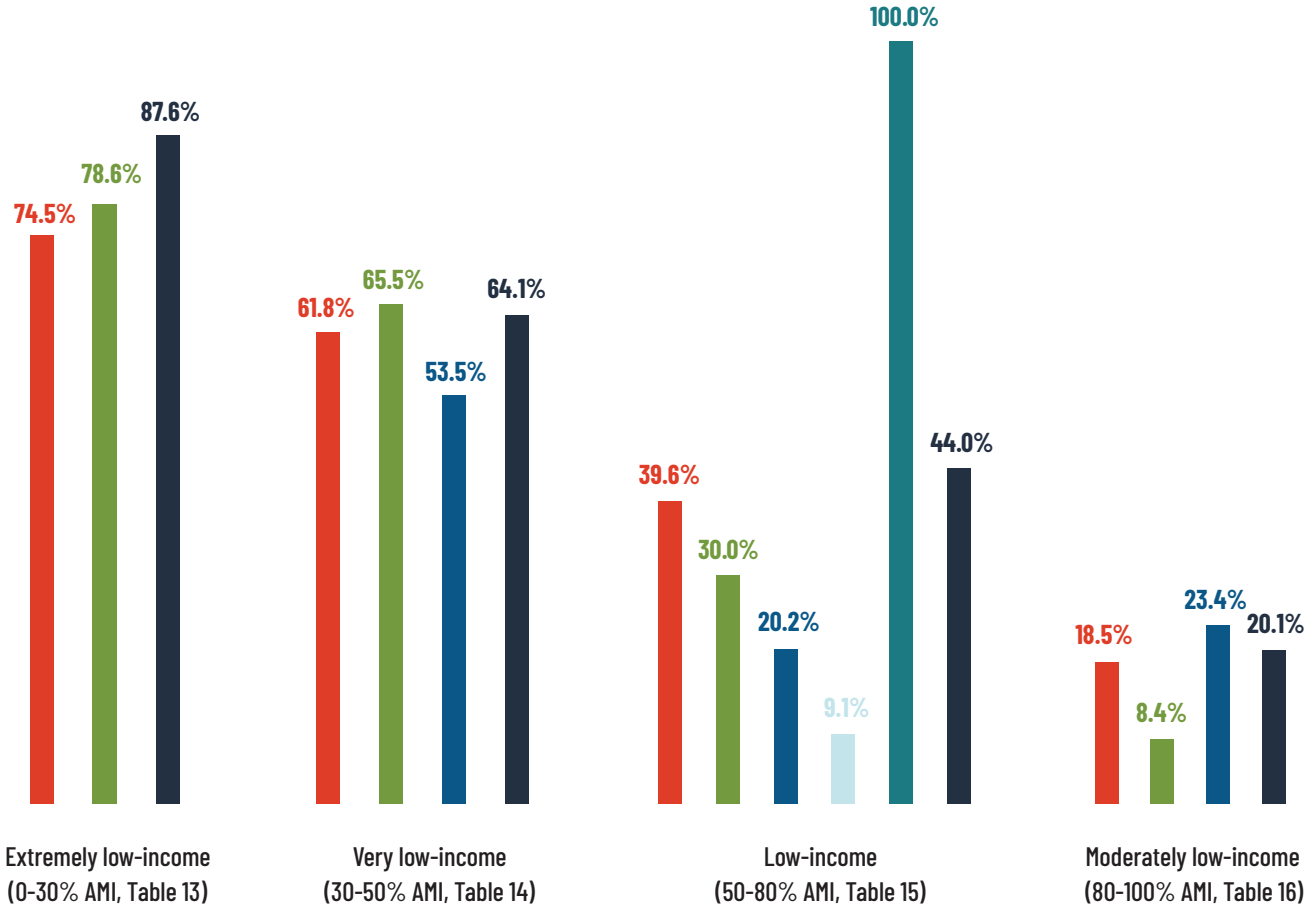
The disparity for low-income households making 50–80% AMI is less pronounced. Across the jurisdiction, 35.1% of low-income households have one or more housing problems. White households account for the greatest proportion of these, representing 48.5%, although this is only slightly

higher than Black/African American households, who represent 44.5% of low-income households with one or more housing problems. Only 13% of the moderately low-income population have one or more housing problems. Among moderately low-income households with housing problems, there are disproportionately more White households, accounting for 67.5% of that group, with Black/African Americans following at 24.4%. Pacific Islanders and American Indian/Alaska Natives were only recorded as having one or more housing problems in the low-income group, with four and 85 individuals respectively.

PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHIN EACH RACE WITH ONE OR MORE HOUSING PROBLEMS:

- White
- Black / African American
- Asian
- American Indian, Alaska Native
- Pacific Islander
- Hispanic

Race excluded when there was no data available.



NA-20 DISPROPORTIONATELY GREATER NEED: SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS – 91.205 (B)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

INTRODUCTION

Severe housing problems in the Baton Rouge area, defined as lacking a full kitchen or complete plumbing, paying over half of household income on housing, or living in extreme crowding, are concentrated overwhelmingly among households earning below 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Extremely low-income families (0–30% AMI) account for 61% of all local households with any housing problem, while very low-income households (30–50% AMI) add another 26%. Black/African American households bear the heaviest burden in these two brackets, representing roughly 63% and 53% of severe-problem cases, respectively; White households follow at 30–38%. As incomes rise, the prevalence of problems drops sharply, yet risk remains uneven: at 50–80% AMI, Hispanic households are disproportionately affected, 28% have at least one problem, and at 80–100% AMI, White households comprise the majority of severe cases.

Overall, only 12% of housing problems occur above 50% AMI, underscoring that inadequate facilities and severe cost burdens are primarily an issue for the lowest-income residents. Race and ethnicity modulate this exposure: Black/African American households are most vulnerable at the bottom of the income scale, Hispanics maintain elevated risk through the mid-low tiers, Asians have an elevated risk in the middle-income tiers, and American Indian/Alaska Native and Pacific Islander households are scarcely represented in the data.

0%-30% of Area Median Income

The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than 1.5 persons per room, and cost burden greater than 50%.

TABLE 17: SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS 0-30% AMI

SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS ONE OR MORE OF FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS NONE OF THE FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HOUSEHOLD HAS NO/NEGATIVE INCOME, BUT NONE OF THE OTHER HOUSING PROBLEMS
Jurisdiction as a whole	15,440	9,790	0
White	4,578	2,823	0
Black / African American	9,545	5,955	0
Asian	239	394	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	873	278	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

30%-50% of Area Median Income

The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than 1.5 persons per room, and cost burden greater than 50%.

TABLE 18: SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS 30-50% AMI

SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS ONE OR MORE OF FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS NONE OF THE FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HOUSEHOLD HAS NO/NEGATIVE INCOME, BUT NONE OF THE OTHER HOUSING PROBLEMS
Jurisdiction as a whole	5,529	15,543	0
White	2,099	5,787	0
Black / African American	2,895	8,529	0
Asian	250	379	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	255	793	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

50%-80% of Area Median Income

The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than 1.5 persons per room, and cost burden greater than 50%.

TABLE 19: SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS 50-80% AMI

SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS ONE OR MORE OF FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS NONE OF THE FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HOUSEHOLD HAS NO/NEGATIVE INCOME, BUT NONE OF THE OTHER HOUSING PROBLEMS
Jurisdiction as a whole	1,975	22,010	0
White	844	9,048	0
Black / African American	739	11,245	0
Asian	68	368	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	4	40	0
Pacific Islander	0	85	0
Hispanic	250	640	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

80%-100% of Area Median Income

The four housing problems are: lacks complete kitchen facilities, lacks complete plumbing facilities, more than 1.5 persons per room, and cost burden greater than 50%.

TABLE 20: SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS 80-100% AMI

SEVERE HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS ONE OR MORE OF FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HAS NONE OF THE FOUR HOUSING PROBLEMS	HOUSEHOLD HAS NO/NEGATIVE INCOME, BUT NONE OF THE OTHER HOUSING PROBLEMS
Jurisdiction as a whole	610	13,850	0
White	344	6,570	0
Black / African American	165	5,300	0
Asian	39	277	0
American Indian, Alaska Native	0	49	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0
Hispanic	34	361	0

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

DISCUSSION

Severe housing problems are distinct from other housing problems in that they involve a cost burden of greater than 50% and crowding defined as more than 1.5 persons per room. Housing problems that are not considered severe include a cost burden greater than 30% and crowding with more than one person per room. Both categories of housing problems include the absence of a full kitchen or complete plumbing facilities. The distribution of severe housing problems among low-income households in the Baton Rouge area mirrors the distribution seen in the NA-15 detailing housing problems not considered severe.

PROPORTION OF TOTAL JURISDICTION WITH HOUSING PROBLEMS		
Extremely low-income (0-30% AMI, Table 17)	61.2%	
Very low-income (30-50% AMI, Table 18)	26.2%	
Low-income (50-80% AMI, Table 19)	8.2%	
Moderately low-income (80-100% AMI, Table 20)	4.2%	

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In extremely low- and very low-income groups, Black/African Americans disproportionately account for the greatest portion of households with severe housing problems, 62.7% and 52.6%, respectively. White households follow, making up 30.0% and 38.2% of the extremely low- and very low-income households. In low-income households, the distribution is split more evenly between Black/African American and White households, accounting for 38.8% and 44.3%, respectively. Among moderately low-income households (80% - 100% AMI) White households disproportionately account for the majority of severe housing problems. The greatest proportion of Hispanic households experiencing severe housing problems is found in the low-income category, where they account for 13.1% of such households. The percentage of Asian households with severe housing problems ranges from 1.6% to 6.7% across the income groups, from extremely low-income to moderately low-income. Only four American Indian/Alaska Native households were recorded; they accounted for 0.2% of the low-income households with severe housing problems. American Indian/Alaska Native households were not recorded in any other income group. No Pacific Islander households were recorded in any of the four income categories. In the extremely low- and very low-income groups, Black/African Americans are disproportionately affected by severe housing problems. In the low-income group, Black/African American and White households make up the largest portion of those experiencing severe housing problems, and in the moderately low-income group (80–100% AMI), White households are disproportionately affected. This distribution is largely proportional to the racial and ethnic composition within each income bracket 9 (Tables 17–20).

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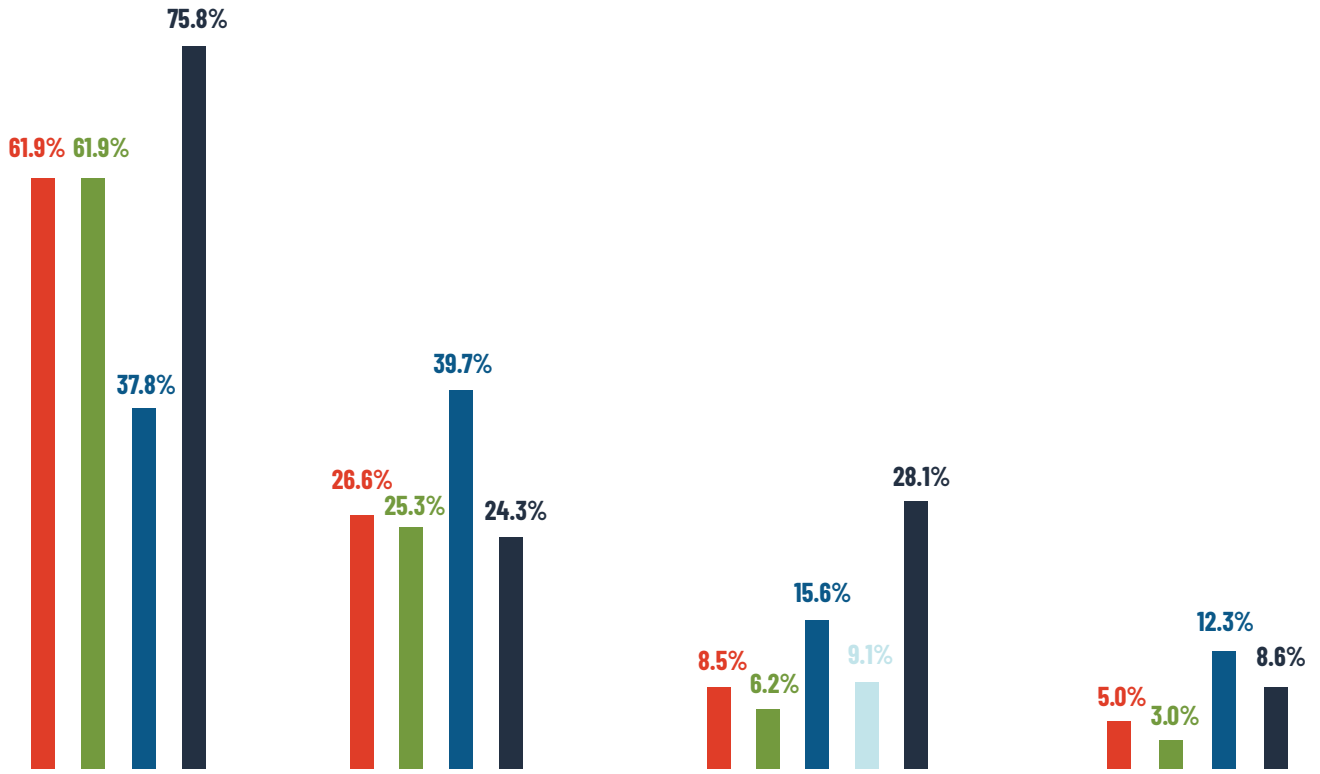
PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHIN EACH RACE WITH ONE OR MORE HOUSING PROBLEMS:

- White
- Black / African American
- Asian
- American Indian, Alaska Native
- Hispanic

Race excluded when there was no data available.



NA-25 DISPROPORTIONATELY GREATER NEED: HOUSING COST BURDENS – 91.205 (B)(2)

Assess the need of any racial or ethnic group that has disproportionately greater need in comparison to the needs of that category of need as a whole.

INTRODUCTION

Within the jurisdiction as a whole, Black/African American households account for more than half (53.2%) of the cost-burdened households. Within each race/ethnic group, Pacific Islanders are disproportionately cost burdened, as all 85 recorded Pacific Islander households are cost burdened.

Housing Cost Burden

TABLE 21: GREATER NEED – HOUSING COST BURDENS AMI

	<=30%	30%-50%	>50%	NO / NEGATIVE INCOME (NOT COMPUTED)
Jurisdiction as a whole	98,609	21,827	21,206	2,655
White	52,965	9,078	7,403	994
Black / African American	36,490	10,975	11,939	1,214
Asian	3,089	239	463	235
American Indian, Alaska Native	259	75	4	0
Pacific Islander	0	85	0	0
Hispanic	3,312	837	1,093	123

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

DISCUSSION

Almost 30% of the households in the jurisdiction are cost burdened, spending 30% or more of their income on monthly housing costs (Table 21). Within the population, there are more White households (48.1%) than Black/African American households (41.2%), but Black/African Americans account for more than half of the cost-burdened households (53.2%). Within each race/ethnicity, Pacific Islanders are disproportionately cost burdened; although there are only 85 households reported, 100% of these households are cost burdened at 30–50% of Area Median Income (Table 21). Black/African American and Hispanic households are similarly cost burdened, accounting for 38.6% and 36.8% of their respective racial/ethnic groups.

NA-30 DISPROPORTIONATELY GREATER NEED: DISCUSSION – 91.205(B)(2)

Are there any Income categories in which a racial or ethnic group has disproportionately greater need than the needs of that income category as a whole?

The trends of needs among groups are proportional to the occurrence of these racial groups within each income category. In extremely low- and very low-income groups, Black/African Americans disproportionately represent the greatest occurrence of severe and non-severe housing problems. In moderately low-income households making 80–100% of the Area Median Income, White households disproportionately represent the greatest occurrence of severe and non-severe housing problems. Black/African Americans account for over half (53.2%) of the total households experiencing a housing cost burden—defined as spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs (Table 21). When looking at the proportion of housing problems within each race category Hispanic populations often have the greatest proportion of that race with housing problems. Hispanic population sizes are often underrepresented of the true population, in fact less than 2% of the community needs survey responses were from Hispanic individuals. Hispanic populations are often underrepresented, but even with current data these populations show a great need for housing problems. Hispanics represented less that 2% of the community survey responses, yet they represent almost 7% percent of the East Baton Rouge population.

If they have needs not identified above, what are those needs?

No additional needs have been identified beyond the housing problems described above, including cost burden.

Are any of those racial or ethnic groups located in specific areas or neighborhoods in your community?

Using the 2016–2020 ACS low-to moderate-income percent by census block group and the 2020 Decennial Census racial makeup of each census block group, correlations were tested between race and ethnicity and the prevalence of low- to moderate-income households. Baton Rouge City-Parish has a moderate degree of correlation (0.38) between the population size of Black/African Americans and the prevalence of low- to moderate-income census blocks. There is also a strong negative correlation (-0.53) between White population size and the prevalence of low- to moderate-income households. Weak degrees of correlation were found among other racial or ethnic groups. This suggests a greater likelihood of concentrated housing needs in neighborhoods that are predominantly Black/African American. Section NA-50 and SP10 presents in further detail the spatial distribution of issues facing certain neighborhoods. Most of the notable neighborhoods are historically Black/African American neighborhoods. Community outreach targeting underrepresented Hispanic populations are needed in the Glen Oaks, Gardere, Villa del Rey, and Sherwood areas.

NA-35 PUBLIC HOUSING – 91.205(B)

INTRODUCTION

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority (EBRPHA) is an independent agency. EBRPHA's leadership and policy-making are vested in a Board of Commissioners appointed by the City-Parish. The mission of the EBRPHA is to provide and develop affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families while promoting self-sufficiency and neighborhood revitalization. The latest annual report available, 2022–2023, states that 14,730 individuals were in affordable housing and Housing Choice Voucher communities, which represents a 25% increase. There are 2,954 disabled individuals and elderly in affordable housing and housing choice voucher communities, which is a 36% increase. The average income of individuals living in their affordable housing communities is $10,998, and there are 1,500 property owners who participate in the housing choice program.

Totals in Use

TABLE 22: PUBLIC HOUSING BY PROGRAM TYPE

PROGRAM TYPE									
				VOUCHERS					
							SPECIAL PURPOSE VOUCHER		
	CERTIFICATE	MOD-REHAB	PUBLIC HOUSING	TOTAL	PROJECT-BASED	TENANT-BASED	VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM	DISABLED*
number of units with vouchers in use	0	18	617	3,855	259	3,596	90	63	0

*Data Source: EBR Public Housing Authority provided data | *Includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition*

Characteristics of Residents

TABLE 23: CHARACTERISTICS OF PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS BY PROGRAM TYPE

PROGRAM TYPE								
				VOUCHERS				
							SPECIAL PURPOSE VOUCHER	
	CERTIFICATE	MOD-REHAB	PUBLIC HOUSING	TOTAL	PROJECT-BASED	TENANT-BASED	VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM
Average Annual Income	0	4,666	9,201	11,556	0	11,501	13,534	0
Average length of stay	0	1	4	5	0	5	0	0
Average Household size	0	1	2	2	0	2	1	0
# Homeless at admission	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of Elderly Program Participants (>62)	0	0	114	310	0	307	2	0
# of Disabled Families	0	2	301	722	0	702	15	0
# of Families requesting accessibility features	0	4	917	3,125	0	3,088	18	0
# of HIV/AIDS program participants	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
# of DV victims	0	0	0	0		0	0	0

Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center)

Race of Residents

TABLE 24: RACE OF PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS BY PROGRAM TYPE

PROGRAM TYPE									
	CERTIFICATE	MOD-REHAB	PUBLIC HOUSING	VOUCHERS					
				TOTAL	PROJECT-BASED	TENANT-BASED	SPECIAL PURPOSE VOUCHER		
							VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM	DISABLED*
White	0	0	14	88	0	87	1	0	0
Black/African American	0	4	903	3,034	0	2,998	17	0	0
Asian	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center) | *Includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition*

Ethnicity of Residents

TABLE 25: ETHNICITY OF PUBLIC HOUSING RESIDENTS BY PROGRAM TYPE

	PROGRAM TYPE								
				VOUCHERS					
							SPECIAL PURPOSE VOUCHER		
	CERTIFICATE	MOD-REHAB	PUBLIC HOUSING	TOTAL	PROJECT-BASED	TENANT-BASED	VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM	DISABLED*
Hispanic	0	0	8	21	0	21	0	0	0
Not Hispanic	0	4	909	3,104	0	3,067	18	0	0

*Data Source: PIC (PIH Information Center) | *Includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition*

SECTION 504 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Describe the needs of public housing tenants and applicants on the waiting list for accessible units.

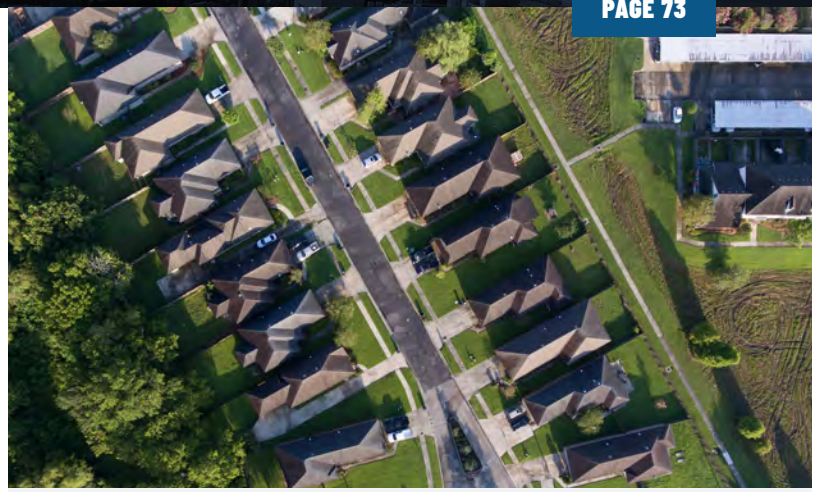
In consultation with the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority, across waiting lists, 97 tenants self-reported as needing mobility-accessible units. This need is concentrated at properties for elderly and non-elderly disabled residents.

Most immediate needs of residents of Public Housing and Housing Choice voucher holders.

The most immediate needs are accessible units in the private sector.

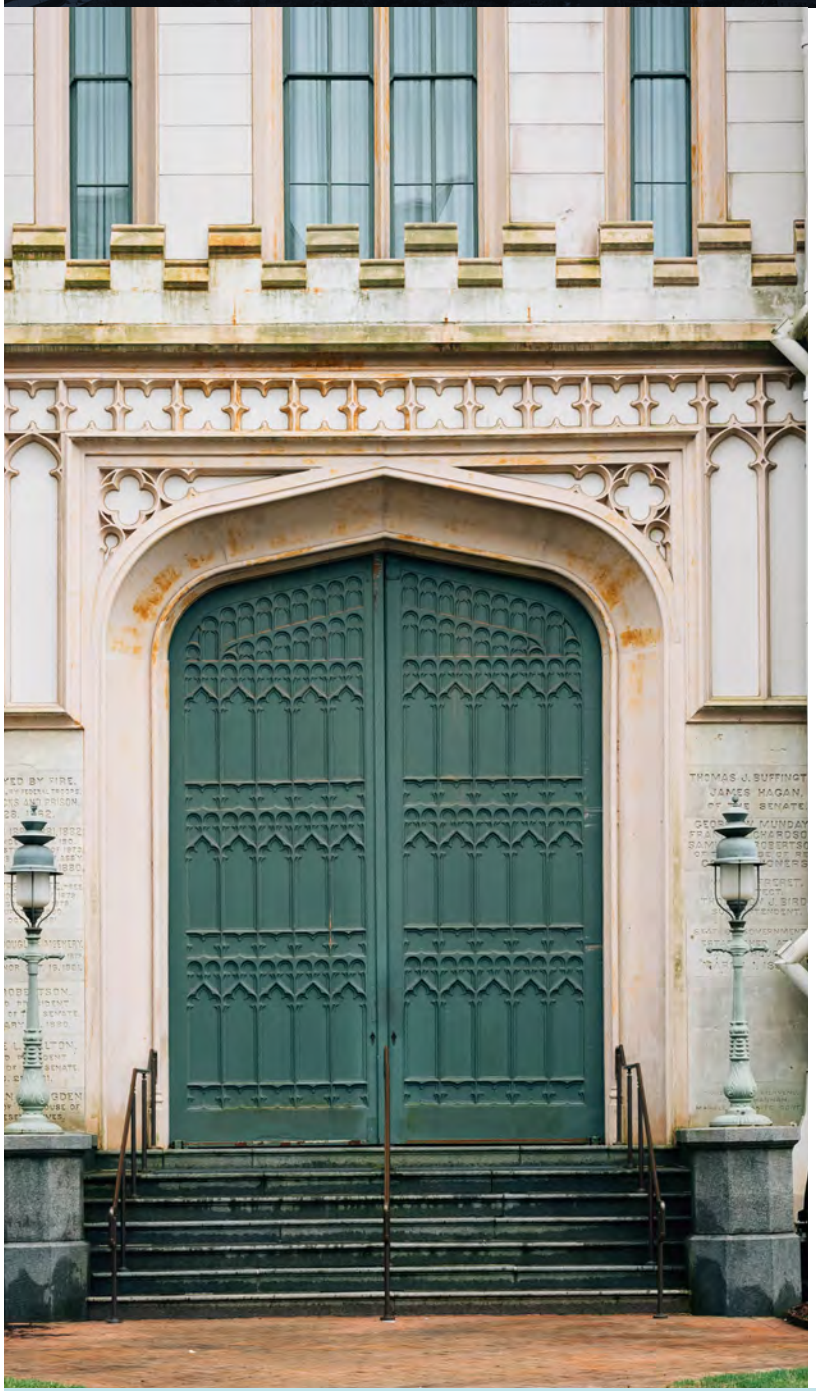
How do these needs compare to the housing needs of the population at large.

The needs are comparable to those of the population at large.



DISCUSSION

The needs of the public housing sector largely mirror those of the population as a whole. There is an immediate need for accessible units for elderly and disabled individuals. In East Baton Rouge, the elderly make up 15% of the total population, with over a third experiencing disabilities, while persons with disabilities represent 14.5% of the total population overall (ACS 2023).



NA-40 HOMELESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT - 91.205(C)

INTRODUCTION

Feedback from the community and key stakeholders indicates that local homeless shelters frequently operate at full capacity and are often compelled to turn individuals away due to space limitations. These shelters and related services consistently face insufficient funding to adequately address the community's needs.

HOMELESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TABLE 26: HOMELESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

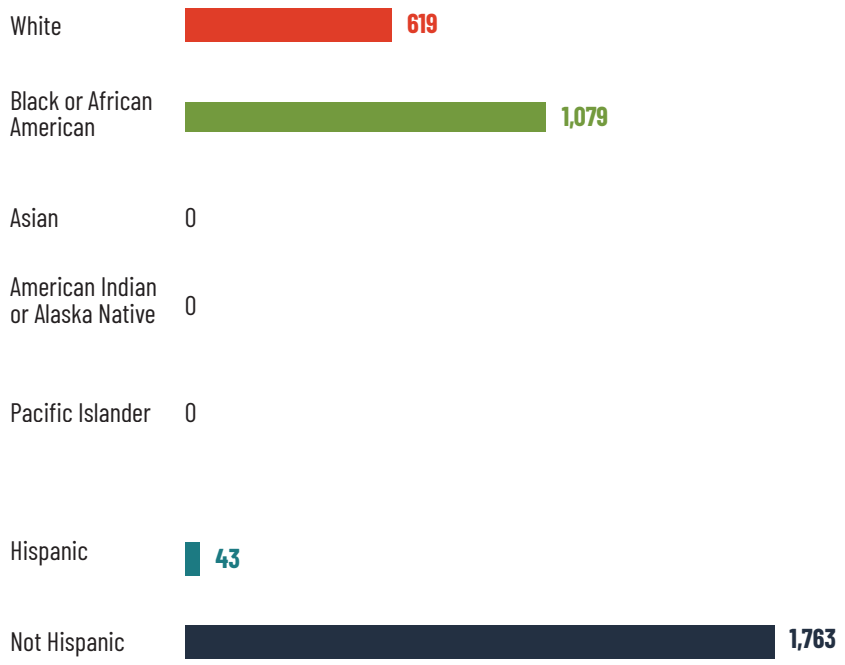
POPULATION	ESTIMATE THE # OF PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS ON A GIVEN NIGHT		ESTIMATE THE # EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS EACH YEAR	ESTIMATE THE # BECOMING HOMELESS EACH YEAR	ESTIMATE THE # EXITING HOMELESSNESS EACH YEAR	ESTIMATE THE # OF DAYS PERSONS EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS
	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED				
Persons in Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	51	0	0	0	0	0
Persons in Households with Only Children	0	0	0	0	0	0
Persons in Households with Only Adults	185	117	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Individuals	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chronically Homeless Families	0	0	0	0	0	0
Veterans	43	8	0	0	0	0
Unaccompanied Child	11	2	0	0	0	0
Persons with HIV	0	0	0	0	0	0

Data Source: Baton Rouge Office of Community Development | Current estimates were not available to the OCD. The data presented in this table is pulled over from the 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan.

TABLE 27: NATURE AND EXTENT OF HOMELESSNESS

RACE	SHELTERED	UNSHELTERED (OPTIONAL)
White	619	0
Black or African American	1,079	0
Asian	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0
Pacific Islander	0	0
ETHNICITY	**SHELTERED**	**UNSHELTERED (OPTIONAL)**
Hispanic	43	0
Not Hispanic	1,763	0

Data Source: Louisiana Balance of State of Continuum of Care | According to the 2024 PIT count data the Baton Rouge region makes up 52% of the state homeless population served under BASCOC. This table presents estimates derived by accounting for 52% of the individuals reported in the 2025-2029 Louisiana Consolidated Plan.



Estimate the number and type of families in need of housing assistance for families with children and the families of veterans.

Although OCD does not have precise data on the number of families with children or veteran families, it is evident that local shelters in the Baton Rouge region are consistently at full capacity. Insights from focus groups and community engagement efforts indicate a persistent shortage of shelter beds and facilities for people experiencing homelessness. The demand for these services regularly surpasses both the available resources and the funding allocated to meet the need.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Homelessness by Racial and Ethnic Group.

According the data presented in the previous 2020-2024 Consolidated Plan and included in the above table the homeless facilities are occupied by 2% Hispanic, 36% White, and 62% Black/African American.

Describe the Nature and Extent of Unsheltered and Sheltered Homelessness.

No data is available for unsheltered individuals. The transient nature of these persons makes estimating populations difficult and unreliable.

DISCUSSION

Although the most recent Point-in-Time data is unavailable for analysis, feedback from the community and key stakeholders indicates that local homeless shelters frequently operate at full capacity and are often compelled to turn individuals away due to space limitations. These shelters and related services consistently face insufficient funding to adequately address the community's needs.

NA-45 NON-HOMELESS SPECIAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT - 91.205 (B,D)

INTRODUCTION

Special needs populations in East Baton Rouge Parish, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, those living with HIV/AIDS, individuals with substance use disorders, and at-risk youth, face significant challenges related to housing and supportive services. The elderly make up 15% of the population, with over one-third experiencing disabilities, while persons with disabilities represent 14.5% of the total population. The Baton Rouge region also has one of the highest HIV diagnosis rates in the country, with over 4,200 people living with HIV, predominantly Black/African American and male, many of whom struggle with poverty, housing instability, and access to care. Substance use disorder is another critical concern, as the region ranks high in drug overdose mortality.

Housing needs for these groups include affordable, accessible units; permanent supportive housing; and tailored services such as case management, transportation assistance, and coordination with medical providers. Stable housing is especially vital for people living with HIV/AIDS in order to maintain treatment adherence and improve health outcomes. Although no formal preference for targeted housing assistance exists, expanding Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) and supportive services could help reduce homelessness and service gaps. Addressing these needs requires integrated housing models and strong collaboration between health, housing, and social service agencies to enhance quality of life and ensure continuity of care for these vulnerable populations.

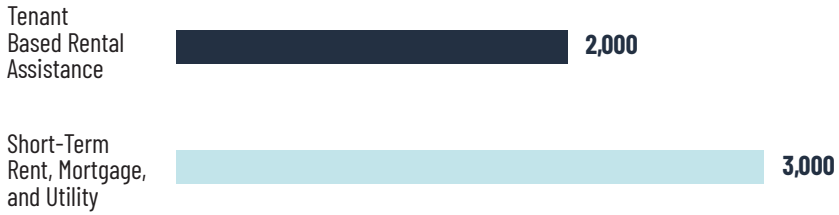
HOPWA

TABLE 28: HOPWA DATA

CURRENT HOPWA FORMULA USE:	
Cumulative Cases of AIDS Reported	5,032
Area Incidence of AIDS	0
Rate per Population	1
Number of New Cases Prior Year (3 years of data)	177
Rate per Population (3 years of data)	0
CURRENT HIV SURVEILLANCE DATA:	
Number of Persons Living with HIV (PLWH)	3,771
Area Prevalence (PLWH per population)	1
Number of New HIV Cases Reported Last Year	168

Data Source: Center for Disease Control HIV Surveillance

TABLE 29: HIV HOUSING NEED



TYPE OF HOPWA ASSISTANCE	ESTIMATES OF UNMET NEED
Tenant based rental assistance	2,000
Short-term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility	3,000
Facility Based Housing (Permanent, short-term or transitional)	0

Data Source: HOPWA CAPER and HOPWA Beneficiary Verification Worksheet

Describe the characteristics of special needs populations in your community:

HUD defines special needs populations as the elderly, the frail elderly, persons with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, and persons with alcohol or drug addictions. In East Baton Rouge Parish, 15% of the total population is elderly (ACS 2023). Of the elderly population, 36.4% have a disability. Persons with disabilities account for 14.5% of the total population. Persons with disabilities include those with mobility, cognitive, hearing, and self-care difficulties. According to the September 2023 Louisiana HIV, AIDS, Early Syphilis, and Congenital Syphilis Surveillance Report (2023 HIV Report), there were 171 newly diagnosed cases of HIV in the Baton Rouge region. This accounted for 20% of the new diagnoses in the state. Addiction is a prevalent issue in Louisiana, which ranked 5th in the nation for drug overdoses in 2022 (CDC Drug Overdose Mortality by State). On a regional scale, the Capital Region ranks 3rd in the state. There is also a significant population of individuals experiencing substance use disorders, though quantifying this group remains difficult due to underreporting.

Community feedback has identified at risk youth ages 16 to 24 as a special needs population. While many of these young people may meet HUD's categorical definitions of being at risk of homelessness, they often face barriers to accessing support services due to factors such as age, lack of credit history, or other eligibility limitations. Some individuals of this group may be transitioning out of institutional settings like foster care or juvenile justice systems, frequently without the support of a stable family or community network. Additionally, many lack the educational background or vocational training needed to secure employment that provides a living wage.

What are the housing and supportive service needs of these populations and how are these needs determined?

SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATIONS FACE MULTIPLE HOUSING CHALLENGES, INCLUDING:

- **A LACK OF AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE UNITS FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED**
- **LIMITED AVAILABILITY OF SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS OR SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS**
- **TRANSPORTATION BARRIERS AND INSUFFICIENT IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES**
- **PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS OFTEN NEED STABLE HOUSING IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN TREATMENT ADHERENCE**
- **AT RISK YOUTHS NEED AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS THAT ARE AVAILABLE FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER 18 AND OPTIONS THAT DO NOT PLACE HEAVY EMPHASIS ON CREDIT RATINGS**

These needs are assessed using data from the American Community Survey, the Louisiana Department of Health, local Continuum of Care Point-in-Time counts, and consultation with social service agencies.

Discuss the size and characteristics of the population with HIV/AIDS and their families within the Eligible Metropolitan Statistical Area:

According to the 2023 HIV Surveillance Report, there are 4,210 people in East Baton Rouge Parish living with HIV. The Baton Rouge metropolitan region ranks second in the state for persons living with HIV or AIDS. In Louisiana, 64% of newly diagnosed HIV cases were among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (GBM), according to the 2023 HIV Surveillance Report. Of that population, 3% also reported being a person who injected drugs. The population of new HIV cases is relatively young. Of the newly diagnosed HIV cases statewide, 25% were between the ages of 13–24, and an additional 34% were 25–34 years old. As of September 2023, approximately 47% of people in Louisiana living with HIV were GBM. In 2023, 68% of people newly diagnosed with HIV and 69% of people newly diagnosed with AIDS in Louisiana were Black/African American, even though Black/African American residents represent only 32% of the state population. As noted above, many face co-occurring challenges such as poverty, housing instability, and limited access to consistent care. Stable housing remains a critical factor in ensuring treatment adherence and improving health outcomes.

If the PJ will establish a preference for a HOME TBRA activity for persons with a specific category of disabilities (e.g., persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness), describe their unmet need for housing and services needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2) (ii))

While no formal preference has been established, persons with HIV/AIDS face significant housing instability due to low income and stigma-related barriers.

THE UNMET NEED INCLUDES:

- PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING UNITS
- EXPANDING TBRA OR SIMILAR VOUCHERS MAY HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF HOMELESSNESS AND IMPROVE CONTINUITY OF CARE
- COORDINATION WITH MEDICAL PROVIDERS FOR WRAP-AROUND SERVICES
- CASE MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE

DISCUSSION

East Baton Rouge Parish continues to see a persistent need for housing and supportive services among non-homeless special needs populations. Strategic partnerships and cross-sector collaboration are essential to address the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Data indicates that integrated housing and service delivery models, especially those targeting medical adherence and independent living, are key to narrowing service gaps and improving quality of life.

NA-50 NON-HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEEDS – 91.215 (F)

DESCRIBE THE JURISDICTION'S NEED FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES

Baton Rouge has used HUD funding, particularly Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, for various public facility projects aimed at improving infrastructure and services in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Typically, public facilities in Baton Rouge are funded through a variety of sources, such as property and revenue taxes, bonds, federal and state grants, non-profits, and philanthropic contributions, which are then layered to maximize resources.

THROUGH COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS, FOCUS GROUPS, AND STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS, THERE WAS A RECOGNIZED NEED TO FUND THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC FACILITIES:

Transportation was raised repeatedly as a barrier to housing, jobs, and services. Comfortable, functional, and accessible bus shelters were identified as critical public facilities to improve access for transit-dependent residents. The need for sidewalks and complete street elements was also identified to encourage pedestrian activity and community connections.

Construction and expansion of homeless shelters and domestic violence shelter options, as current shelters stay at capacity and more women and children are reported sleeping in vehicles.

Adaptive re-use of vacant public buildings into affordable housing, mixed-use developments, and small business incubators, particularly those described in the Imagine Plank Road and Scotlandville Community Plans. This need could be paired with the Department of Architectural Services and the East Baton Rouge School District's facilities and buildings plan.

More community meeting and co-working spaces.

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The housing units on the 2nd and 3rd floors are currently uninhabitable and require renovation prior to coming back online.

More shaded pavilions, improvements to BREC facilities, and additional neighborhood-scale splash pads are needed to address high heat conditions in low-income areas where utility costs are overburdening residents.

Improvements to road maintenance on city streets, specifically pothole repairs in low- to moderate-income areas, where a car is one of the most expensive investments for residents. Poor road conditions also contribute to neighborhood decline and lower property values.

There is a need for recreational activities, youth-centered programs, and accessible employment options for youth. Neighborhoods lacking safe, engaging spaces and meaningful opportunities for youth result in an increased likelihood of juvenile involvement in crime, as there are limited positive alternatives available.

Only 200–250 shelter beds are available in Baton Rouge on a given night, but an estimated 1,200 people are experiencing homelessness per month (including both sheltered and unsheltered homelessness). Shelters are especially needed outside the downtown area in high-need neighborhoods. The One Stop Homeless Services Center's 1st floor operates as a day shelter (not intended for overnight shelter) while the 2nd and 3rd floors were designated for housing units.

How were these needs determined?

These needs were determined through communication with the public at the two community workshops, the results of the survey, and comments sent to the Baton Rouge Office of Community Development staff and the planning team.

Stakeholders and City-Parish staff who work directly with vulnerable populations were invited to participate in focus groups. These stakeholders included local non-profits, government agencies, residents, and local businesses dedicated to serving vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations may include people experiencing homelessness, families affected by domestic violence, individuals dealing with addiction and behavioral health issues, households facing food insecurity, economic development leaders, and others.

DESCRIBE THE JURISDICTION'S NEED FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS

Baton Rouge is a large metropolitan capital city with older areas that were developed with grid street patterns and compact development. These areas, while more efficient for providing public services and containing higher density populations, are also prone to aging infrastructure, concentration of poverty, and high needs for public improvements. The needs for public improvements include:

PUBLIC SAFETY

The removal of condemned and blighted structures was the highest priority identified by the community to improve low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. There are over 5,700 blighted structures and a backlog of 125 condemnations that are ready for removal.

Lighting and facade improvements.

Increasing police patrols and expanding crime prevention districts which should be aligned with community improvement and small area plans.

Additional crosswalks, ADA accessible crossing ramps with appropriate signage.

LEGAL SERVICES

Domestic violence is a leading driver of homelessness for both women and children. Stakeholders identified a need for legal support services for victims of domestic violence.

At risk youth are at high risk of homelessness, and targeted support services for individuals ages 16–24 are needed. These services may include housing stability assistance, legal aid for accessing public benefits, help securing personal identification, and support for job readiness.

To address title issues that contribute to vacancy and blight, legal services are needed to help low-income homeowners clear property titles. Unresolved titles can block access to rehabilitation programs and other housing assistance.

PERSONNEL EXPANSION

A community ambassador program is needed to go into low-income neighborhoods, meet people where they are, and bring resources and services to residents, especially older adults and children. Hiring trusted community liaisons or mediators from within the neighborhood serves as a promising violence prevention tool. The Gardere Initiative and its partnership with Burbank Crime Prevention has been successful and could serve as a model for expanding similar efforts in other low-income areas of Baton Rouge with appropriate funding.

The Department of Development has a significant need for additional personnel to address the backlog of blighted properties and to improve code enforcement through early intervention programs. Tying code enforcement to available home repair programs will require both coordination and additional staffing capacity.

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JOB TRAINING

Skilled trades, summer internships, and certificate programs are highly utilized in Baton Rouge and often fill up, leaving unmet needs for low-income residents, especially young people.

Summer and after-school programs that provide technical skills and certifications to high schoolers have strong support. However, transportation barriers and the work schedules of parents often prevent students from participating. Addressing this gap will require partnering with private transportation providers or arranging summer contracts with school bus drivers.

PATHWAYS TO HOMEOWNERSHIP

Soft second mortgages of up to 20% were identified as one of the most effective tools for keeping housing affordable, safe, and accessible. These programs are quickly depleted, highlighting the fact that available funding does not meet demand.

Down payment assistance for purchasing homes in low-to-moderate-income areas of Baton Rouge was seen as a way to increase homeownership. Mortgages are critically needed in low-income areas for several fundamental reasons tied to housing stability, economic opportunity, and community development. When down payment and closing cost gaps are addressed, monthly mortgage payments can be comparable to rent.

CROSSWALKS

Crosswalk needs were pulled from the adopted East Baton Rouge Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan and were also identified as a priority during several meetings. This list of crosswalk needs is merely a snapshot does not fully capture the broader need for crosswalk improvements in the Baton Rouge area. The Capital Area Transit Authority's Empower Baton Rouge transit plan is another resource for crosswalk needs.

How were these needs determined?

These needs were determined by input from the public at two community workshops, survey results, and comments sent to BR OCD staff and the planning team. Stakeholders and City-Parish staff who work directly with vulnerable populations were invited to participate in focus groups. These stakeholders included local nonprofits, government agencies, residents, and local businesses dedicated to working with neighborhoods and improving the quality of life in Baton Rouge.

HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS

MA-05 OVERVIEW

HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS OVERVIEW

The Housing Market Analysis provides an assessment of housing needs in EBR. Nearly 2/3 of households earn less than 80% of the Area Median Income, bearing the brunt of housing problems such as cost burden, overcrowding, and substandard living conditions. Cost burden, defined as households spending more than 30% of income on housing, is the most widespread issue, particularly for extremely low-income renters who represent 61% of all cost-burdened renter households.

Many LMI homeowners need major repairs that exceed the capacity of the Home Rehabilitation Program. The need is especially urgent for elderly residents and single-family households, who often live in deteriorating homes but face long wait times or funding. Community input suggests that many repair requests come only after the cost of home repair has become prohibitively expensive.

Special needs populations like the elderly, people with disabilities, survivors of domestic violence, individuals with HIV/AIDS, and at-risk youth face layered housing and support challenges. These include a shortage of accessible units, limited supportive housing options, and difficulty accessing legal assistance. Community feedback emphasized the importance of housing stability in improving health and social outcomes, particularly for vulnerable groups such as youth aging out of foster care and people with disabilities.

The parish's Coordinated Entry System uses early intervention strategies and has achieved above-average homeless placement success. A broad range of local agencies offer supportive housing, behavioral health services, legal aid, and job readiness programs. This chapter highlights how services are integrated to ensure that housing support is paired with essential wraparound services to help clients stabilize and regain independence.

Community feedback pointed to urgent needs such as blight removal, improved enforcement, workforce development, and homeownership pathways through programs like soft second mortgages. These interventions are essential to meet current needs and to prevent further housing instability and to support long-term neighborhood revitalization. There are many neighborhoods in Baton Rouge that suffer from an aging housing stock, high cost burdens, and widespread blight, which reduce surrounding property values and perpetuate disinvestment. Specific areas with overlapping issues of blight, crime, and poverty include

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Gardere, Scotlandville, Brookstown, and Downtown East. These conditions are compounded by racial and economic segregation, with most high-poverty census tracts being majority Black/African American or minority-populated. Home values and rents are significantly lower than the parish average, vacancy rates are higher, and many homes were built before 1980, often requiring costly repairs and updates to meet modern codes. Owner-occupancy rates are low, and housing cost burdens are high, particularly among the economically vulnerable. These market dynamics make it difficult to attract private investment and further entrench cycles of poverty and neighborhood decline.

Despite these challenges, several strategic opportunities and community assets exist. Community centers, public schools, and major institutions are located near these neighborhoods. Programs like MOVEBR are investing over $1 billion in transportation improvements, prioritizing underserved communities like the Plank Road Corridor. Major infrastructure and economic development efforts, such as a proposed Baton Rouge–New Orleans rail connection and airport area redevelopment, aim to stimulate economic activity in high-need areas.

Broadband access remains a pressing concern as a significant portion of low-income residents lack reliable internet access due to cost, lack of infrastructure and limited provider competition. This digital divide, especially in the Plank Road area, impedes education, employment, and healthcare access.

Climate change and natural hazards further threaten the well-being of LMI households. Flooding poses significant risks, particularly lower-lying neighborhoods. Heat waves are intensifying and straining the already limited shelter and cooling resources. These climate-related stresses disproportionately impact those with fewer resources to adapt, prepare, or recover, highlighting the need for targeted hazard mitigation and resilient infrastructure planning in EBR's vulnerable communities.

MA-10 NUMBER OF HOUSING UNITS – 91.210(A)&(B)(2)

INTRODUCTION

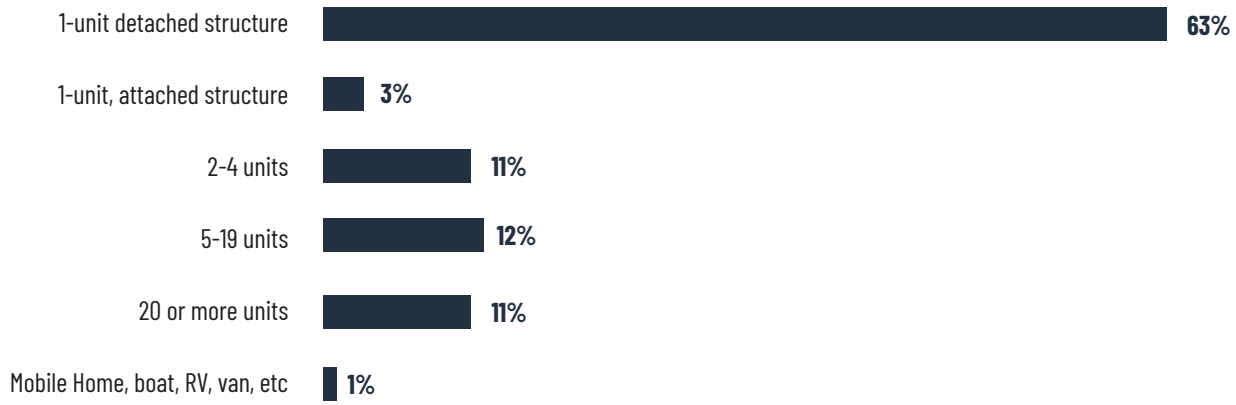
The housing stock in East Baton Rouge reflects the predominance of single-family detached homes, which account for nearly two-thirds of all residential properties. While multifamily units and mobile homes offer some diversity in housing types, their share remains limited, contributing to gaps in housing availability and affordability. Data from the American Community Survey (2016–2020) and recent program reports point to a growing mismatch between the types of housing available and the needs of the community, particularly low-income households, renters, people with disabilities, and families seeking accessible or supportive housing options. This section provides an overview of the current housing inventory, highlights populations served by federal and local housing programs, and identifies key areas where additional investment and diversification are needed to ensure equitable access to safe and affordable housing.

All Residential Properties by Number of Units

TABLE 30: RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES BY UNIT NUMBER

PROPERTY TYPE	NUMBER	PERCENT
1-unit detached structure	136,195	63%
1-unit, attached structure	5,570	3%
2-4 units	23,425	11%
5-19 units	25,465	12%
20 or more units	23,425	11%
Mobile Home, boat, RV, van, etc	2,634	1%
Total	**216,714**	**100%**

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

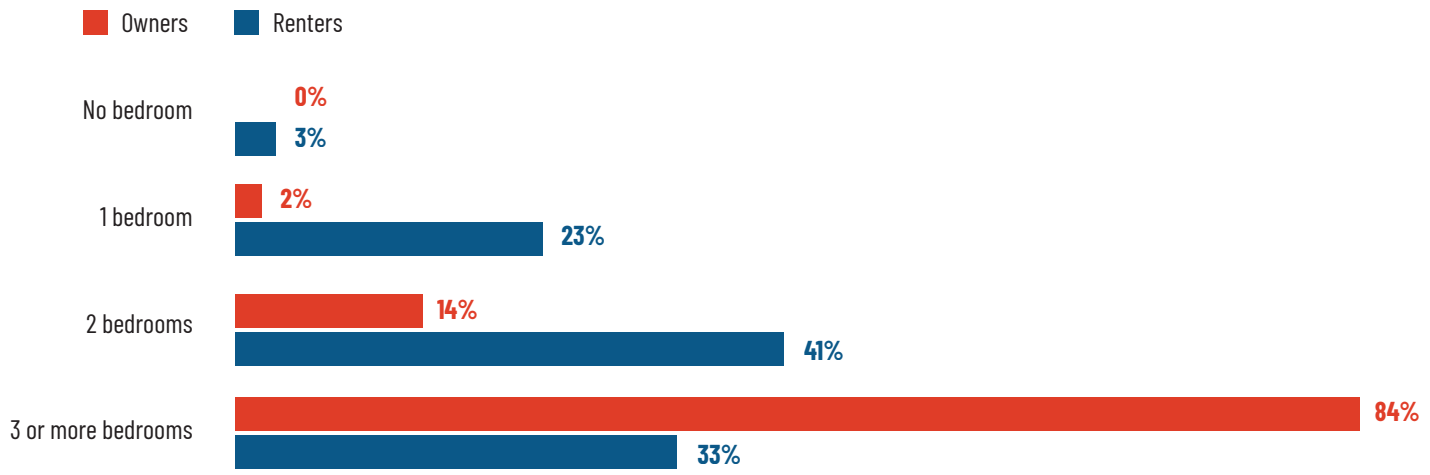


Unit Size by Tenure

TABLE 31: UNIT SIZE BY TENURE

PROPERTY TYPE	OWNERS		RENTERS	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
No bedroom	99	0%	2,485	3%
1 bedroom	1,735	2%	21,795	23%
2 bedrooms	12,470	14%	39,290	41%
3 or more bedrooms	75,745	84%	31,755	33%
Total	**90,049**	**100%**	**95,325**	**100%**

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau



Describe the number and targeting (income level/type of family served) of units assisted with federal, state, and local programs.

According to the 2022–2023 Building Vibrant & Diverse Communities report, the Affordable Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs support a total of 162 veterans, 14,730 individuals, 2,954 people with disabilities or older adults, and 4,780 families.

Provide an assessment of units expected to be lost from the affordable housing inventory for any reason, such as expiration of Section 8 contracts.

According to the East Baton Rouge Public Housing Authority, no loss of affordable housing units is anticipated.

Does the availability of housing units meet the needs of the population?

No, the availability of housing units does not meet the needs of the population. Families applying for the Housing Choice Voucher program often face wait times of several years before reaching the top of the list, clear evidence of an inadequate housing supply. There is also a significant shortage of ADA-accessible units for older adults and people with disabilities. Local homeless shelters are consistently at capacity and frequently turn people away due to a lack of available beds. Additionally, housing options for specialized services such as halfway houses and rehabilitation centers are in short supply.

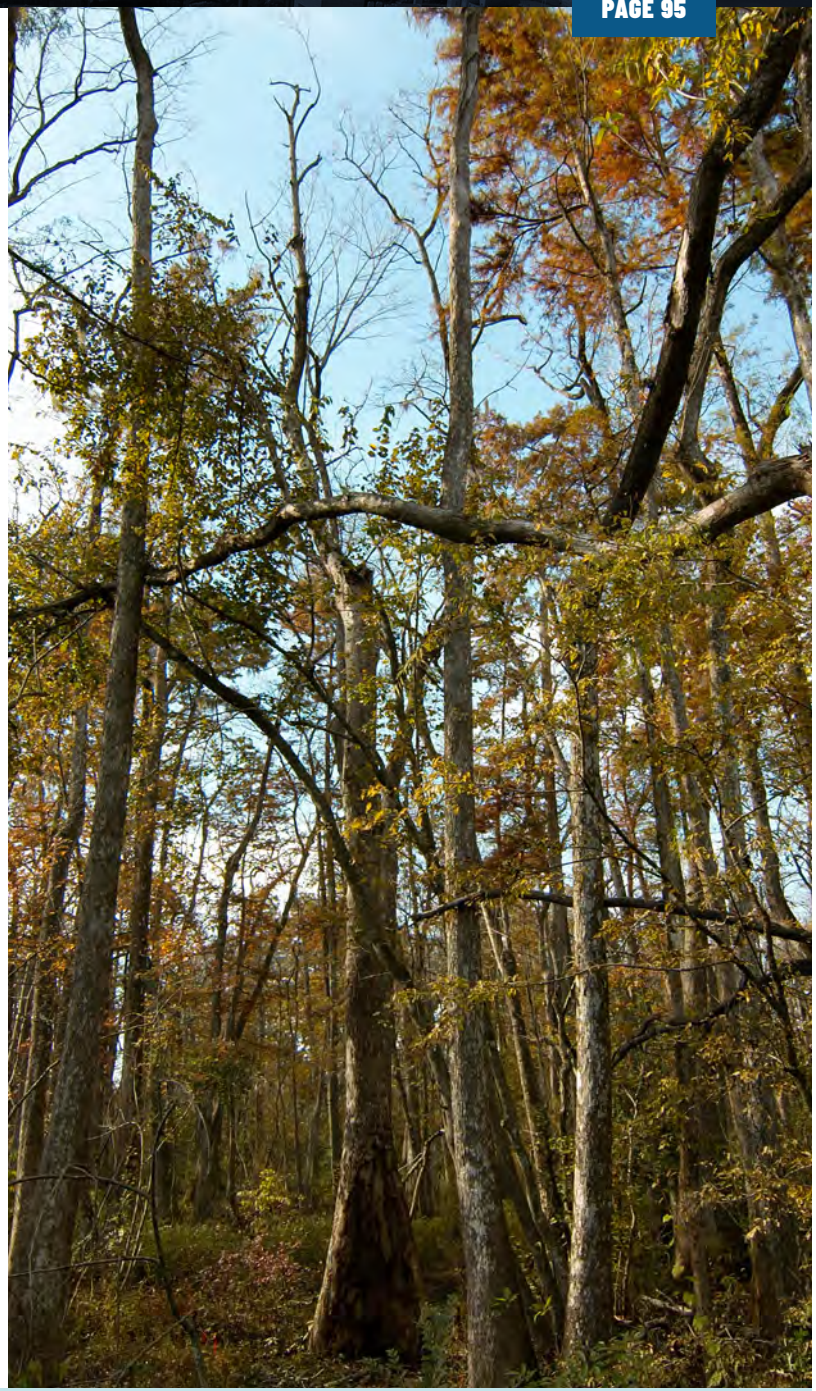
Describe the need for specific types of housing.

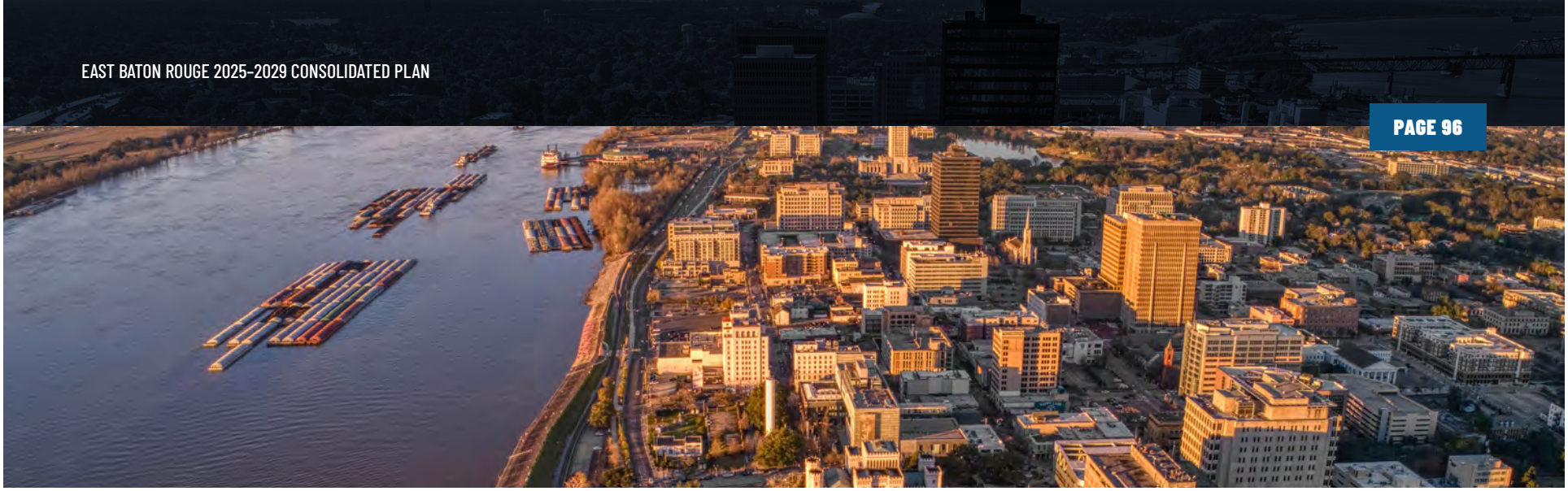
Greater accessibility of affordable housing that is independent of rental subsidy is needed, as funding for rental subsidies is limited. There is also a need for increased housing availability in areas of opportunity and for mixed-income developments to help deconcentrate poverty.

DISCUSSION

The dominant housing type in the area is single-family detached homes, which comprise 63% of the total housing stock (136,195 units), according to Table 28. Multifamily housing consisting of buildings with 2–4 units, 5–19 units, and 20 or more units each make up between 11% and 12% of the total. In contrast, single-unit attached structures, such as townhomes, represent just 3% of the housing inventory, with only 5,570 units. Expanding the supply of single-unit attached housing could offer a more land-efficient way to increase affordable housing options compared to traditional single-family homes.

There is a clear distinction between the types of housing occupied by owners and renters. The vast majority of owner-occupied homes (84%) have three or more bedrooms (Table 29), reflecting a strong preference or need for larger living spaces among homeowners. In contrast, renter-occupied units are more evenly distributed across all unit sizes, with a significant share (41%) in two-bedroom units and 26% in one-bedroom or studio units. This contrast suggests a higher demand for smaller rental units and a continued need for larger homes among owners.





MA-15 HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS: COST OF HOUSING - 91.210(A)

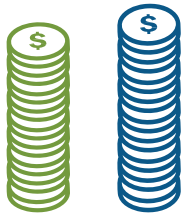
INTRODUCTION

EBR City-Parish suffers from a lack of affordable housing units, especially for extremely low-income households. This shortage has put pressure on programs such as the Housing Choice Voucher program, with wait times often stretching for years. Housing costs in the region have climbed noticeably over the past decade. From 2009 to 2020, the median home value increased by 18 percent (from $156,400 to $185,000), while median contract rent rose by 15 percent (from $650 to $747). Yet almost 90 percent of renter households still pay under $1,000 a month, illustrating both a heavy reliance on the lower end of the market and the growing squeeze as prices rise faster than incomes.

Affordability pressures are most acute for households with the lowest earnings. The current stock falls well short of meeting the needs of extremely low-income households (≤ 30% of area median or $26,200 for a family of four), where just 38 percent of needed rental units exist. Even moderate-income homeowners face shortages. With national home prices having surged far beyond the 18 percent reflected by pre-pandemic data, and with most affordable options concentrated in rentals rather than ownership, the gap between what families earn and what housing costs is widening—signaling an urgent need to preserve and expand low-cost units across all income tiers.

Cost of Housing

MEDIAN CONTRACT RENT



2009 2020

MEDIAN HOME VALUE

2009 2020

TABLE 32: COST OF HOUSING

	BASE YEAR: 2009	MOST RECENT YEAR: 2020	% CHANGE
Median Home Value	$156,400	$185,000	18.0% ▲
Median Contract Rent	$650	$747	15.0% ▲

Data Source: 2000 Census; 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

TABLE 33: RENT PAID

	NUMBER	PERCENT
Less than $500	37,635	39.5%
$500-999	47,010	49.3%
$1,000-1,499	8,329	8.7%
$1,500-1,999	1,540	1.6%
$2,000 or more	765	0.8%
Total	95,279	100.0%

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

Housing Affordability

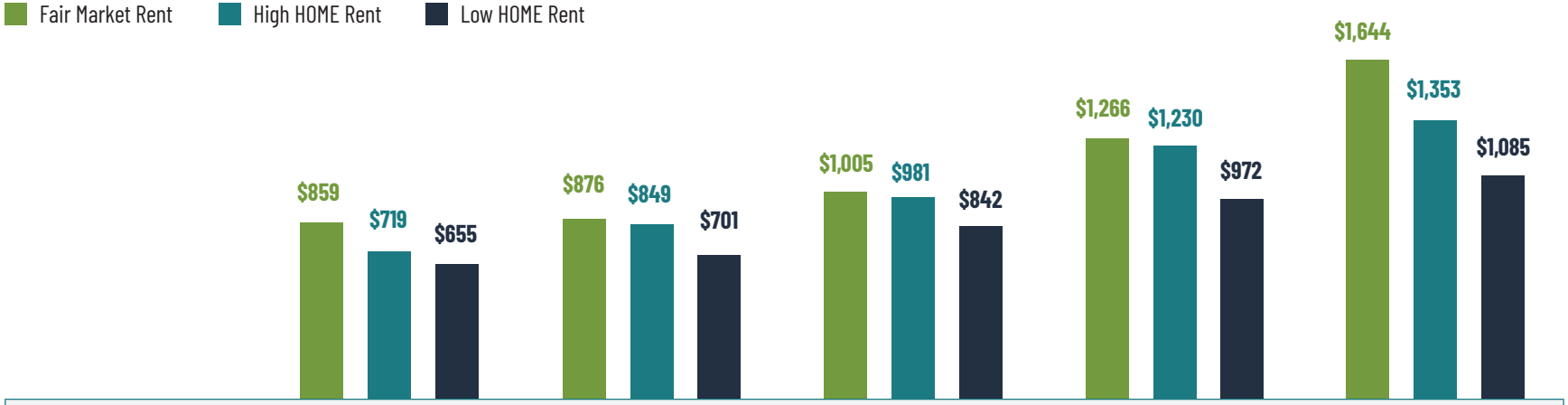
TABLE 34: HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

NUMBER OF UNITS AFFORDABLE TO HOUSEHOLDS EARNING	RENTER	OWNER
30% HAMFI	20,075	No Data
50% HAMFI	50,370	18,334
80% HAMFI	78,575	37,063
100% HAMFI	No Data	44,448
Total	**149,020**	**99,845**

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

Monthly Rent

TABLE 35: MONTHLY RENT



MONTHLY RENT	EFFICIENCY (NO BEDROOM)	1 BEDROOM	2 BEDROOMS	3 BEDROOMS	4 BEDROOMS
Fair Market Rent	$859	$876	$1,005	$1,266	$1,644
High HOME Rent	$719	$849	$981	$1,230	$1,353
Low HOME Rent	$655	$701	$842	$972	$1,085

Data Source: HUD FMR and HOME Rents

Is there sufficient housing for households at all income levels?

No, families applying for the Housing Choice Voucher program can expect to wait many years on the waiting list before receiving assistance. This extended wait time is clear evidence that the availability of housing units does not meet the needs of the population. Based on the total number of households for each income group provided in Table 6 and the number of affordable units shown in Table 32, there are collectively enough affordable units available for all income groups except the extremely low-income group, defined as households earning 30% or less of the area median income. In the extremely low-income group, there are only enough rental units for 38% of total households. In the other income categories, although there are more units than households, most of these are rental rather than owner-occupied units. In the 30–50% HAMFI income group, there are enough rental units, but only about half as many owner units available as there are households in that group.

How is affordability of housing likely to change considering changes to home values and/or rents?

The median home value rose 18% from 2005 to 2020 (Table 30). The data provided in this table is based on the latest American Community Survey data from 2016 to 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, home prices soared. The Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University noted that nationally, home prices grew by 43% between 2019 and 2022, while incomes only grew by 7% during that same period. This suggests that the actual change was much higher than the 18% reported in Table 30. Without an influx of additional units, finding affordable homes for low- to moderate-income households will become an even greater challenge as prices increase and supply cannot meet demand. This is especially true for extremely low-income households, where a lack of affordable housing units is already apparent.

How do HOME Rents / Fair Market Rent compare to Area Median Rent? How might this impact your strategy to produce or preserve affordable housing?

The median contract rent is $747 (Table 30). Based on the HOME rent rates provided in Table 33, only efficiency (studio/no-bedroom) units and some one-bedroom units fall below the median contract rent. In fact, the high end of the one-bedroom HOME rent range is $849, which is over $100 higher than the median contract rent. The low HOME rent for any unit larger than one bedroom is still above the median contract rent.

DISCUSSION

A home is often the largest asset a household will invest in. As the home appreciates, it can build value and long-term wealth and be passed to the next generation to build generational wealth. However, in areas with little home value appreciation, unstable market conditions, or high maintenance costs, homes may not build value and they may even lose value. A lack of available affordable units decreases opportunities for low- to moderate-income households to escape poverty. In the 30–50% HAMFI group, there are only enough owner units for 57% of the total households in that income group. The shortage of affordable units available for extremely low-income households puts undue pressure on affordable housing programs such as the Housing Choice Voucher program, where participants can expect to remain on the waitlist for years. The rising housing costs that occurred during the pandemic have further intensified the affordability crisis. East Baton Rouge City-Parish faces a lack of affordable housing options, especially for low- to moderate-income households. The majority of “surplus” units at 50–80% HAMFI are rentals rather than ownership opportunities. The supply of homes available for purchase by moderate-income families falls far short of demand, with just 18,334 affordable units compared to more than 37,000 renter households in that income bracket, creating a bottleneck that stalls the shift to homeownership and limits wealth-building potential.

HOME-assisted rents offer deeper discounts in efficiency and some one-bedroom units, but exceed the median when two or more bedrooms are required, precisely the unit sizes most family households need. With supply constrained, population stable, and construction costs rising, the default scenario is the further erosion of affordability.

MA-20 HOUSING MARKET ANALYSIS: CONDITION OF HOUSING – 91.210(A)

INTRODUCTION

East Baton Rouge Parish has an aging housing stock, with 44% of occupied units built before 1980 (ACS 2023 Physical Housing Characteristics for Occupied Housing Units). Research shows that children from low-income households are more likely to be exposed to lead-based paint hazards. This underscores the importance of addressing lead-based paint within the local community, especially if children ages 6 and younger reside within the property. The need for programs such as the Home Rehabilitation Program remains high. The City-Parish limits the program's scope of work to best serve the community with the limited funding available.

Describe the jurisdiction's definition of "standard condition" and "substandard condition but suitable for rehabilitation."

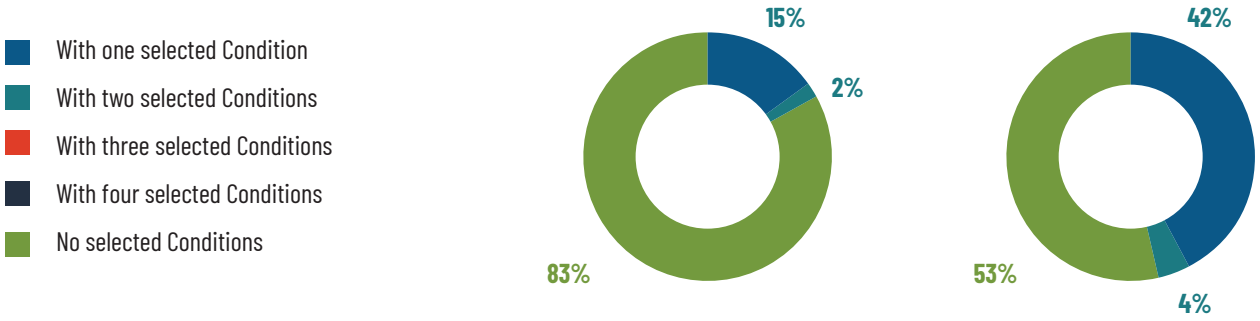
The jurisdiction follows HUD guidance for defining "standard condition" and "substandard condition but suitable for rehabilitation."

Standard Condition: A unit in standard condition is one that is decent, safe, and sanitary, meeting local codes and HUD Housing Quality Standards (HQS) without the need for significant repairs. These units are considered fully habitable as-is.

Substandard Condition but suitable for rehabilitation does not currently meet those standards but can be brought into compliance through rehabilitation. HUD requires that such rehabilitation be both physically feasible and cost-effective, meaning the home is not beyond repair, and the cost to bring it up to standard is reasonable.

Condition of Units

TABLE 36: CONDITION OF UNITS



CONDITION OF UNITS	OWNER-OCCUPIED		RENTER-OCCUPIED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
With one selected Condition	13,270	15%	40,305	42%
With two selected Conditions	1,475	2%	4,085	4%
With three selected Conditions	19	0%	105	0%
With four selected Conditions	0	0%	0	0%
No selected Conditions	75,170	83%	50,840	53%
Total	**89,934**	**100%**	**95,335**	**99%**

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

Year Unit Built

TABLE 37: YEAR UNIT BUILT

CONDITION OF UNITS	OWNER-OCCUPIED		RENTER-OCCUPIED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
2000 or later	6,279	7%	18,250	19%
1980-1999	9,144	10%	16,930	18%
1950-1979	62,765	70%	52,700	55%
Before 1950	11,855	13%	7,430	8%
Total	**90,043**	**100%**	**95,310**	**100%**

Data Source: 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

Risk of Lead-Based Paint Hazard

TABLE 38: RISK OF LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARD

CONDITION OF UNITS	OWNER-OCCUPIED		RENTER-OCCUPIED	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Total Number of Units Built Before 1980	74,620	83%	60,130	63%
Housing Units build before 1980 with children present	0	0%	0	0%

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau; 2016-2020 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

Vacant Units

TABLE 39: VACANT UNITS

	SUITABLE FOR REHABILITATION	NOT SUITABLE FOR REHABILITATION	TOTAL
Vacant Units	0	0	0
Abandoned Vacant Units	0	0	0
REO Properties	0	0	0
Abandoned REO Properties	0	0	0

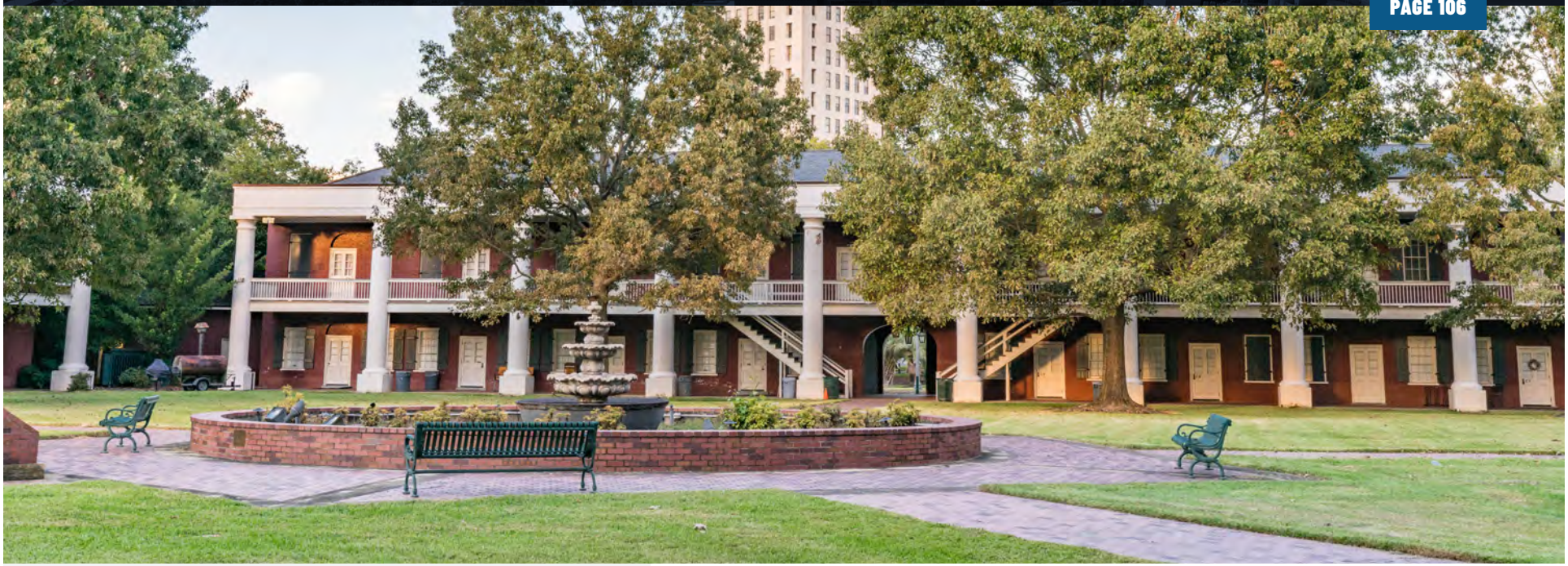
Data Source: 2005-2009 Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy

Need for Owner and Rental Rehabilitation.

Baton Rouge has an aging housing stock and a large portion of low- to moderate-income households. Programs such as the Homeowner Repair Program cannot keep up with demand. Baton Rouge also suffers from a high prevalence of blighted homes. Many of the program applications received are for older homes in such poor condition that the cost to rehabilitate them exceeds what the program can fund. The program gives special consideration to seniors over the age of 62, families with children, and people with disabilities. With Baton Rouge's aging housing stock, the demand for this program exceeds what available funds can support.

Estimated Number of Housing Units Occupied by Low or Moderate Income Families with LBP Hazards.

The American Community Survey (2016–2020) estimates that 44% of occupied housing units were built before 1980. This represents a total of 76,203 occupied housing units that may be contaminated with lead-based paint. There is a moderate positive correlation (r = 0.33) between the prevalence of low- to moderate-income households and the percentage of homes built prior to 1979 by census tract (Pearson method, ACS Physical Housing Characteristics, HUD LMI by Census Tract). This suggests that while there is variation across the parish, low- to moderate-income households are at a greater risk of lead-based paint exposure in both their homes and neighborhoods. According to the CHAS data provided in Table 35, the percentage of homes build prior to 1980 is even greater than the estimates reported by ACS. According to Table 35, approximately 73% of the homes in EBR were built prior to 1980. While the exact number of low- to moderate-income households with lead-based paint hazards cannot be determined, research supports that children from low-income households are at greater risk of lead exposure (CDC 2024).



DISCUSSION

Baton Rouge's aging housing stock puts pressure on programs such as the Home Rehabilitation Program. With 82.9% of owner-occupied homes and 63.1% of renter-occupied homes built before 1980, the risk for lead-based exposure is high, especially among vulnerable populations such as children from low- to moderate-income families (Table 35).

MA-25 PUBLIC AND ASSISTED HOUSING – 91.210(B)

INTRODUCTION

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority (EBRPHA) is an independent agency. Its leadership and policymaking authority rests with a Board of Commissioners appointed by the City-Parish. The mission of the EBRPHA is to provide and develop affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families while promoting self-sufficiency and neighborhood revitalization.

Totals Number of Units

TABLE 40: TOTAL NUMBER OF UNITS BY PROGRAM TYPE

PROGRAM TYPE									
	CERTIFICATE	MOD-REHAB	PUBLIC HOUSING	VOUCHERS					
				TOTAL	PROJECT-BASED	TENANT-BASED	SPECIAL PURPOSE VOUCHER		
							VETERANS AFFAIRS SUPPORTIVE HOUSING	FAMILY UNIFICATION PROGRAM	DISABLED*
number of units vouchers available	0	24	852	4,453	305	3,947	101	100	0
number of accessible units	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

*Data Source: EBR Public Housing Authority provided data | *Includes Non-Elderly Disabled, Mainstream One-Year, Mainstream Five-year, and Nursing Home Transition*

Describe the supply of public housing developments:

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority maintains 846 units across 11 public housing communities throughout the parish. Six of these communities are privately managed.

Describe the number and physical condition of public housing units in the jurisdiction, including those that are participating in an approved Public Housing Agency Plan:

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority maintains 846 units across 11 public housing communities throughout the parish. Six of these communities are privately managed. The public housing communities were initially developed in the 1940s and 1970s and lack some of the modern landscaping, amenities, and design elements that support a higher quality of life. While well-maintained, the properties have increasing capital needs that are not fully funded by the government.

Public Housing Condition

TABLE 41: PUBLIC HOUSING CONDITION

PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT	AVERAGE INSPECTION SCORE
AMP-1 Monte Sano, Wood Plaza, Scotland, Clarksdale	96
AMP-2 Zion Terrace, Kelly Terrace	96
AMP-3 Turner Plaza	92
AMP-4 Ardenwood, Capital Square, Duane Street	95
AMP-5 Sharlo Terrace	96
AMP-9 River South 2	98

AMP-1 MONTE SANO, WOOD PLAZA, SCOTLAND, CLARKSDALE

AMP-2 ZION TERRACE, KELLY TERRACE

AMP-3 TURNER PLAZA

AMP-4 ARDENWOOD, CAPITAL SQUARE, DUANE STREET

AMP-5 SHARLO TERRACE

AMP-9 RIVER SOUTH 2

Describe the restoration and revitalization needs of public housing units in the jurisdiction:

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority has a rolling 5-Year Capital Fund Plan that includes infrastructure projects such as roofing, plumbing, exterior lighting, security cameras, pavement, HVAC replacement, and the development of replacement housing.

Describe the public housing agency's strategy for improving the living environment of low- and moderate-income families residing in public housing:

The Housing Authority's strategy is to leverage private and public funds for the development of new affordable housing. The agency is pursuing a portfolio-wide conversion of all public housing communities through RAD, Section 32, Section 18, and other initiatives.

The Ardenwood Village community is a strong example of this strategy. Ardenwood is in the final phases of a Choice Neighborhood Initiative Implementation Grant to transform 93 public housing units into a new 432-unit mixed-income community that serves as an anchor for the transformation of the Smiley Heights and Melrose East neighborhoods.

DISCUSSION

The EBRPHA is an independent agency. Its leadership and policymaking authority rests with a Board of Commissioners who are appointed by the City-Parish. The agency maintains over 800 units across EBR Parish. EBRPHA regularly maintains high scores on public housing inspections. While the properties perform well on inspections, the bulk of the developments were built between the 1940s and 1970s, so they lack modern amenities and require significant capital improvements. EBRPHA has developed a 5-Year Capital Fund Plan to address these needs.

MA-30 HOMELESS FACILITIES AND SERVICES - 91.210(C)

INTRODUCTION

Of the ~1,200 people experiencing homelessness at any given time in Louisiana, about 350 meet the criteria for chronic homelessness, meaning they've been unhoused for over a year and have a disability (mental, physical, or substance-related). The parish's Coordinated Entry System has achieved a housing placement success rate double the national average through "light-touch" interventions like diversion and problem-solving.

Facilities and Housing Targeted to Homeless Households

TABLE 42: FACILITIES AND HOUSING TARGETED TO HOMELESS HOUSEHOLDS

CONDITION OF UNITS	EMERGENCY SHELTER BEDS		TRANSITIONAL HOUSING BEDS	PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING BEDS	
	YEAR ROUND BEDS (CURRENT & NEW)	VOUCHER / SEASONAL / OVERFLOW BEDS	CURRENT & NEW	CURRENT & NEW	UNDER DEVELOPMENT
Households with Adult(s) and Child(ren)	49	10	13	110	0
Households with Only Adults	99	5	262	182	0
Chronically Homeless Households	0	5	0	0	0
Veterans	0	0	0	0	0
Unaccompanied Youth	12	0	5	5	0

*Data Source: Baton Rouge Office of Community Development; *Current bed counts were not available to the OCD, the numbers presented in chart 40 are from the 2020-2024 Baton Rouge Consolidated Plan.*

Describe mainstream services, such as health, mental health, and employment services to the extent those services are use to complement services targeted to homeless persons.

The Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (LA BOSCOC), which is the homelessness coalition that serves EBRP, has member agencies and partnerships with agencies that provide mainstream services that complement homelessness services. All LA BOSCOC funded projects are monitored to ensure that they connect participants with necessary supportive services:

OPEN HEALTHCARE CLINIC

In addition to operating two Continuum of Care (CoC) housing projects, they operate Federally Qualified Health Centers throughout the city/parish, including one in the One Stop day shelter.

O'BRIEN HOUSE

Operates a CoC housing project and provides behavioral health services to people experiencing housing instability.

CAPITAL AREA HUMAN SERVICES DISTRICT

Operates a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center that ensures access to behavioral healthcare for un/underinsured individuals, including those experiencing homelessness.

SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA LEGAL SERVICES

Has a service site at One Stop day shelter and provides legal aid to people experiencing homelessness as needed.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER

Provides job readiness courses and assistance acquiring documents like IDs or birth certificates.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY

Operates a career center that helps complete applications, resumes, prepare for interviews, and develop job search strategies.

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The list below includes other local homeless services providers that are not funded by the Baton Rouge Region CoC program:

VETERANS AFFAIRS
Provides a variety of housing programs to veterans experiencing homelessness, specifically VASH, as well as health services.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES
Operates a shelter for pregnant women aged 18 or older experiencing homelessness and a shelter for people exiting incarceration

EMPOWER225
Provides housing-focused street outreach for youth and operates a group home for youth experiencing homelessness or exiting the child welfare system.

SALVATION ARMY
Provides temporary shelter for people experiencing homelessness and substance abuse residential programs.

THE BRIDGE CENTER FOR HOPE
Provides crisis care for adults and referrals for longer-term care.

CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER
Assists with document readiness and provides job readiness training.

List and describe services and facilities that meet the needs of homeless persons, particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth. If the services and facilities are listed on screen SP-40 Institutional Delivery Structure or screen MA-35 Special Needs Facilities and Services, describe how these facilities and services specifically address the needs of these populations.

The list on the right includes all CoC Program funded projects in Baton Rouge. Note that all rental assistance projects are paired with supportive services.

EASTERSEALS

Provides medium-term (up to 24 months) rental assistance and long-term rental assistance/supportive services to people experiencing chronic homelessness.

OPEN HEALTHCARE CLINIC

Provides long-term rental assistance to people experiencing chronic homelessness who are diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in addition to operating FQHCs, including one at the One Stop day shelter.

LOUISIANA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VIA IRIS

Provides shelter and medium-term rental assistance to people experiencing homelessness as a result of attempting to flee domestic violence.

LOUISIANA HOUSING CORPORATION

Provides medium-term rental assistance to people experiencing homelessness. It also serves as the CoC Lead Agency and Collaborative Applicant for the LA BOSCOC, which covers Baton Rouge and other areas of the state.

O'BRIEN HOUSE

Provides substance use treatment for people experiencing housing instability and long-term rental assistance to people experiencing homelessness.

START CORPORATION

Provides housing-focused street outreach, assertive community treatment and other behavioral health services, medium-term rental assistance, and long-term rental assistance for people experiencing chronic homelessness. This includes families with children and veterans.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA SOUTH CENTRAL LOUISIANA

Provides housing-focused street outreach, long-term rental assistance for people experiencing chronic homelessness, and operates the One Stop day shelter. They also provide behavioral health and homelessness prevention services.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Operates emergency shelters, including for women and families, as well as providing long-term rental assistance for people experiencing chronic homelessness.

YOUTH OASIS

Youth-focused organization that operates transitional housing and medium-term rental assistance, a group home for young parents, and limited emergency shelter for youth.

MA-35 SPECIAL NEEDS FACILITIES AND SERVICES - 91.210(D)

INTRODUCTION

Addressing the housing and support service needs of special needs populations in the Baton Rouge region remains a critical priority. The Public Housing Authority has identified a significant shortage of accessible housing units, particularly for the elderly and individuals with disabilities. Additionally, Baton Rouge is home to a substantial population of individuals living with HIV/AIDS, which contributes to ongoing demand for targeted support services. The region also faces a growing need for both outpatient and inpatient rehabilitation services. Furthermore, support for at-risk youth continues to be a pressing concern, especially for older teens who often fall through the gaps in existing service programs due to age-based eligibility restrictions.

TABLE 43: HOPWA ASSISTANCE BASELINE

TYPE OF HOPWA ASSISTANCE	NUMBER OF UNITS DESIGNATED OR AVAILABLE FOR PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS AND THEIR FAMILIES
Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	90
Permanent Housing (PH) in Facilities	10
Short-term Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Assistance (STRMU)	526
Short-Term or Transitional Housing Facilities	0
Permanent Housing Placement (PHP)	18

Data Source: HOPWA CAPER and HOPWA Beneficiary Verification Worksheet

Including the elderly, frail elderly, persons with disabilities (mental, physical, developmental), persons with alcohol or other drug addictions, persons with HIV/AIDS and their families, public housing residents and any other categories the jurisdiction may specify, and describe their supportive housing needs.

Supportive housing needs vary for each special needs population. Some of the housing support services needed for these populations are listed below. Across all these populations, the quality and quantity of housing units, especially accessible units, are insufficient to meet current demand, particularly given Baton Rouge's aging housing stock.

ELDERLY AND INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Accessible and affordable housing units.

In-home support services such as personal care aides, home health services, and home maintenance assistance.

On-site or mobile service coordinators to assist with benefits, appointments, and transportation.

PERSONS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS

Affordable housing units or housing payment assistance.

Housing near medical care centers.

Case management services to help individuals access assistance.

PERSONS REQUIRING MENTAL HEALTH AND REHABILITATION SERVICES

Case management services to help individuals navigate available resources such as medical follow-ups, recovery services, job training, and peer support.

Sober living homes and transitional housing.

Reentry housing options for individuals returning from institutional settings with a history of substance use or mental health issues.

AT RISK YOUTH

Supervised transitional housing for youth aging out of foster care or youth aged 16–17 when Child Protective Services does not have available placement options.

Programs focused on preparing youth for independent living.

Emergency shelters and host homes.

Group homes that offer support services to youth.

Case management to help youth navigate housing, medical, legal, and educational issues.

Describe programs for ensuring that persons returning from mental and physical health institutions receive appropriate supportive housing.

East Baton Rouge offers multiple programs to support individuals returning from mental and physical health institutions with housing and related services. Key programs include:

- The Bridge Center for Hope provides crisis care services to the Capital Region. It is available 24/7, serving individuals aged 18 or older. The Bridge Center provides post-discharge navigation assistance to help link patients to ongoing outpatient services and appropriate community resources.
- Capital Area Human Services District (CAHS) provides adult behavioral health, adolescent health, addiction recovery, care coordination, post-incarceration services, and supportive services. CAHS also offers short-term residential addiction recovery services and discharge planning support.
- START provides permanent supportive housing, community-based recovery services, and assertive community treatment.
- Volunteers of America Greater Baton Rouge provides behavioral health, homelessness prevention, disability, senior, and housing services.
- St. Vincent de Paul offers transitional housing, supportive services, and referrals to permanent housing resources.

Numerous nonprofit organizations and agencies across the Capital Region offer additional supportive services. In addition, hospitals are required by Louisiana law to provide discharge planning services when releasing patients. However, one of the greatest challenges in effective discharge planning is the limited availability of shelter beds and affordable housing units. Regional shelters consistently operate at capacity and are unable to meet the demand for housing support.

Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals 91.315(e).

To address the housing and supportive service needs of non-homeless special needs populations, the jurisdiction will continue investing in programs that support elderly residents, individuals with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, and youth aging out of foster care. These efforts include partnerships with local service providers that deliver case management, transitional housing, accessibility upgrades, and health-related support services. The jurisdiction will also continue to coordinate with agencies such as the Capital Area Human Services District and Volunteers of America to ensure services remain responsive to the needs of these populations. These activities align with the one-year goals identified in the Annual Action Plan, specifically Goal #2: Preserve and Improve Existing Housing Stock, Goal #3: Expand Housing and Supportive Services for Special Needs Populations, and Goal #5: Provide Public Services for Low- to Moderate-Income Residents.

For entitlement/consortia grantees: Specify the activities that the jurisdiction plans to undertake during the next year to address the housing and supportive services needs identified in accordance with 91.215(e) with respect to persons who are not homeless but have other special needs. Link to one-year goals (91.220(2)).

To address the housing and supportive service needs of non-homeless special needs populations, the jurisdiction will continue investing in programs that support elderly residents, individuals with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, and youth aging out of foster care. These efforts include partnerships with local service providers that deliver case management, transitional housing, accessibility upgrades, and health-related support services. The jurisdiction will also continue to coordinate with agencies such as the Capital Area Human Services District and Volunteers of America to ensure services remain responsive to the needs of these populations. These activities align with the one-year goals identified in the Annual Action Plan, specifically Goal #2: Preserve and Improve Existing Housing Stock, Goal #3: Expand Housing and Supportive Services for Special Needs Populations, and Goal #5: Provide Public Services for Low- to Moderate-Income Residents.

MA-40 BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 91.210(E)

NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF PUBLIC POLICIES ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT

There are several public policies that negatively affect affordable housing and residential investment in Baton Rouge. At the 2022 East Baton Rouge Housing Summit, community members and stakeholders had the opportunity to provide input, and numerous policies were identified. These include:

ZONING AND LAND USE POLICIES

Restrictive Zoning Laws: Baton Rouge uses single-family zoning, which prohibits the development of multi-family housing, townhomes, or accessory dwelling units in higher-income areas of the city. Single-family zoning accounts for approximately 36% of the parish's zoned area. These zoning laws restrict density, limit affordable housing choice, and increase per-unit development costs in the parish.

Minimum Lot Sizes & Parking Requirements: Minimum lot sizes can restrict density and require more infrastructure to develop. This increases the cost of land per unit and discourages affordable, infill, or small-scale developments. Complex permitting and approval processes: East Baton Rouge has a notoriously complex permitting process and inconsistent approval outcomes, which deter investment and delay housing projects.

Negative Effects on Construction Material: While the cost of construction materials is primarily market-driven, local policy barriers, such as restrictive zoning, lengthy permitting processes, and a lack of development incentives, amplify the cost burden, making affordable housing projects less financially viable.

LIMITED OR INCONSISTENT USE OF TAX INCENTIVE POLICIES

Programs like the Restoration Tax Abatement, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and state and federal historic tax credits are difficult to access, and smaller developers often lack the capacity to participate in them.

Each incentive program has a separate application process, public hearing requirements, and timelines, making coordination among these policies difficult.

Incentive programs still require upfront housing costs to be paid, which are later reimbursed through credits. This is not feasible for smaller developers who lack access to capital.

DISASTER AND INSURANCE POLICIES

High property insurance costs are affecting affordable housing rehabilitation and construction. Recurring hurricanes and flooding have caused insurance premiums in Baton Rouge to be among the highest in the U.S. adding to housing costs and deterring investment.

With many insurance companies no longer writing policies in Louisiana, there is limited choice or flexibility for consumers. This makes the state policy of last resort the only option for many, often the highest-cost of all insurance policies.

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BLIGHT, ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES, AND VACANT BUILDING POLICIES

Blight: The decades-long concentration of blight in large swaths of the city has not been properly or efficiently addressed through local or state policy. This has resulted in blighted and vacant buildings disproportionately affecting low-income areas and contributing to a poor tax base and lowered property values. Local data estimates there are over 5,000 blighted properties in the parish. Buildings and properties can become blighted when they are adjudicated.

Adjudicated Properties: If an owner does not pay property taxes in East Baton Rouge, the property can go through a tax sale or become adjudicated. Adjudicated properties are those whose ownership is in limbo, with the government body holding claim but not full ownership. The parish cannot legally fix, sell, or demolish these properties in a timely manner as they must go through a legal process to clear the title or transfer it, a process that can take years. Adjudicated properties are often vacant buildings.

Vacant Buildings: Vacant buildings in the parish are often blighted and/or adjudicated properties with no legal owner. The parish lacks a vacant, out-of-town, or negligent owner policy, which contributes to the lack of accountability for property owners who do not maintain their properties. When there is no legal owner, the owner is out of town, or the owner is no longer receiving rent due to lack of maintenance, these sites sit vacant and deteriorate, adding to blight.

MA-45 NON-HOUSING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSETS – 91.215 (F)

INTRODUCTION

Non-housing community development assets are vital to residents of Baton Rouge in breaking cycles of poverty and promoting long-term stability. Investments in community assets such as business incubators, commercial corridors, and small business support centers help stimulate local economic growth. Infrastructure that supports access to these assets, such as transportation enhancements, community centers, and free Wi-Fi hubs, is equally important. Using data and summary research, this section provides an overview of the economic and workforce conditions present in Baton Rouge, with a focus on non-housing community development assets.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARKET ANALYSIS

Business Activity

TABLE 44: BUSINESS ACTIVITY

	NUMBER OF WORKERS	NUMBER OF JOBS	SHARE OF WORKERS	SHARE OF JOBS	JOBS LESS WORKERS
Agriculture, Mining, Oil & Gas Extraction	1,862	750	1%	0%	-1%
Arts, Entertainment, Accommodations	23,329	19,653	11%	11%	0%
Construction	15,825	29,018	7%	16%	9%
Education and Health Care Services	54,862	40,389	25%	22%	-3%
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	12,470	12,510	6%	7%	1%
Information	4,378	4,657	2%	3%	1%
Manufacturing	17,078	12,687	8%	7%	-1%
Other Services	10,415	6,445	5%	3%	-2%
Professional, Scientific, Management Services	22,569	17,923	10%	10%	0%
Public Administration	12,956	0	6%	0%	-6%
Retail Trade	25,324	23,920	12%	13%	1%
Transportation and Warehousing	9,949	8,508	5%	5%	0%
Wholesale Trade	4,318	9,155	2%	5%	3%
Total	215,335	185,615			

Additional Data Source: 2020 Longitudinal employer-household dynamics (jobs)

Labor Force

TABLE 45: LABOR FORCE

Total Population in the Civilian Labor Force	230,911
Civilian Employed Population 16 years and over	215,335
Unemployment Rate	4.30%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 16-24	14.20%
Unemployment Rate for Ages 25-65	5.50%

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

TABLE 46: OCCUPATIONS BY SECTOR

	NUMBER OF PEOPLE
Management, business and financial	30,982
Farming, fisheries and forestry occupations	334
Service	38,535
Sales and office	47,399
Construction, extraction, maintenance and repair	16,969
Production, transportation and material moving	25,453

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

TOTAL POPULATION IN THE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

230,911

CIVILIAN EMPLOYED POPULATION 16 YEARS & OVER

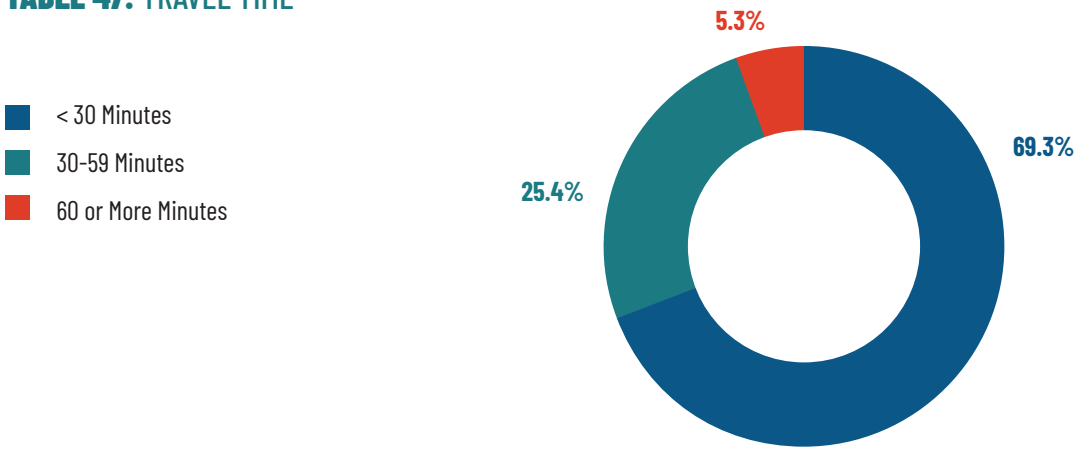
215,335

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

OCCUPATIONS BY SECTOR (NUMBER OF PEOPLE)

Travel Time

TABLE 47: TRAVEL TIME



TRAVEL TIME	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
< 30 Minutes	133,981	69%
30-59 Minutes	49,025	25%
60 or More Minutes	10,333	5%
Total	193,339	100%

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

Education

TABLE 48: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS (POPULATION 16 AND OLDER)

	IN LABOR FORCE		NOT IN LABOR FORCE
	CIVILIAN EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	
Less than high school graduate	3,487	1,198	5,012
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	15,234	2,034	12,045
Some college or Associate's degree	18,045	1,789	10,523
Bachelor's degree or higher	22,512	897	6,034

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

TABLE 49: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT BY AGE

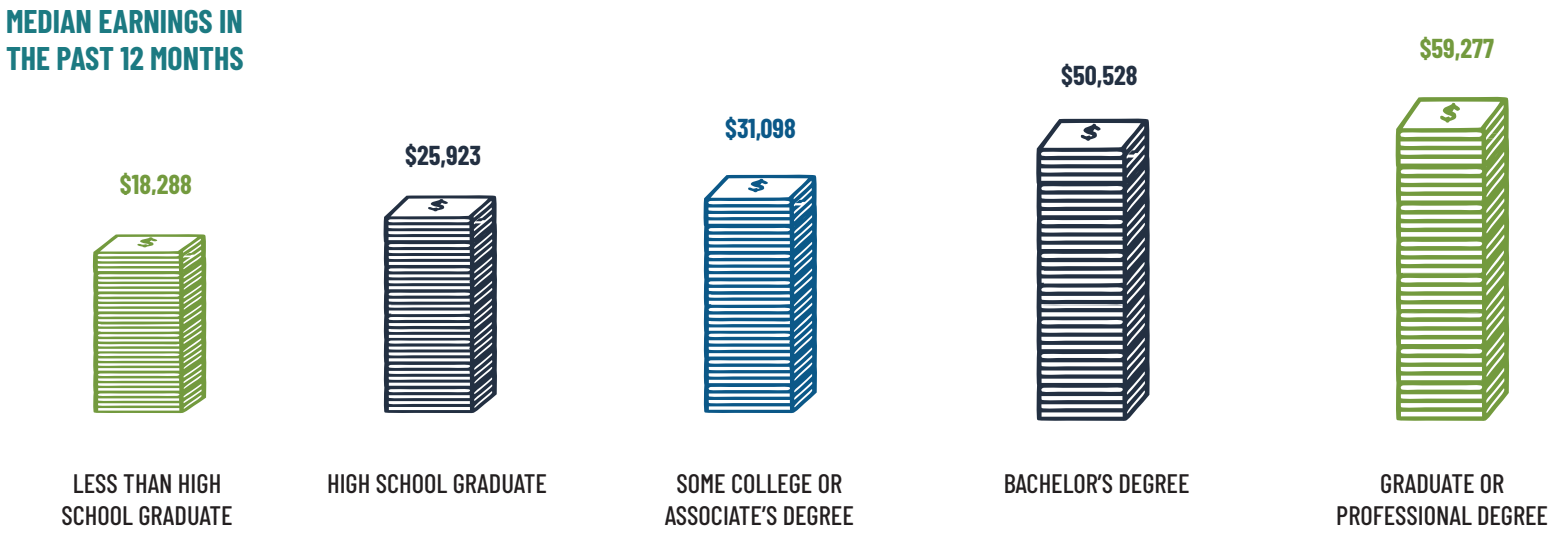
	18-24 YEARS OLD	25-34 YEARS OLD	35-44 YEARS OLD	45-65 YEARS OLD	65+ YEARS OLD
Less than 9th grade	282	734	872	1,469	595
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	1,246	1,272	1,067	1,995	836
High school graduate, GED, or alternative	5,545	3,912	3,109	6,435	3,415
Some college, no degree	10,551	2,684	1,963	4,110	2,616
Associate's degree	13	802	974	1,306	264
Bachelor's degree	2,140	3,937	1,859	4,022	2,579
Graduate or professional degree	23	1,811	2,078	2,790	2,770

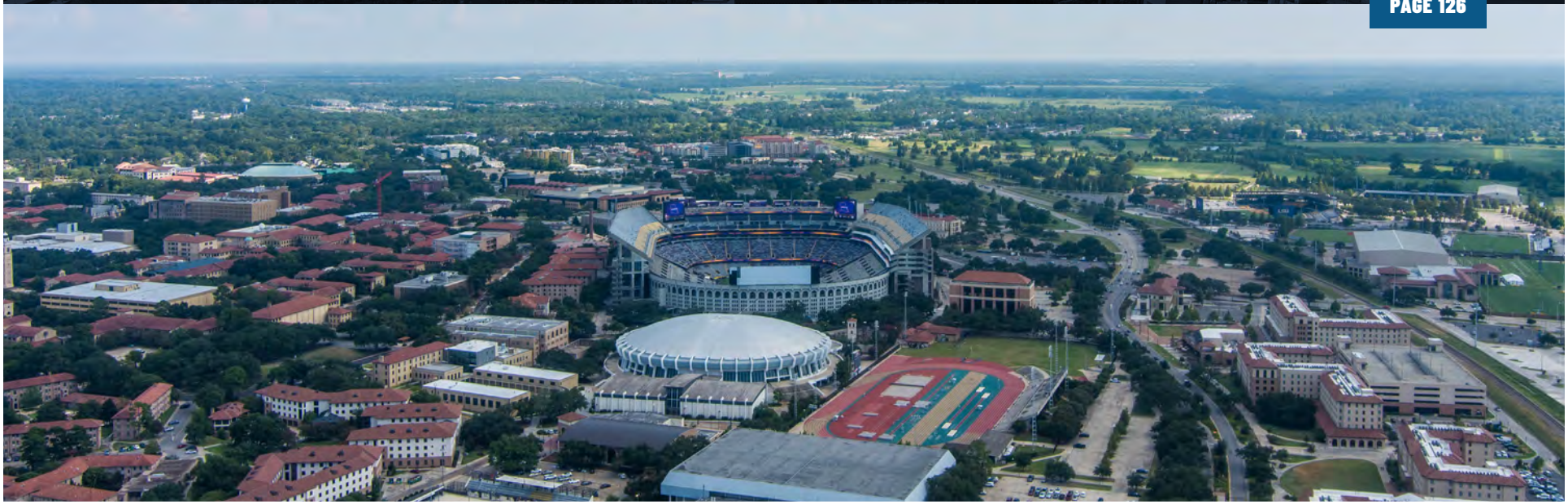
Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau

TABLE 50: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 3
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT – MEDIAN EARNINGS IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS

Less than high school graduate	$18,288
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	$25,923
Some college or Associate's degree	$31,098
Bachelor's degree	$50,528
Graduate or professional degree	$59,277

Data Source: 2016-2020 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau





Based on the Business Activity table, what are the major employment sectors within your jurisdiction?

The top six major employment sectors in Baton Rouge, as indicated by the percentage of jobs within the Business Activity table, are:

- Education Services, Health Care, and Social Assistance (21.8%)
- Construction (15.6%)
- Retail Trade (12.9%)
- Arts, Entertainment & Recreation, Accommodations & Food Services (10.6%)
- Professional, Scientific, Management Services (9.7%)
- Manufacturing (6.8%)

Describe the workforce and infrastructure needs of the business community:

The Baton Rouge Area Chamber's 2022 Economic Outlook Report identified the top needs of the business community through a survey distributed to local businesses. The major obstacles for business include:

- Workforce issues (30%)
- Crime rate (19%)
- Traffic (8%)
- Regulatory restrictions, Material costs, Lack of good public schools/costs of private school tuition (each at 7%)

Within the Economic Development element of FUTUREBR, the 2023 comprehensive plan, workforce issues, such as recruiting and retaining talent, are identified as ongoing challenges tied to broader quality-of-life factors. These factors include public safety, low-performing public schools, blight, and transportation challenges for residents without access to a car.

FUTUREBR OUTLINES FOUR GOALS ASSOCIATED WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

DEVELOP, CULTIVATE AND RETAIN TALENT

SUPPORT PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

SUPPORT EMPLOYERS IN KEY GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

CONNECT EDUCATION AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS WITH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS

Describe any major changes that may have an economic impact, such as planned local or regional public or private sector investments or initiatives that have affected or may affect job and business growth opportunities during the planning period. Describe any needs for workforce development, business support or infrastructure these changes may create.

The recent incorporation of the City of St. George, with a population of approximately 86,000, is expected to have a significant economic impact in the Baton Rouge area, especially concerning municipal governance, public education, and tax revenue distribution. The new City of St. George encompasses a high-income, high-sales-tax-generating area of East Baton Rouge Parish, with estimates indicating a potential $50 million loss of sales tax revenue for East Baton Rouge Parish. This loss of revenue could result in a budget shortfall for the City-Parish, potentially affecting public services, infrastructure maintenance, and law enforcement.

While East Baton Rouge would no longer be responsible for providing services like police, fire protection, and sanitation in the St. George area, it would also lose the tax base that helps fund those services. Restructuring and reassessing city-parish operations is underway, with an emphasis on modernization and the use of public-private partnerships to streamline services and improve cost efficiency. The split is also expected to contribute to greater regional inequality, with wealthier residents in St. George separating from the more socioeconomically diverse core of Baton Rouge.

As East Baton Rouge cedes a significant portion of its commercial base to St. George, it may impact the ability to attract new businesses to Baton Rouge. This major change to the economic landscape highlights several emerging needs:

- State and federal investments in business incentives
- Workforce upskilling and job creation programs
- Entrepreneurship and small business support, especially in low-income areas

Other major economic initiatives include the MOVEBR transportation infrastructure investment. Initiated in 2019, MOVEBR is a $1.2 billion transportation and infrastructure improvement program funded by a ½-cent sales tax approved by East Baton Rouge Parish voters. The program encompasses over 100 projects designed to alleviate traffic congestion, enhance road safety, and improve mobility

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for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians. As of March 2024, MOVEBR has infused more than $49 million into small businesses, with 27.4% of program dollars committed to minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses.

Approximately 90% of MOVEBR spending has been allocated to East Baton Rouge Parish companies, keeping local dollars within the community and contributing to a strong local economy.

As this initiative progresses, additional needs of East Baton Rouge residents and businesses will likely include a strategic alignment of transportation improvements with affordable housing initiatives, workforce training, and multimodal infrastructure. Multimodal infrastructure may involve safe sidewalks, protected bike lanes, expanded public transit to job centers and healthcare facilities, and first-mile/last-mile solutions such as neighborhood shuttles or rideshare partnerships. Expanding transportation options alongside affordable housing and workforce upskilling could help address the top needs of the business community identified by BRAC.

The 53-acre Burrell Aviation development at Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport is expected to require workforce training initiatives to meet the demands of the projected 893 to 1,487 permanent jobs. These positions will include air cargo handling, logistics, aircraft maintenance, cold storage operations, and distribution services for the new air cargo hub.

How do the skills and education of the current workforce correspond to employment opportunities in the jurisdiction?

According to the National Skills Coalition, a non-profit dedicated to building the American workforce through skill training, more than half of jobs in Louisiana (56%) require education beyond high school but less than a four-year degree. However, only 46% of the state's workforce possesses this level of training, indicating a significant skills gap.

	COUNT	SHARE	POPULATION OVER 25	SHARE
Less than high school	32,659	11.6%	26,036	9.0%
High school or equivalent, no college	63,458	22.5%	73,226	26.0%
Some college or Associate's degree	67,415	23.9%	76,019	27.0%
Bachelor's degree or advanced degree	52,377	18.6%	108,495	38.0%
Educational attainment not available (workers aged 29 or younger)	66,441	23.5%		

Describe any current workforce training initiatives, including those supported by Workforce Investment Boards, community colleges and other organizations. Describe how these efforts will support the jurisdiction's Consolidated Plan.

EMPLOYBR

Plays a pivotal role in coordinating workforce development strategies through two key initiatives:

Incumbent Worker Training Program: This program facilitates partnerships between the Louisiana Workforce Commission, businesses, and training providers to upskill existing employees, enhancing productivity and supporting company growth.

Registered Apprenticeships: Offering a combination of on-the-job training and classroom instruction, these apprenticeships provide career seekers with practical skills while earning a paycheck. This benefits both workers and employers.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

Established programs to prepare students for the workforce including:

Career and Technical Education (CTE): CTE offers hands-on training aligned with the Louisiana Department of Education career pathways, providing students with industry-based credentials and real-world experience through internships and apprenticeships.

Career and Technical Education Center: This center offers specialized training in high-demand fields, ensuring equitable access to career pathways and dual enrollment opportunities for students across the parish.

BATON ROUGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE (BRCC)

Delivers a range of programs designed to meet the needs of both students and local industries, including:

North Baton Rouge Industrial Training Initiative: In partnership with ExxonMobil, this program provides no-cost training in skilled crafts such as electrical, instrumentation, millwright, pipefitting, welding, and process technology. Since its inception, the program has successfully trained over 550 individuals, equipping them with nationally recognized certifications that support immediate employment in high-demand industries.

Skilled Trades Expansion: With support from an $850,000 grant from the Lowe's Foundation, BRCC is developing a new plumbing certification program and constructing an outdoor learning lab to enhance hands-on training in construction trades, including welding, HVAC, and electrical work.

PRO Louisiana Courses: As part of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), BRCC offers PRO Louisiana courses aimed at developing a skilled workforce to support the state's flood recovery and resilience efforts.

BATON ROUGE CITY-PARISH MAYOR-PRESIDENT

Has initiatives targeting local youth:

Mayor's Youth Workforce Experience: This summer program provides over 400 high school students with paid work experience, career training, and the opportunity to earn industry-based credentials through BRCC. It fulfills graduation requirements and strengthens students' post-graduation readiness.

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These workforce training initiatives directly support Baton Rouge's 5-Year Consolidated Plan by equipping residents with skills for high-demand occupations. Access to training and employment opportunities helps reduce poverty by enabling individuals to secure stable, well-paying jobs. These jobs, in turn, enhance residents' ability to afford decent housing, addressing a key goal of the Consolidated Plan. While these programs are invaluable and well attended, access to them, particularly transportation, has been identified through community input as a barrier.

Does your jurisdiction participate in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)?

Yes, Baton Rouge participates in the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy as a member of the Capital Region Planning Commission.

If so, what economic development initiatives are you undertaking that may be coordinated with the Consolidated Plan? If not, describe other local/regional plans or initiatives that impact economic growth.

In consultation with the Capital Region Planning Commission, several action items were identified within the CEDS that could potentially be coordinated with the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan. These action items include:

- **Action 1.1.** Evaluate each parish's housing needs assessment as provided by the Louisiana Housing Commission.
- **Action 1.3.** Map out the Capital Region's housing ecosystem to understand the gaps in our communities' response to housing challenges.

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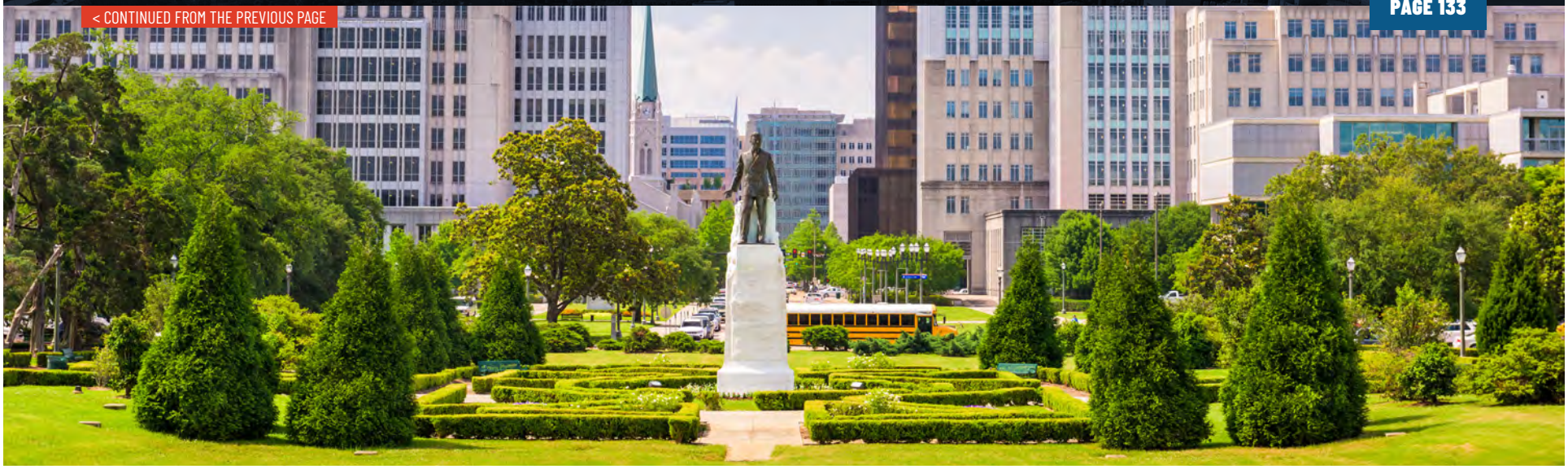

- **Action 2.1.** Develop a regional transfer-of-development rights program to direct growth into disinvested areas with adequate infrastructure and away from high-risk areas with inadequate infrastructure.
- **Action 2.2.** Further develop and maintain a site selection mapping application to use as a data-driven tool to objectively score and incentivize redevelopment or scattered infill and conservation.
- **Action 3.2.** Work with stakeholders to improve the existing housing stock near employment centers through energy efficiency grant opportunities in low-income/disadvantaged communities that may be identified in the Climate Pollution Reduction Plan.

There are also numerous local plans that range from the Parish's Comprehensive Master Plan, FUTUREBR, to many neighborhood-level community improvement plans, all focused on economic growth and quality-of-life improvements in Baton Rouge. A snapshot of these plans includes:

- Scotlandville Small Area Plan - Southern University
- Imagine your Parks III – BREC
- Master Plan for the Health District – Health District
- Plan Baton Rouge III – Downtown Development District
- Imagine Plank Road – Build Baton Rouge
- 5 Community Improvement Plans – Build Baton Rouge

DISCUSSION

Baton Rouge's economic development landscape reflects both strengths and ongoing challenges. The region benefits from a diverse employment base, anchored by sectors such as education, health care, construction, and retail. However, a significant skills gap remains, with many jobs requiring postsecondary education or credentials not yet held by a large share of the workforce. The City-Parish and its partners, including EmployBR, Baton Rouge Community College, and the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, as well as local chambers such as the North Baton Rouge Chamber, Black Metropolitan Chamber, Hispanic Chamber, Baton Rouge Area Chamber, Louisiana Small Business Development Center, and LAWORKS have responded with coordinated workforce training initiatives designed to align with industry needs and create equitable access to opportunity.

Major economic changes, such as the incorporation of the City of St. George and the expansion of transportation and logistics infrastructure, underscore the importance of strategic planning, investment in underserved areas, and stronger transportation connections between neighborhoods, job centers, and training providers. Baton Rouge's participation in the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and local plans like FUTUREBR, Plan Baton Rouge III, and Imagine Plank Road further support a shared vision for inclusive growth, housing stability, and long-term economic resilience.

MA-50 NEEDS AND MARKET ANALYSIS DISCUSSION

Are there areas where households with multiple housing problems are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Yes, there are many areas in Baton Rouge that exhibit a concentration of households facing multiple housing problems, particularly in neighborhoods with high poverty rates, high housing cost burdens, an aging housing stock, and limited access to affordable housing. These issues are compounded by blighted and/or vacant structures. Blight significantly exacerbates housing problems by creating a cycle of decline that affects not only individual properties but entire neighborhoods. When buildings are abandoned, poorly maintained, or condemned, they lower surrounding property values and discourage investment. Some of the most prevalent issues of concentrated housing problems in the Baton Rouge area are low- to moderate-income households, blight, and crime.

Blight in Baton Rouge is typically defined by conditions such as dilapidation, abandonment, vacancy, structural deterioration, inadequate maintenance, or environmental hazards. The blight data, taken from the East Baton Rouge 311 call database, includes tall grass, a structure that needs to be condemned/ torn down, junk/trash on private property, junk/abandoned vehicles, properties missing windows or doors, dirty/unfenced pools, illegal signs in rights-of-way, and defaced sidewalks.

Low-income households often lack the financial resources to maintain or improve their homes, which accelerates property deterioration and contributes to increased blight. Blighted properties further depress neighborhood conditions by reducing property values and discouraging investment. The concentration of both factors intensifies housing problems, such as overcrowding, aged building materials, and high utility costs. As decent and affordable housing options become scarce, this situation forces more people into inadequate and unhealthy living conditions.

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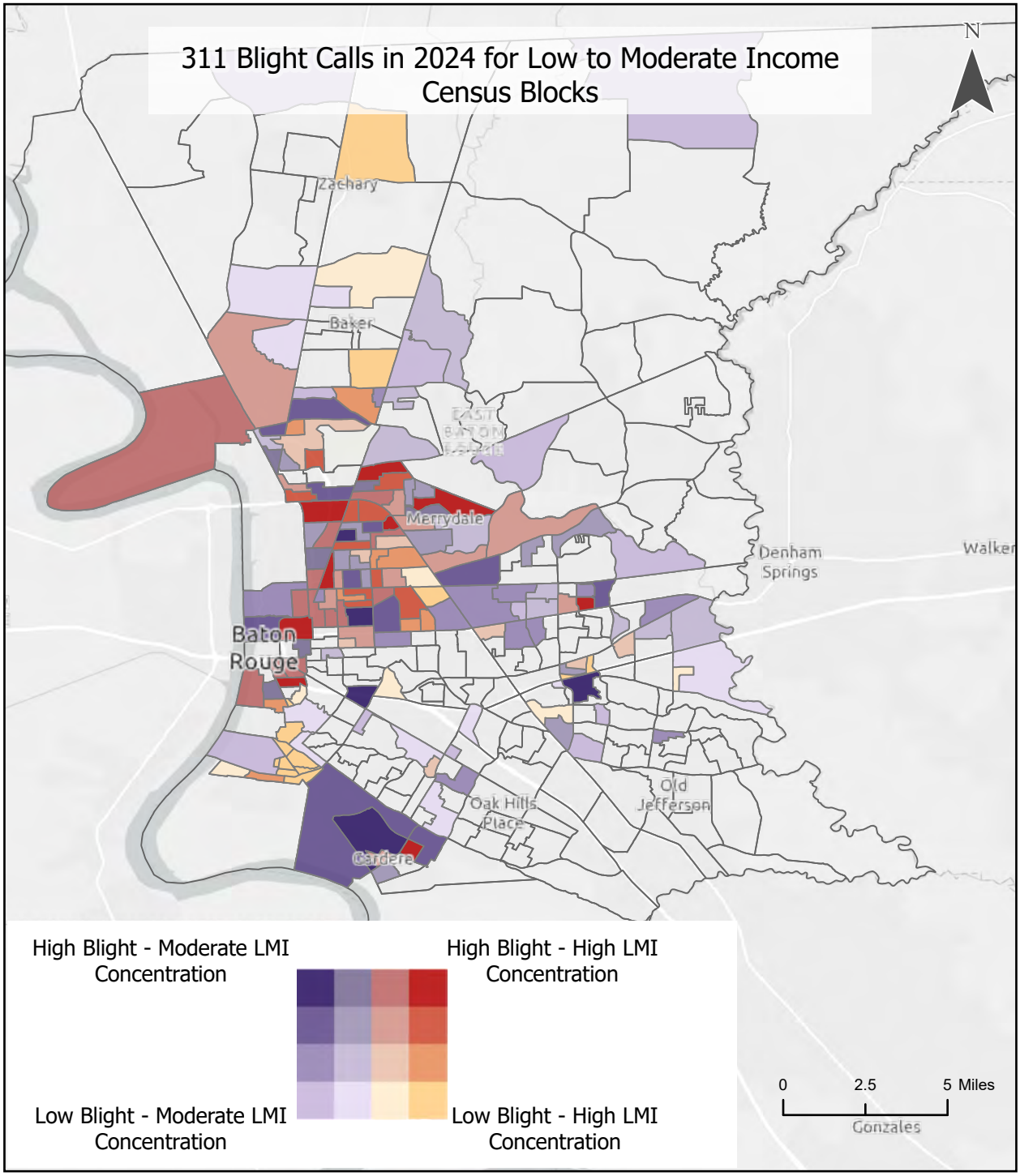

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Low- to moderate-income census blocks are defined as areas where 51% or more of the population are low- to moderate-income households earning 80% or less of the area median income. For the Baton Rouge area, the threshold for a low-income household is a family of four earning less than $69,900. Using HUD low- to moderate-income prevalence data and local blight data, several neighborhoods were identified where low-income concentration overlaps with high levels of blight. These areas include: Gardere, Merrydale, Scotlandville, Legion Village, Brookstown, Istrouma-Dixie, Downtown East, Ashley, and Old South Baton Rouge.

Hot spots are spatial clusters of events or features that are statistically significant and not due to random chance. Hot spot analysis is a standard tool used to identify spatial patterns. A hot spot analysis was performed using public data on condemned structures and 2022–2024 homicides and attempted homicides in Baton Rouge.

Hot spots for condemned structures are concentrated near the Interstate 10 and Interstate 110 split, extending south into Old South Baton Rouge, north into Fairfields, and east toward Eden Park. Additional clusters were identified around the Valley Park area.

Crime data, including homicides and attempted homicides from 2022 to 2024, are concentrated northeast of the I-10/I-110 split, across neighborhoods starting around Downtown East, moving north along Airline Highway to Scotlandville Parkway, and east along Florida Boulevard through the Smiley Heights–Melrose East area and into the North Baton Rouge and Brookstown communities. Some hot spots are located between Florida Boulevard and Government Street, extending east from Interstate 110 toward the Baton Rouge Community College area.

A comparative analysis looking for neighborhoods that were hot spots for both crime and blight identified Eden Park, Fairfields, and the surrounding neighborhoods north of Government Street, east of Interstate 110, and west of North Foster Drive as overlapping hot spots for both condemned structures and homicides during the 2022–2024 period.

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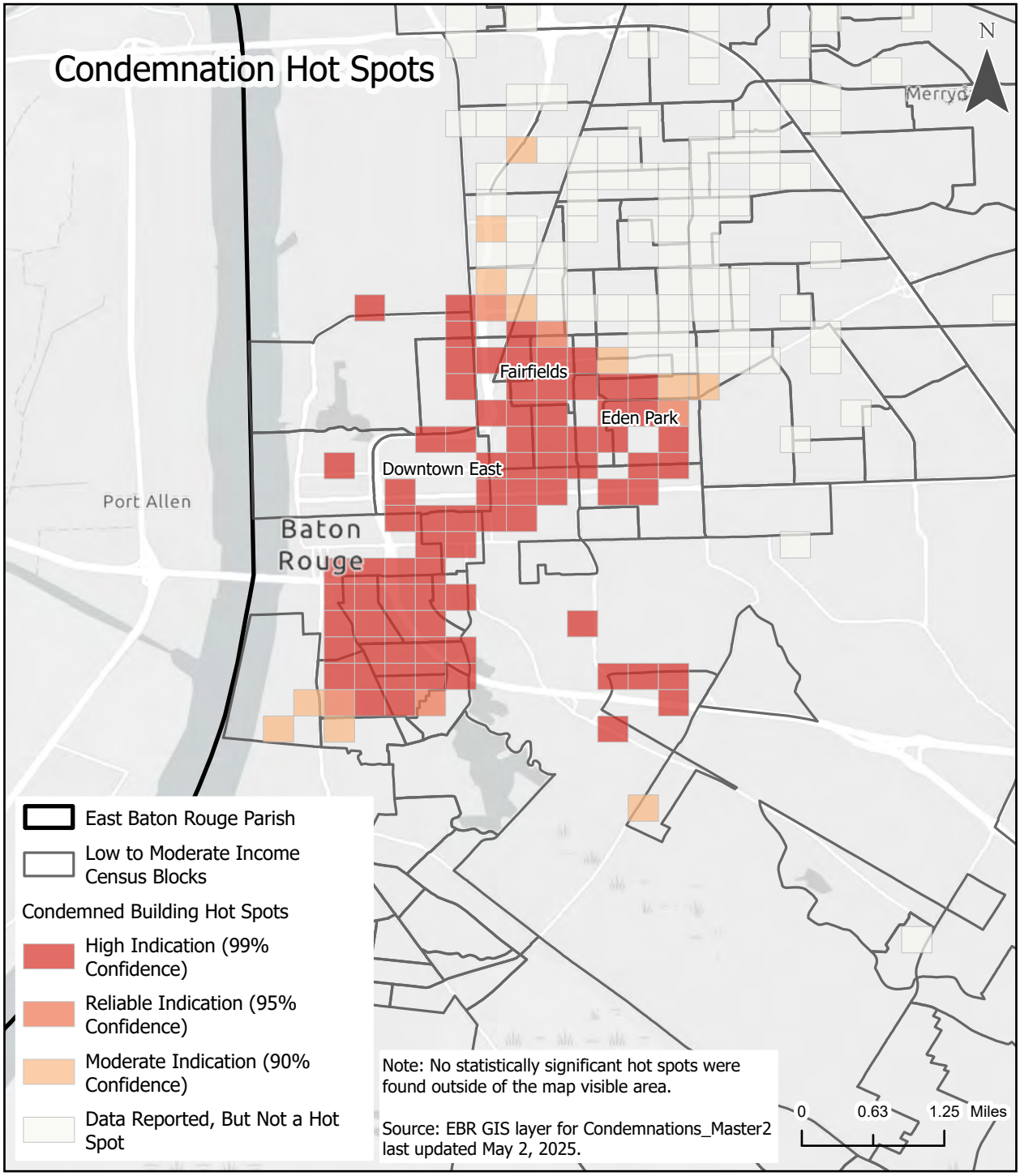

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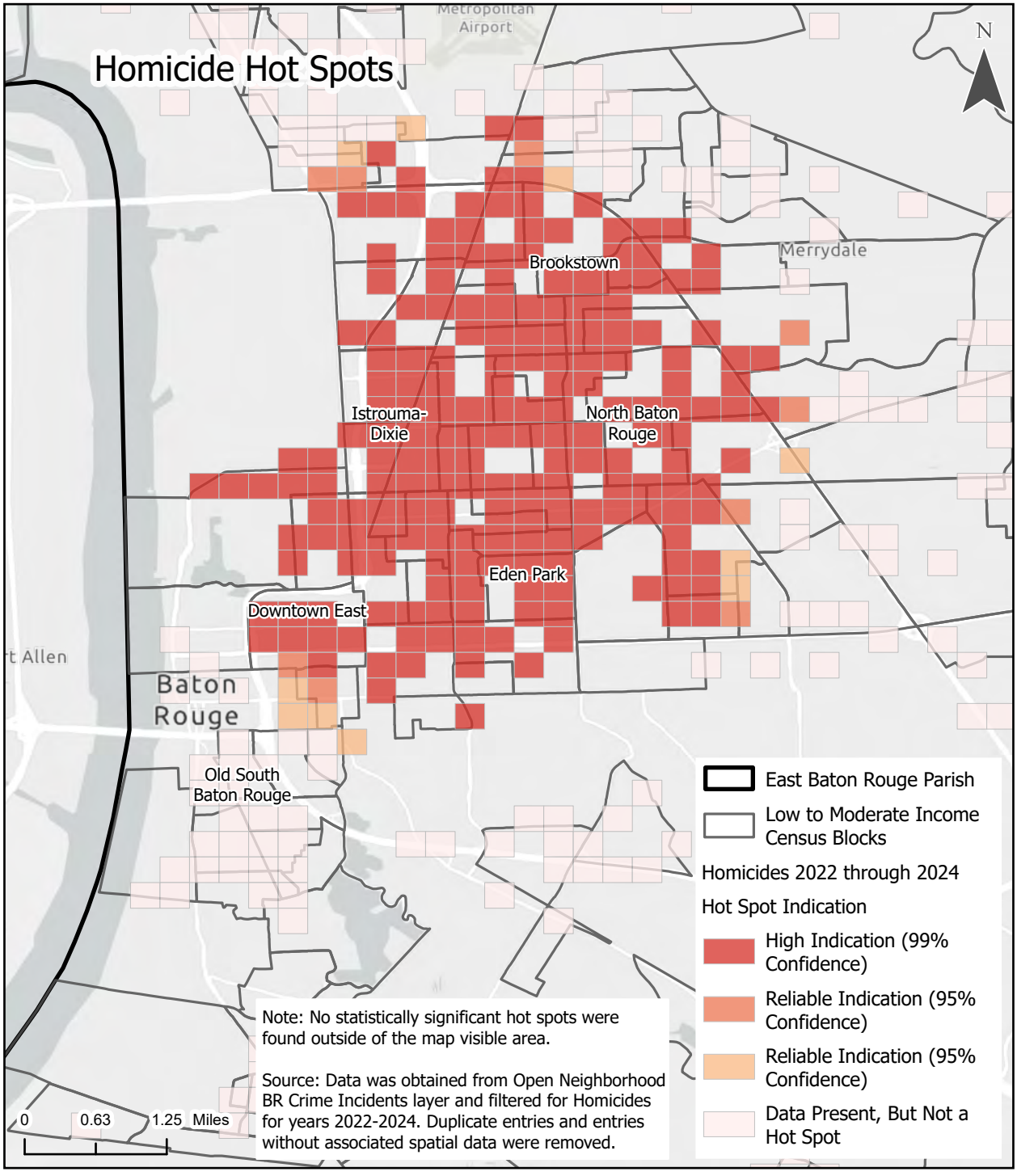

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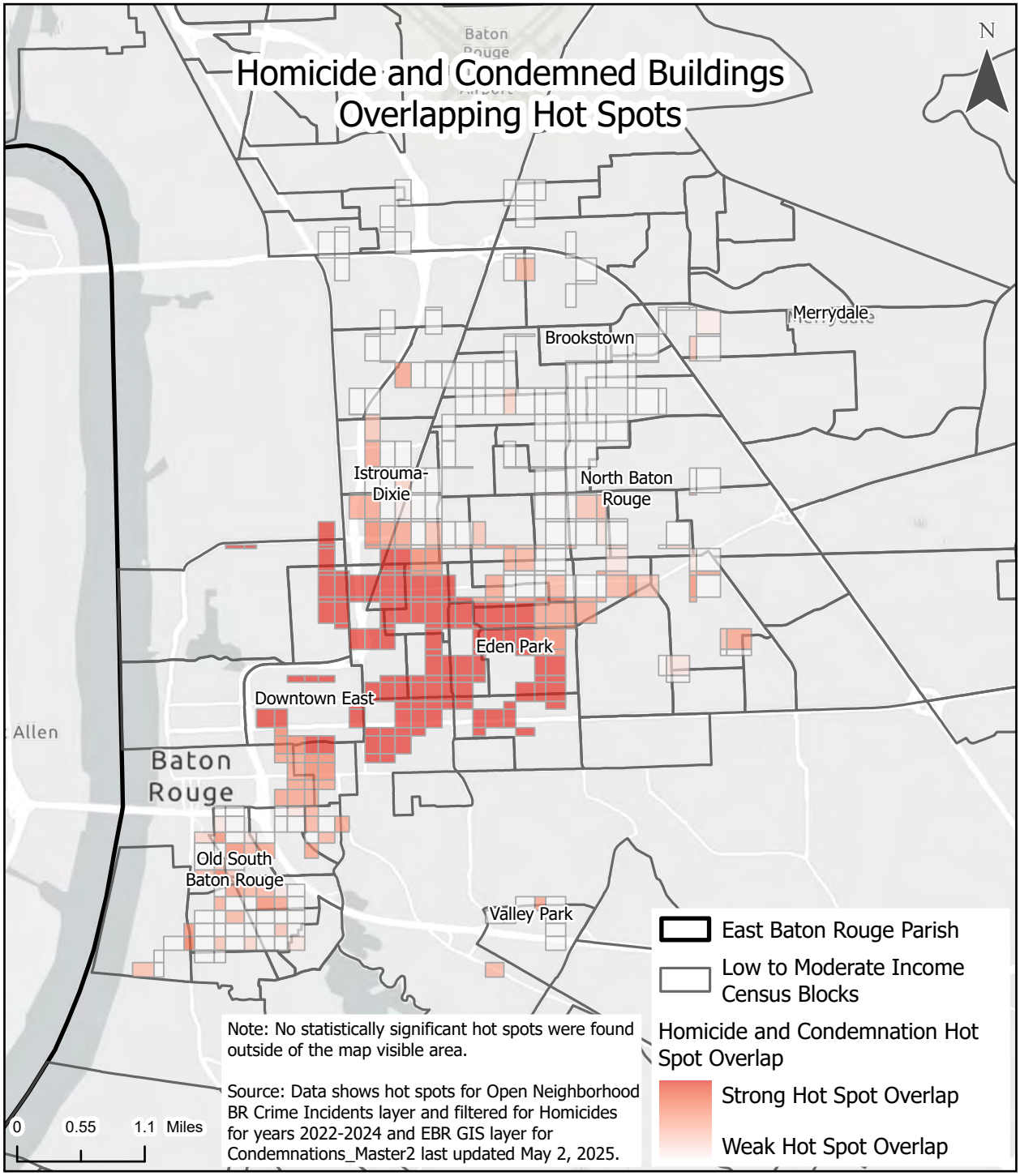
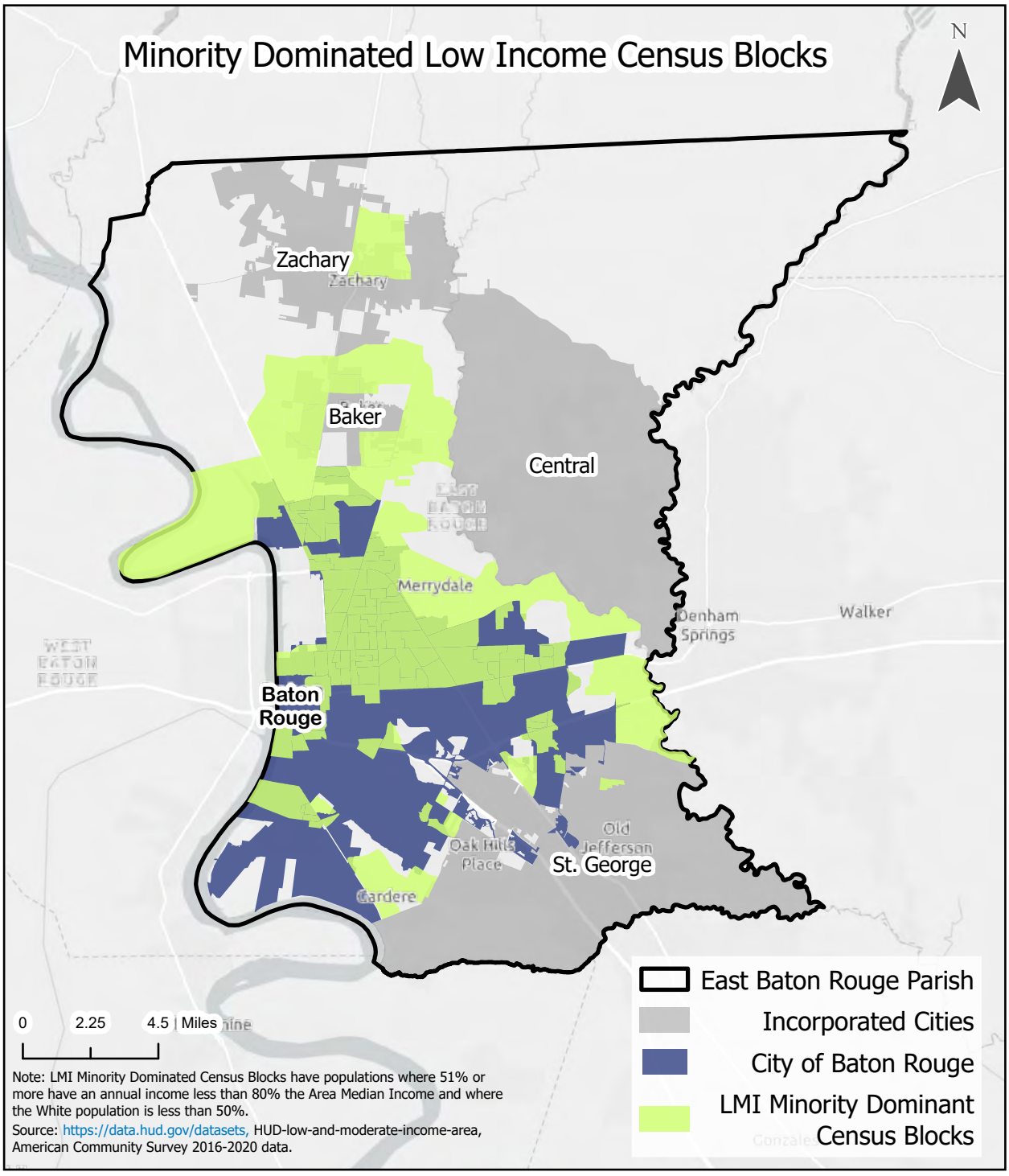


Are there any areas in the jurisdiction where racial or ethnic minorities or low-income families are concentrated? (include a definition of "concentration")

Yes, low-income and minority families are concentrated in certain areas of Baton Rouge. The majority of low income dominated census blocks are majority minority populated. There are some LMI census blocks in the northernmost part of the parish and around Louisiana State University that are majority White.

Areas with a high concentration of minority populations are defined as census tracts where a minority group (non-White) comprises more than 50 percent of the total population. Low-income households are defined as census block groups where 51% or more of the households have incomes of 80% or less of the area's median income. For the Baton Rouge area, a family of four making less than $69,900 is the threshold for low income. The map below identifies areas where low-income households are concentrated.

There are low- to moderate-income households found throughout the City-Parish. Extremely high concentrations (90–100% of the population earning less than 80% AMI) of low- to moderate-income households are found in several communities, including areas such as Gardere, Brightside, Downtown East, East Fairfields–Melrose Place, Istrouma–Dixie, Brookstown, Legion Village, and Scotlandville. There are many areas of high minority populations in Baton Rouge, with most located north of Florida Boulevard. There are also high-minority areas surrounding Louisiana State University, as well as in the Gardere area, northeast of Mayfair, Valley Park, Old South Baton Rouge, Jones Creek, Broadmoor, and the O'Neal area south of Florida Boulevard.



Note: LMI Minority Dominated Census Blocks have populations where 51% or more have an annual income less than 80% the Area Median Income and where the White population is less than 50%.

Source: https://data.hud.gov/datasets, HUD-low-and-moderate-income-area, American Community Survey 2016-2020 data.

What are the characteristics of the market in these areas/neighborhoods?

The housing market in these neighborhoods and areas of high concentration of low-income households is limited, with lower returns on investment for private investors. These areas are frequently marked by lower property values, lower rents, elevated vacancy rates, higher crime rates, and the prevalence of blighted properties, making the area less attractive for private-sector investment. Highest and lowest market characteristic data points are bolded for emphasis.

The rehabilitation of the aging housing stock in these neighborhoods is often complex due to lead-based paint, asbestos-containing material, and modern construction code compliance issues. In other words, investors often spend more to rehabilitate these aging structures than they would in areas that do not have high concentrations of low-income households and the deferred maintenance issues that come with an aging housing stock.

MARKET CHARACTERISTIC	EBR PARISH	ALL EBR CENSUS BLOCK GROUPS WITH 51% OR MORE HOUSEHOLDS LMI	CENSUS BLOCKS WITH HIGH CONCENTRATION OF LMI HOUSEHOLDS 51-75%	CENSUS BLOCKS WITH VERY HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF LMI HOUSEHOLDS 75-90%	CENSUS BLOCKS WITH EXTREMELY HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF LMI HOUSEHOLDS 90-100%
Median Income	$61,997	$38,113	$45,085	$33,818	$25,540
Median Home Value	$258,133	$177,843	$189,986	$140,630	$126,596
Percent of Housing built pre-1980	45%	53.6%	51.5%	58.1%	51.4%
Median Rent	$1,076.34	$991.81	$1,045	$959.20	$892.28
Median Rent Class	$1,000-$1,249	$900-$999	$1,000 - $1,249	$900 - $999	$800 - $899
Percent of Income spent on Mortgage	25.6%	27.6%	23.4%	25.2%	33.5%
Percent of Owner-Occupied Housing Units	58.5%	39.9%	44.9%	39.3%	19.6%
Vacancy Rate	11.2%	14.8%	12.7%	18.5%	17.8%

Are there any community assets in these areas/neighborhoods?

Many of the low-income areas in Baton Rouge contain community assets such as community centers, transit routes, public schools, parks, and libraries. However, access to these assets is often limited by inadequate transportation, a concern raised repeatedly by community members. Three of the four major higher educational institutions, Louisiana State University, Southern University, and Baton Rouge Community College, have low-income areas adjacent to their campuses.

Are there other strategic opportunities in any of these areas?

There are several strategic opportunities in low-income areas that are being leveraged to improve the lives of residents. For example, the MOVEBR initiative is a transportation and infrastructure program in East Baton Rouge Parish, representing the largest public works investment in the area's history. Funded by a voter-approved ½-cent sales tax, the program allocates over $1 billion to enhance mobility, reduce traffic congestion, and improve safety across the parish. Key components include the construction of new roads, sidewalks, and advanced traffic signal systems.

To ensure equitable distribution, MOVEBR employs a strategic approach that prioritizes projects in underserved communities, particularly those with high concentrations of low-income residents. For instance, the Plank Road Corridor, a historically underserved area, is set to benefit from major improvements, including the development of a Bus Rapid Transit system designed to provide efficient and accessible public transportation options. This initiative aims to stimulate economic development and improve connectivity for residents in these neighborhoods.

Another initiative that has been in the works for years is the intercity passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. This project, expected to commence as early as 2027, aims to reduce traffic congestion, provide economic benefits, and enhance connectivity between the two cities. The train depot is planned for the low-income neighborhood of Downtown East.

North Baton Rouge is home to Baton Rouge Airport. The airport area has recently received approximately $113.8 million in investment to develop 53 acres of runway-accessible land for air cargo and aviation-related activities. The project, led by the Burrell Group, is expected to create between 893 and 1,487 permanent jobs and includes the construction of 400,000 square feet of cargo facilities.

SUPPLEMENTAL BLIGHT AND VIOLENT CRIME INFO

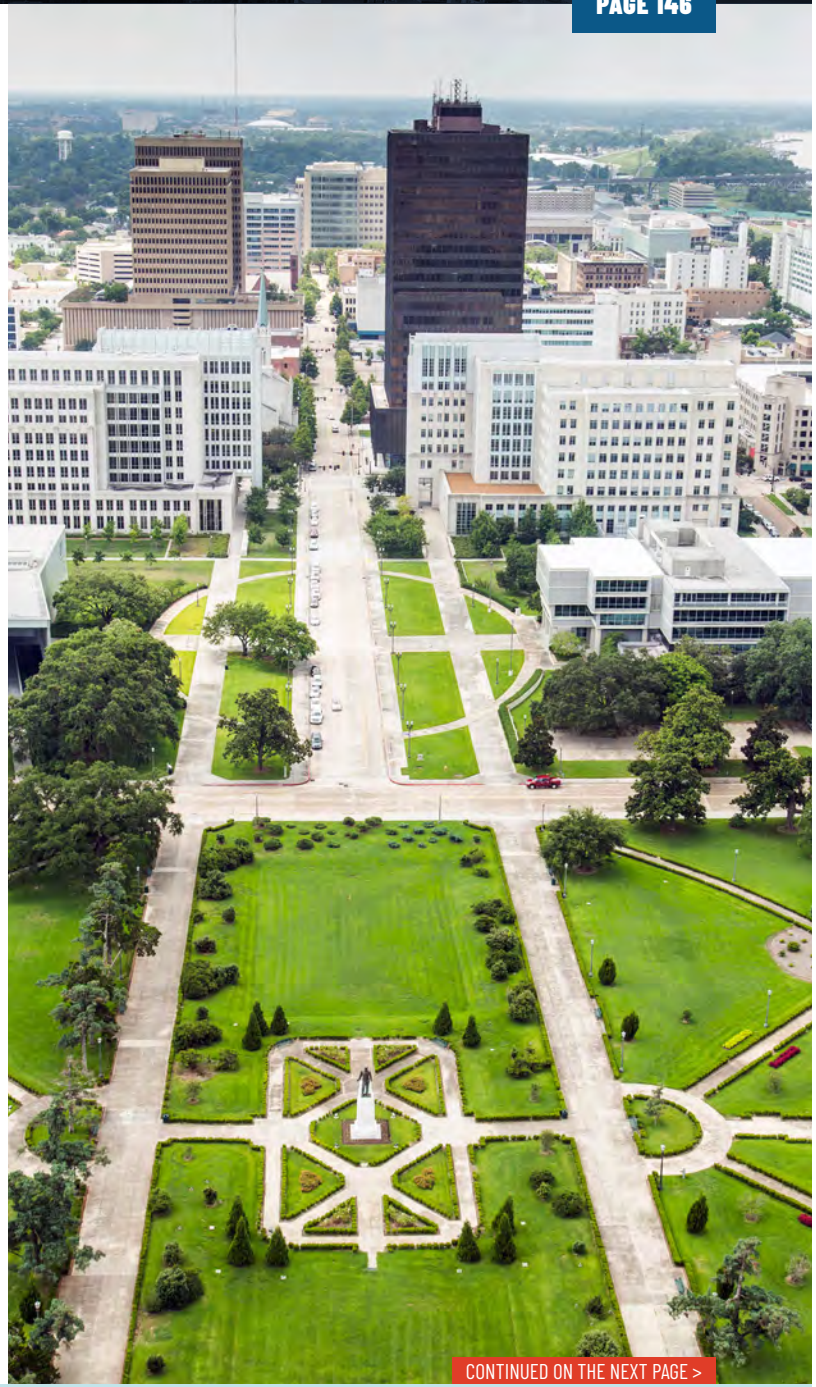
Neighborhood blight is a pressing public safety concern. Blighted structures that are deemed unsafe for human habitation negatively affect the housing market and quality of life and are often linked to areas of elevated crime in Baton Rouge. A recent study analyzed how removing vacant buildings affected crime rates in Baltimore, Maryland, " the study focused on the effects of demolitions on six types of crime. The findings showed that reductions in violent crime accounted for the largest share of the overall decline in crime. Additionally, an article published in a 2016 issue of American Journal of Public Health examined the effect of Urban Blight Remediation as a Cost-Benefit Solution to Firearm Violence. The study looked at blight and violence in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 1999-2013. The authors concluded that both abandoned building remediation and vacant lot remediation significantly reduced firearm violence. While they did note that neither remediation method had a significant effect on non-firearm violence the taxpayer and societal investment returns for firearm violence prevention were $5 and $79 for every dollar spent on abandoned building remediation and $26 and $333 for every dollar spent on vacant lot remediation. A spatial inventory of condemned blighted structures along with local violent crime data was used to identify areas with blight and crime overlap. Identifying areas with a high prevalence of both public safety issues, blight and crime, serves as a reference tool to guide public safety measures and management.

MA-60 BROADBAND NEEDS OF HOUSING OCCUPIED BY LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS - 91.210(A)(4), 91.310(A)(2)

Describe the need for broadband wiring and connections for households, including low- and moderate-income households and neighborhoods.

The City of Baton Rouge has several studies in place that indicate a strong digital divide in low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. In 2017, CTC Technology and Energy consultants created a Strategic Fiber Plan for the city, which reported many complex broadband needs based on market research and a survey sent to parish residents. Three major findings of their survey were:

- Parish residents are highly connected, with 94% of respondents having some form of internet connection, 85% of residents reporting home internet subscriptions, and 83% reporting cell/mobile service with internet access.
- Broadband service is not available everywhere in the parish, and older, low-income, and less-educated respondents are less likely than their counterparts to have internet access at home.



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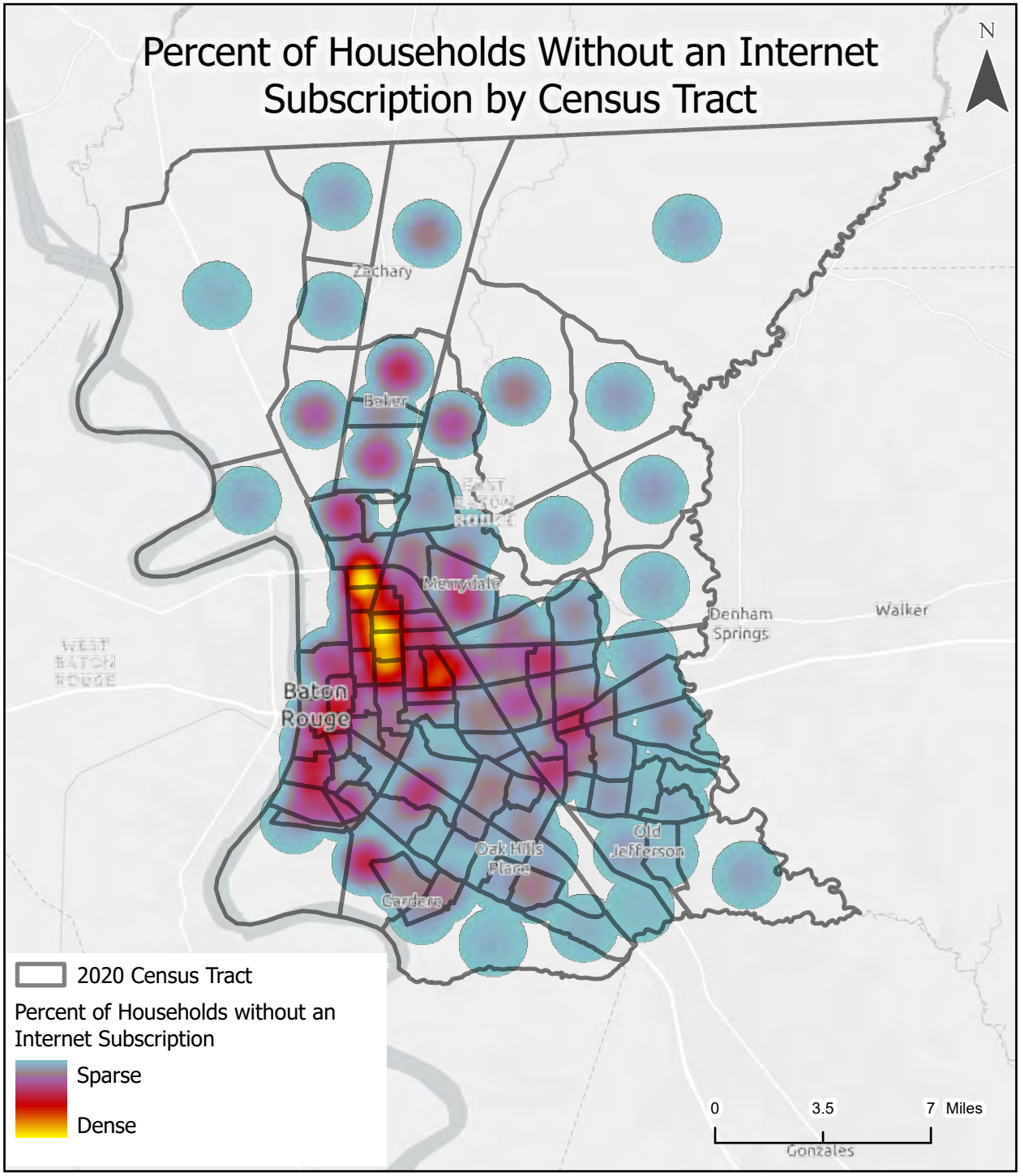
- About 45% of respondents said the City-Parish should install a state-of-the-art communications network and offer services directly or allow private companies to offer services to the public.

The 2023 parish-wide comprehensive plan, FUTUREBR, recognizes broadband as essential infrastructure. In this report, the Federal Communications Commission identified that 10.5% of households in the parish do not have access to fixed, terrestrial broadband internet with speeds of at least 25 Mbps. However, a speed of 25 Mbps is no longer the minimum acceptable standard; since 2015, 100 Mbps download speed has been considered the baseline.

Describe the need for increased competition by having more than one broadband Internet service provider serve the jurisdiction.

FUTUREBR identifies the high cost of broadband deployment, particularly in rural areas, as a major barrier to access in low- to moderate-income neighborhoods. In addition to the high cost of deployment in rural areas, there is a low return on investment for internet providers in low-income urban areas. The heat map above shows the dense concentration of households with no internet subscriptions, which coincides with the lowest-income areas, including the very densely populated and urbanized Plank Road Corridor.

This specific, low-income corridor was studied in the 2022 Urban Land Institute Louisiana: Plank Road Bridging the Digital Divide. Using 2019 census data, up to 40% of households in the Plank Road corridor reported lacking internet access. The report also identified a single major carrier serving approximately 10,000 residents within the corridor. The lack of service providers essentially creates a digital “redline” driven by limited competition. High-quality internet and increased service choice are essential for business, commerce, education, telehealth opportunities, and overall improvements to the quality of life for low- to moderate-income residents of the parish.


Percent of Households Without an Internet Subscription by Census Tract
N
Zachary
Baker
Merrydale
Denham Springs
Walker
Baton Rouge
Oak Hills Place
Old Jefferson
Gardere
Gonzales
2020 Census Tract
Percent of Households without an Internet Subscription
Sparse
Dense
0
3.5
7 Miles

MA-65 HAZARD MITIGATION - 91.210(A)(5), 91.310(A)(3)

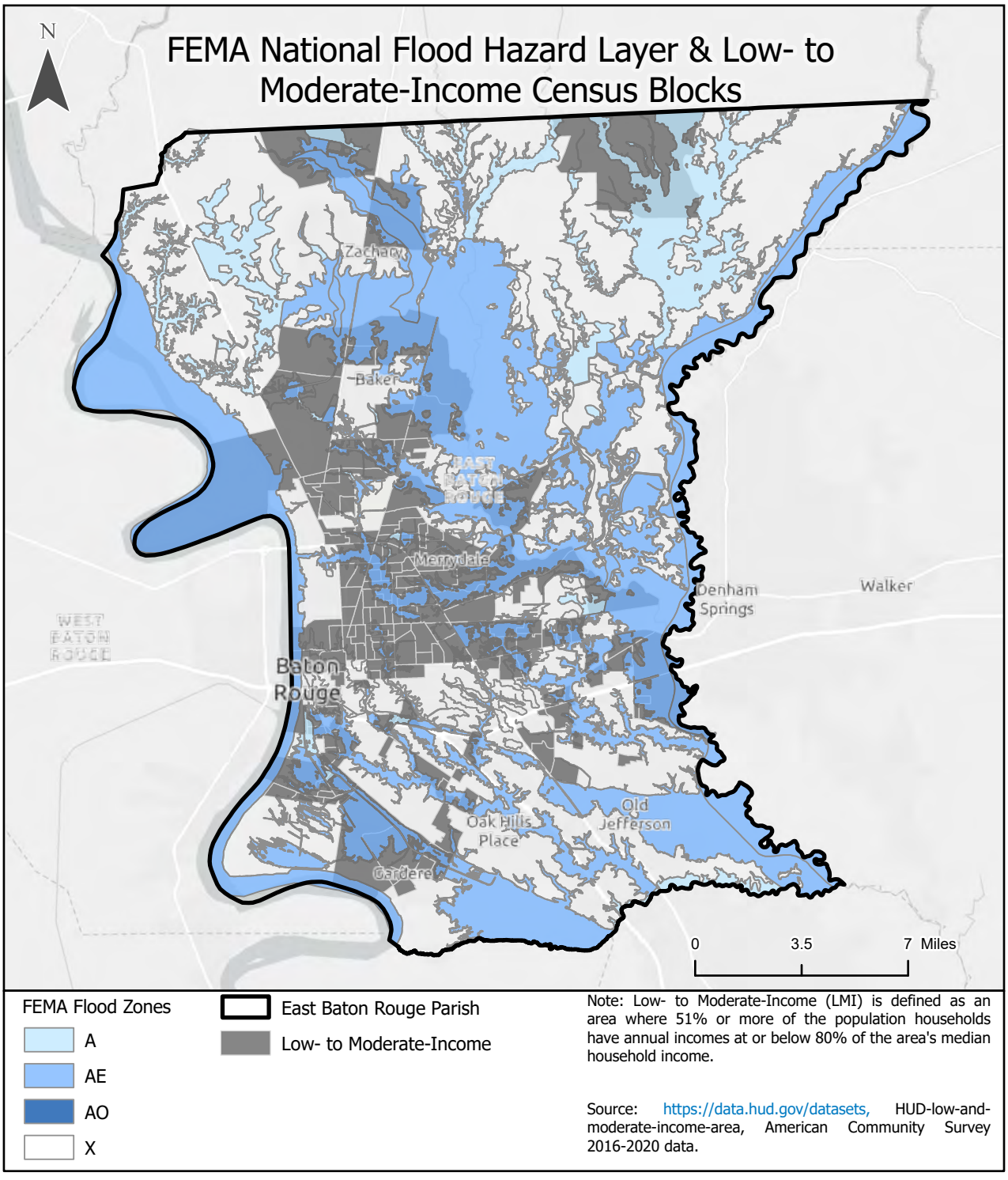
Describe the jurisdiction's increased natural hazard risks associated with climate change.

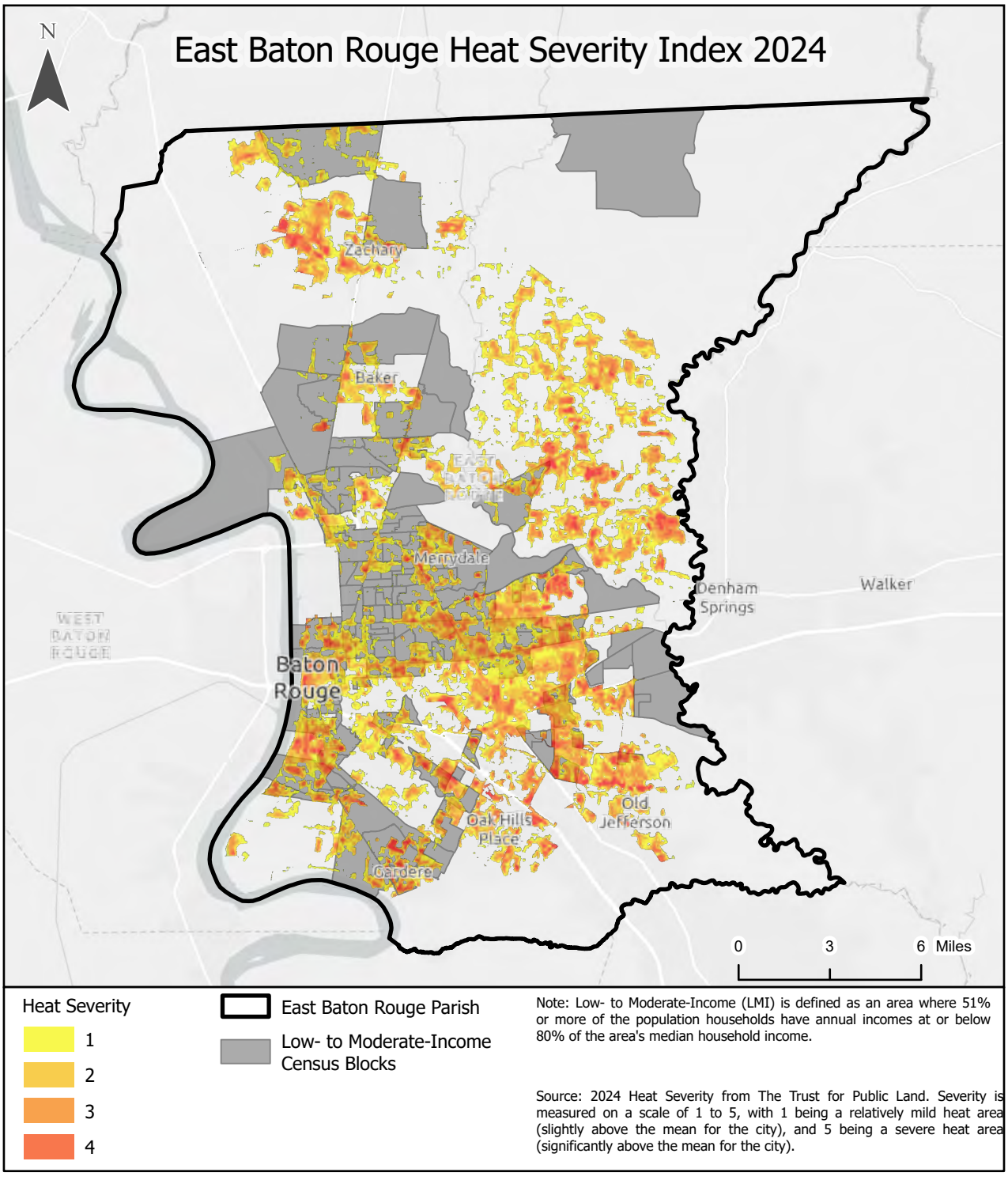
EBR operates under the 2023 EBR Parish Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The plan identified natural hazards and risks within the parish and outlined the parish hazard mitigation strategy to make EBR less vulnerable and more disaster resilient. The plan revealed flooding as a major risk and detailed six flooding types: riverine flooding, flash flooding, ponding, backwater, urban, and coastal flooding.

The FEMA National Flood Hazard Data is displayed against the EBR Parish boundary and the LMI census blocks in the attached FEMA map. The plan identified dam failures and extreme precipitation as primary contributors to flash flooding, which are expected to increase due to climate change. The plan also identified levee failure as a risk for low- to moderate-income households who live in floodplains. While the occurrence of a levee failure is unpredictable, the increased volatility of weather events due to climate change increases the likelihood of such failures. Low- to moderate-income households are at special risk, as access to emergency resources and transportation is more limited.

Heat is a major climate vulnerability for cities across the Southern United States. In Baton Rouge, the summer of 2023 was reported as the hottest on record by two climatological databases, one dating back to 1892, the other to 1930. The city experienced an unprecedented number of days with temperatures exceeding 100°F and nighttime lows remaining above 80°F. That summer, 23 record high temperatures and 36 record high low temperatures were set (WBRZ, 2023). In East Baton Rouge Parish, shelter resources are limited. The largest facility, St. Vincent de Paul, serves the entire capital region and is often at capacity. While it provides critical relief during extreme weather events, the demand for shelter and cooling services far exceeds the available supply.

The Heat Severity Index map shows heat hot spots throughout EBR. Severity is measured on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being a relatively mild heat area, slightly above the mean for the city, and 5 being a severe heat area, significantly above the mean for the city. Large hot spots can be seen along major roadways, in commercial areas, residential subdivisions, and on fallow ground.


N
FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer & Low- to Moderate-Income Census Blocks
Zachary
Baker
Merrydale
Denham Springs
Walker
Baton Rouge
Oak Hills Place
Old Jefferson
Garderen
0
3.5
7 Miles
FEMA Flood Zones
A
AE
AO
X
East Baton Rouge Parish
Low- to Moderate-Income
Note: Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) is defined as an area where 51% or more of the population households have annual incomes at or below 80% of the area's median household income.
Source: https://data.hud.gov/datasets, HUD-low-and-moderate-income-area, American Community Survey 2016-2020 data.


East Baton Rouge Heat Severity Index 2024
N
Zachary
Baker
Merrydale
Denham Springs
Walker
Baton Rouge
Oak Hills Place
Old Jefferson
Gardere
0
3
6 Miles
Heat Severity
1
2
3
4
East Baton Rouge Parish
Low- to Moderate-Income Census Blocks
Note: Low- to Moderate-Income (LMI) is defined as an area where 51% or more of the population households have annual incomes at or below 80% of the area's median household income.
Source: 2024 Heat Severity from The Trust for Public Land. Severity is measured on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being a relatively mild heat area (slightly above the mean for the city), and 5 being a severe heat area (significantly above the mean for the city).

Describe the vulnerability to these risks of housing occupied by low- and moderate-income households based on an analysis of data, findings, and methods.

Climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable populations, including low-income communities, the elderly, and individuals with limited mobility or access to critical resources. These groups are often concentrated in flood-prone areas with aging infrastructure and limited capacity to adapt to worsening environmental conditions. Flooding exacerbates existing social and economic inequalities, displacing residents, increasing health risks, and causing significant property damage and financial hardship. Affordable housing is frequently located in high-risk zones, where home values are lower and buildings are older or in poorer condition than those in safer areas. Many households lack the financial means to renovate or repair structures after flood events, leaving them more exposed to future disasters. Additionally, limited access to timely information, emergency transportation, and evacuation support further endangers safety during extreme weather events. While climate change poses a threat to all, low- to moderate-income individuals are especially vulnerable due to longstanding structural inequities that hinder their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related crises like flooding.

Low- to moderate-income households and individuals experiencing homelessness are particularly susceptible to heat-related stresses. As climate change drives an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme heat events, these vulnerable populations face heightened risks of heat stress, heat-related illnesses, rising utility costs associated with cooling, and even death. The largest shelter facility, St. Vincent de Paul, serves the entire capital region and is often at capacity. While it provides critical relief during extreme weather events, the demand for shelter and cooling services far exceeds the available supply.

STRATEGIC PLAN

SP-05 OVERVIEW

STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Over the next five years, the City-Parish will use federal housing and community development funds to address critical needs in East Baton Rouge. This Strategic Plan outlines how resources will be directed to improve housing conditions, support vulnerable populations, strengthen public infrastructure, and reduce poverty across the Parish.

The plan prioritizes investment in several neighborhoods that face persistent disinvestment and high levels of poverty. These areas include the Plank Road Corridor, Scotlandville, Eden Park, Zion City–Glen Oaks, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, and Valley Park. These communities were identified through data analysis and community engagement and were selected based on factors such as aging housing stock, public safety concerns, adjudicated properties, and a need for improved community services.

Across the Parish, the plan identifies seven high-priority needs: health and public safety, public services, home rehabilitation, affordable housing, economic development, homelessness services, and support for individuals living with HIV/AIDS. These needs will guide funding decisions and shape the goals and activities outlined in this plan.

To address these needs, the City-Parish will carry out a series of programs and investments that include removing condemned structures, repairing homes, building new affordable units, supporting small businesses and nonprofits, and expanding workforce training. Special attention will be given to public improvements such as lighting, crosswalks, and drainage in priority neighborhoods. Rehabilitation and façade improvements to buildings in key growth potential area to stimulate economic development and expand opportunities in LMI areas. Services for people experiencing homelessness and individuals living with HIV/AIDS will be provided through housing assistance and supportive care.

The plan also considers the influence of local market conditions, including the limited supply of affordable housing, aging structures, and rising development costs. Rehabilitation of existing housing and strategic new construction will be essential to preserving affordability and preventing displacement. Acquisition and preservation efforts will help maintain long-term affordability in neighborhoods experiencing pressure from speculative investment.

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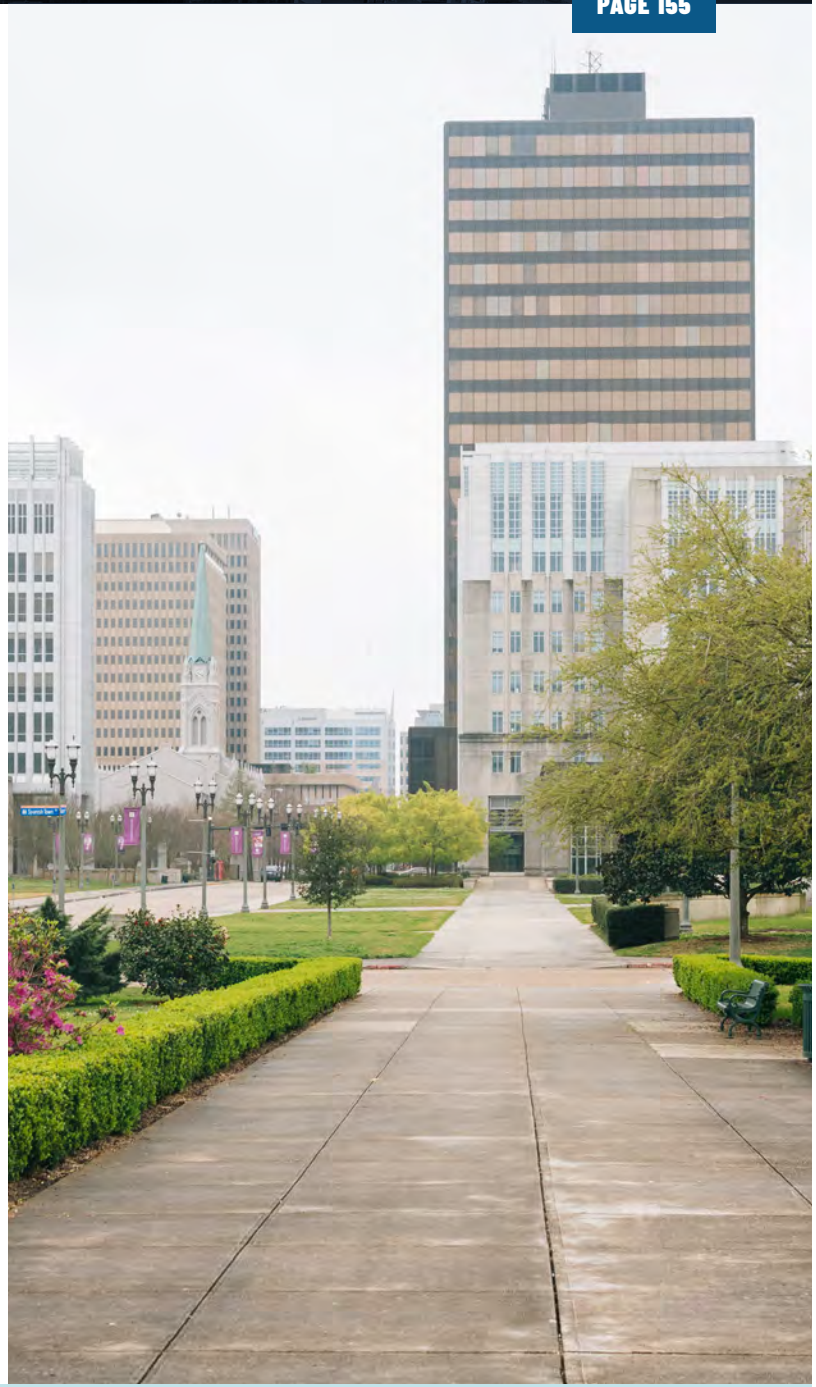
East Baton Rouge has a network of public, nonprofit, and private organizations that contribute to housing and community development efforts. The Office of Community Development (OCD) coordinates these efforts and works closely with partners like Build Baton Rouge, the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority, and Volunteers of America. While this network has many strengths, the plan also outlines key system gaps, including limited supportive housing, a need for stronger nonprofit capacity, and a lack of coordination between housing and workforce programs.

The City-Parish's anti-poverty strategy emphasizes job training, financial literacy, health outreach, and better access to transportation and social services. A special focus has been placed on addressing health disparities among women and legal/documented immigrant families through targeted neighborhood programs. These efforts are designed to support long-term stability and upward mobility.

In addition to the strategies outlined above, OCD has set internal goals to strengthen its own capacity to implement and monitor this work. Over the next five years, OCD will invest in its team, expand training opportunities, and adopt software tools that improve data tracking, reporting, and project management. These administrative goals are designed to improve the quality, consistency, and long-term impact of the Consolidated Plan and its associated annual Action Plans.



SP-10 GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITIES – 91.215 (A)(1)

TABLE 51: GEOGRAPHIC PRIORITY AREAS

AREA NAME: PLANK ROAD CORRIDOR	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	Comprehensive
Other Revital Description	Adopted small area plan in place, Imagine Plank Road.
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	70805 zip code, Fairfields, Delmont Place, Brookstown, Istrouma-Dixie, Legion Village, & North Baton Rouge Including Census Tracts: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6.01, 6.02, 7.01, 7.02, & 9
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	The housing market is weak due to low property values, high vacancies and aging structures. The commercial characteristics are better, with low vacancy rates and average lease rates per square foot.
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	The Plank Road Corridor was identified by the community and focus groups as an area of persistent poverty, but with large transit investments and adopted plans in place.
Identify the needs in this target area.	Health and Public Safety, Blight, Community Services, Economic Development, Public Services
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	The Plank Road Corridor has opportunities as it is a commercial corridor link to the north part of the parish including the airport, and many employment centers. There is community buy-in for increasing housing density, mixed use, and a community land trust is in place.
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	High crime neighborhoods struggle with funding and support for improvements due to disinvestment, lack of resources, and residential instability. Low household wealth, a weak real estate market, a large number of adjudicated properties that are sitting idle.

AREA NAME: SCOTLANDVILLE	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	Housing
Other Revital Description	N/A
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Scotlandville Neighborhood; Includes Census Tracts: 31.04 & 33 (22033003104 & 22033003300)
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	According to the plan, 75% of the homes are single family, with limited options for students, seniors and young professionals.
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	Scotlandville was identified through the community survey in multiple comments, it was a top neighborhood identified for small business development, a grocery store, and community programs at focus group meetings. It was also identified as an area of concern during community engagement workshops.
Identify the needs in this target area.	Health and Public Safety, Blight, Community Services, Economic Development, Affordable Housing, Public Services
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Adjudicated properties and properties with title issues increase blight clean-up time and cost.
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	High crime neighborhoods struggle with funding and support for improvements due to disinvestment, lack of resources, and residential instability. Adjudicated properties and properties with title issues increase blight clean-up time and cost.

AREA NAME: EDEN PARK	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	Comprehensive
Other Revital Description	N/A
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Eden Park Neighborhood; Includes Census Tract 10 (22033001000)
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	N/A
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	This area was identified through data analysis and stakeholder meetings.
Identify the needs in this target area.	Health and Public Safety, Blight, Economic Development, Public Services
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Blight Reduction, Public Safety Improvements
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	Adjudicated properties and properties with title issues increase blight clean-up time and cost.

AREA NAME: ZION CITY AND GLEN OAKS	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	Comprehensive
Other Revital Description	N/A
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Zion City – Glen Oaks Neighborhoods; Includes Census Tracts: 35.04 and 34 (22033003504 & 22033003400)
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	Glen Oaks has an underserved Hispanic population.
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	Glen Oaks was mentioned as an area of need and an area of potential during focus group meetings. The Glen Oaks "Dad's Club" was mentioned as a model citizen led mentorship program highlighting the participation and activity of neighborhood residents.
Identify the needs in this target area.	Community Services, Infrastructure Improvements, Public Services, Health and Public Safety
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	The presence of existing social and community programs or clubs suggests supporting this neighborhood has a high potential for community programs to be successful.
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	High crime neighborhoods struggle with funding and support for improvements due to disinvestment, lack of resources, and residential instability. Adjudicated properties and properties with title issues increase blight clean-up time and cost.

AREA NAME: DOWNTOWN EAST	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	Comprehensive
Other Revital Description	N/A
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Downtown East Neighborhood; Includes Census Tract 53 (22033005300)
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	N/A
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	This area was identified through data analysis and stakeholder meetings.
Identify the needs in this target area.	Blight Removal, Public Safety Improvements
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Health and Public Safety, Blight, Public Services, Economic Development
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	High crime neighborhoods struggle with funding and support for improvements due to disinvestment, lack of resources, and residential instability. Adjudicated properties and properties with title issues increase blight clean-up time and cost.

AREA NAME: OLD SOUTH BATON ROUGE	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	Comprehensive
Other Revital Description	
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Old South Baton Rouge Neighborhood; Includes Census Tracts: 24, 25, 52, & 22 (22033002400, 22033002500, 22033005200, 22033002200)
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	N/A
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	This area was identified through data analysis and stakeholder meetings.
Identify the needs in this target area.	Blight, Health and Public Safety, Economic Development
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Reducing blight and increasing public safety are opportunities for improvements.
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	High crime neighborhoods struggle with funding and support for improvements due to disinvestment, lack of resources, and residential instability. Adjudicated properties and properties with title issues increase blight clean-up time and cost.

AREA NAME: GARDERE	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	Comprehensive
Other Revital Description	N/A
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Gardere also known as South Burbank; Includes Census Tracts: 40.31, 40.28, 40.30, & 40.29 (22033004031, 22033004028, 22033004030, & 22033004029)
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	Gardere has a high underserved Hispanic population.
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	The Gardere Initiative was mentioned as a successful model community organization. Gardere consistently came up as a community of need in focus group meetings and community events.
Identify the needs in this target area.	Blight, Community Services, Public Improvements, Public Services, Economic Development
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Removal of Condemned Structure; Support Existing Local Community Service Efforts
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	Adjudicated properties and properties with title issues increase blight clean-up time and cost.

AREA NAME: VALLEY PARK	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	Housing
Other Revital Description	N/A
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	Valley Park Neighborhood Census Tract 27 (22033002700)
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	N/A
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	This area was identified as a neighborhood of choice throughout the community engagement process.
Identify the needs in this target area.	Blight, Affordable Housing, Anti-Displacement Assistance, Health and Public Safety
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	New Affordable Units in a Choice Neighborhood, Home Rehabilitation
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	Adjudicated properties and properties with title issues increase blight clean-up time and cost.

AREA NAME: EAST BATON ROUGE JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARY	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	N/A
Other Revital Description	N/A
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	East Baton Rouge City-Parish jurisdictional boundary
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	N/A
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	The community engagement process identified many areas of need throughout the City-Parish.
Identify the needs in this target area.	There are areas of need outside of the listed priority neighborhoods that face the same issues that the identified areas face. Projects benefiting low-income households that meet the identified priority needs should still be given consideration even if they do not fall within an otherwise identified geographic priority.
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	Highlighted opportunities for improvement I Baton Rouge include blight reduction, affordable housing additions, expanded behavioral health services, increase in public safety, and economic development opportunities for LMI households and individuals.
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	High rates of poverty, crime, blight, and limited funding act as barriers to improvement.

AREA NAME: HUD 2025 LMI CENSUS TRACTS	
Area Type	Local Target Area
Other Target Area Description	N/A
HUD Approval Date	N/A
% of Low/ Mod	N/A
Revital Type	N/A
Other Revital Description	N/A
Identify the neighborhood boundaries for this target area.	N/A
Include specific housing and commercial characteristics of this target area.	N/A
How did your consultation and citizen participation process help you to identify this neighborhood as a target area?	N/A
Identify the needs in this target area.	N/A
What are the opportunities for improvement in this target area?	N/A
Are there barriers to improvement in this target area?	N/A

GENERAL ALLOCATION PRIORITIES

Describe the basis for allocating investments geographically within the jurisdiction (or within the EMSA for HOPWA)

The basis for allocating investments geographically is grounded in data presented in the Needs Assessment and Market Analysis sections of this Consolidated Plan, along with feedback gathered through meetings with community stakeholders, public comments, and input collected at community workshops. Priority was given to areas with high concentrations of low- to moderate-income households, persistent disinvestment, and demonstrated need for housing improvements, infrastructure upgrades, and public services. While specific target neighborhoods were identified, eligible projects outside of these areas may also be considered if they address priority needs and benefit low-income residents.

SP-25 PRIORITY NEEDS - 91.215(A)(2)

PRIORITY NEEDS

TABLE 52: PRIORITY NEEDS SUMMARY

PRIORITY NEED NAME: HOUSING REHABILITATION	
Priority Level	High
Population	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Middle, Families with Children, Elderly, Persons with Physical Disabilities
Geographic Areas Affected	Scotlandville, Valley Park, HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary
Associated Goals	Improve Housing Conditions for LMI Households; Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents; Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas; Increase Affordable Housing
Description	Provide home repair and rehabilitation services for low- to moderate-income homeowners. Provide accessibility modification services for elderly and disabled populations. Provide legal services to help clear titles on succession properties.
Basis for Relative Priority	The rehab of homes in target areas was identified as a high priority by the community and backed up with data that shows areas with high amounts of calls into 311 for blighted structures. EBR has an aging house stock and high concentrations of low-income households. Blight is a contributing factor to community health. The need for home rehabilitation services exceeds funding.

PRIORITY NEED NAME: HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY	
Priority Level	High
Population	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Chronic Homelessness, Individuals, Families with Children, Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, Veterans, Elderly, Frail Elderly, Persons with Physical Disabilities, Non-Housing Community Development
Geographic Areas Affected	Scotlandville, Zion City and Glen Oaks, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, Valley Park, HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary
Associated Goals	Improve Housing Conditions for LMI Households; Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents; Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas; Increase Affordable Housing
Description	Removal/Rehab of Blighted Structures, Improved Lighting, Crosswalk additions
Basis for Relative Priority	Public safety, especially related to condemned structures and blight, has been identified with both data and community input as a priority for improving the lives of low-to-moderate income residents of Baton Rouge. Rehabilitation of blighted structures in cultural and historic districts should be considered before demolition and if feasible, to promote historic preservation.

PRIORITY NEED NAME: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
Priority Level	High
Population	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Middle, Non-Housing Community Development
Geographic Areas Affected	Scotlandville, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Gardere, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary
Associated Goals	Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents; Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas; Increase Affordable Housing; Planning and Administration
Description	Provide funding for façade improvement projects to boost local development in LMI neighborhoods, adapt and reuse local underused public facilities to boost economic opportunities for local small businesses, support local small businesses.
Basis for Relative Priority	Many neighborhoods and LMI areas in EBR City-Parish lack opportunities and employment options. Boosting economic growth in these areas can help provide income and opportunities for residents.

PRIORITY NEED NAME: AFFORDABLE HOUSING	
Priority Level	High
Population	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Middle, Large Families, Families with Children, Elderly, Public Housing Residents, Individuals, Families with Children, Elderly, Other
Geographic Areas Affected	Scotlandville, Valley Park, HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary
Associated Goals	Improve Housing Conditions for LMI Households; Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents; Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas; Increase Affordable Housing
Description	Adding affordable housing units in choice neighborhoods and area of opportunity. Downpayment assistance, low interest mortgages, homeownership counseling and legal services. Help develop new CHDOs and provide training opportunities for CHDOs.
Basis for Relative Priority	Valley Park was identified as a choice neighborhood during community engagement efforts. This area is not a high crime area, though it is affected by blight. Increasing homeownership and services to maintain homeownership have been identified as a priority based on census data over many years, community input, and best management practices.

PRIORITY NEED NAME: SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUALS LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS	
Priority Level	High
Population	Extremely Low, Low, Moderate, Middle, Large Families, Families with Children, Public Housing Residents, Persons with HIV/AIDS, Persons with HIV/AIDS and their Families
Geographic Areas Affected	East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary
Associated Goals	Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents; Provide Supportive Housing Services for People with HIV/AIDS; Planning and Administration
Description	Provide housing assistance and supportive services to low-income individuals and families living with HIV/AIDs.
Basis for Relative Priority	East Baton Rouge Parish continues to see a persistent need for housing and supportive services among non-homeless special needs populations. Strategic partnerships and cross-sector collaboration are essential to address the needs of people living with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, and persons with disabilities. Data indicates that integrated housing and service delivery models, especially those targeting medical adherence and independent living, are key to narrowing service gaps and improving quality of life.

PRIORITY NEED NAME: HOMELESS SERVICE AND EMERGENCY SHELTER	
Priority Level	High
Population	Extremely Low, Chronic Homelessness, Individuals, Families with Children, Mentally Ill, Chronic Substance Abuse, Veterans, Persons with HIV/AIDS, Victims of Domestic Violence, Unaccompanied Youth
Geographic Areas Affected	East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary
Associated Goals	Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents; Provide Assistance to Local Homeless Population; Planning and Administration
Description	Supportive services, case management, housing assistance.
Basis for Relative Priority	Data from the PIT count, community input, survey results and stakeholder meetings identify the need for high need for services directed to homelessness.

SP-30 INFLUENCE OF MARKET CONDITIONS – 91.215 (B)

INFLUENCE OF MARKET CONDITIONS

TABLE 52: PRIORITY NEEDS SUMMARY

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TYPE	MARKET CHARACTERISTICS THAT WILL INFLUENCE THE USE OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR HOUSING TYPE
Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)	High rates of cost burden among low-income renters, especially in areas with limited affordable housing stock, will drive the continued use of TBRA to provide immediate, flexible assistance. Waitlists for subsidized units remain long, and TBRA offers a critical bridge for households seeking stability while pursuing longer-term housing solutions.
TBRA for Non-Homeless Special Needs	Seniors, people with disabilities, and other special needs populations face limited accessible, affordable housing options. The aging housing stock and rising rents make TBRA essential for enabling these groups to live independently and avoid institutional settings or homelessness.
New Unit Production	A persistent shortage of affordable rental and homeownership units, especially for households earning below 50% AMI, necessitates new construction. Limited availability of vacant infill lots and high development costs mean production efforts may need to be paired with subsidy layering or targeted to strategic redevelopment areas.
Rehabilitation	Much of the existing affordable housing stock is older, with significant needs for repairs and upgrades. Blighted and substandard units are common in historically disinvested neighborhoods, and rehabilitation will be essential to preserve affordability and prevent displacement, especially where new development pressures are rising.
Acquisition, Including Preservation	Rising property values and investor activity in some neighborhoods risk displacing long-term low-income residents. Strategic acquisition can help preserve affordability and community control in transitioning areas. Preservation of existing multifamily developments is also necessary to prevent further loss of naturally occurring affordable housing.

SP-35 ANTICIPATED RESOURCES - 91.215(A)(4), 91.220(C)(1,2)

INTRODUCTION

In Baton Rouge, federal funds from programs such as CDBG, HOME, and ESG will be strategically used to leverage additional state, local, and private investment in affordable housing and supportive services. Local funding sources, such as tax increment financing districts and bond allocations, will be paired with federal dollars to finance site acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and gap funding. Additionally, leveraging publicly owned land to address the affordable housing and community development needs identified in this plan as a method to increase funding efficiency and effectiveness.

ANTICIPATED RESOURCES

TABLE 53: ANTICIPATED RESOURCES

PROGRAM	SOURCE OF FUNDS	USES OF FUNDS	EXPECTED AMOUNT AVAILABLE YEAR 1				EXPECTED AMOUNT AVAILABLE REMAINDER OF CONPLAN	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
			ANNUAL ALLOCATION	PROGRAM INCOME	PRIOR YEAR RESOURCES	TOTAL		
CDBG	Public Federal	Acquisition, Admin and Planning, Economic Development, Housing, Public Improvements, Public Services	$3,313,007	$70,000	$2,556,325	$5,939,332	$0	Expected amount for remainder of Con Plan is Year 1 times 4. This includes Housing Rehabilitation, Health and Public Safety, Economic Development, and Public Services.
HOME	Public Federal	Acquisition, Homebuyer Assistance, Homeowner Rehab, Multifamily Rental New Construction, Multifamily Rental Rehab, New Construction for Ownership, TBRA	$1,268,061	$500,000	$2,665,457	$4,433,518	$0	Expected amount for remainder of Con Plan is Year 1 times 4. This includes Affordable Housing, CHDO training, and possible TBRA program.
HOPWA	Public Federal	Permanent Housing in Facilities, Permanent Housing Placement, Short Term or Transitional Housing Facilities, STRMU, Supportive Services, TBRA	$2,254,865	$0	$0	$2,254,865	$0	Expected amount for remainder of Con Plan is Year 1 times 4. This includes Housing and Support Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS.
ESG	Public Federal	Conversion and Rehab for Transitional Housing, Financial Assistance, Overnight Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing (Rental Assistance, Rental Assistance Services, Transitional Housing	$291,476	$0	$0	$291,476	$0	Expected amount for remainder of Con Plan is Year 1 times 4. This includes Homeless Assistance, Emergency Shelter, and Support Services to address homelessness in the Capitol Region.

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

In Baton Rouge, federal funds from programs such as CDBG, HOME, and ESG will be strategically used to leverage additional state, local, and private investment in affordable housing and supportive services. Local funding sources, such as tax increment financing districts and bond allocations, will be paired with federal dollars to finance site acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and gap funding.

Matching requirements, particularly under the HOME program, will be met through a combination of in-kind contributions, local housing trust funds, and private developer funds secured through LIHTC and philanthropic partnerships. This blended financing approach ensures that federal investments catalyze larger-scale, sustainable housing outcomes.

If appropriate, describe publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan.

Baton Rouge is well positioned to leverage publicly owned land to address the affordable housing and community development needs identified in this plan. The first step should be to conduct an inventory and assessment at the parcel level of the Parish to identify vacant and/or underused public land and buildings. This could include:

- Vacant city-owned lots, or vacant/underused buildings
- Tax-delinquent or adjudicated or condemned properties
- Surplus land from public agencies (BREC, DOTD, school boards etc.)
- Brownfield sites near transit or employment centers

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The American Planning Association's Housing Supply Accelerator identifies the importance of interagency coordination in using public lands as opportunities to increase affordable housing options. Public land use for affordable housing should be integrated with:

- Transportation investments (Bus Rapid Transit corridors, MOVEBR projects, Complete Streets)
- Hazard mitigation and green infrastructure, especially in flood-prone areas
- Workforce development and economic mobility efforts
- Underused or vacant public land in resource rich-areas (such as Valley Park, Melrose East)

This integration and coordination will help ensure that affordable housing is not only available but well situated to support long-term resilience and access for low- to moderate-income households.

DISCUSSION

In Baton Rouge, federal funds from programs such as CDBG, HOME, and ESG will be strategically used to leverage additional state, local, and private investment in affordable housing and supportive services. Local funding sources, such as tax increment financing districts and bond allocations, will be paired with federal dollars to finance site acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and gap funding. Additionally, leveraging publicly owned land to address the affordable housing and community development needs identified in this plan as a method to increase funding efficiency and effectiveness.

SP-40 INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERY STRUCTURE – 91.215(K)

Explain the institutional structure through which the jurisdiction will carry out its consolidated plan including private industry, non-profit organizations, and public institutions.

TABLE 54: INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERY STRUCTURE

RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY TYPE	ROLE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED
City of Baton Rouge	Government	Homelessness, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Planning, Public Housing	Jurisdiction
Build Baton Rouge	Redevelopment Authority	Economic Development, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Ownership, Planning, Rental, Neighborhood Improvements, Public Services	Region
East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority	Government	Ownership, Public Housing, Rental	Jurisdiction
Volunteers of America	Non-Profit Organizations	Homelessness, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Public Services	Region
Bridge Center for Hope	Non-Profit Organizations	Non-Homeless Special Needs, Public Services	Region
Capital Area United Way	Non-Profit Organizations	Non-Homeless Special Needs, Neighborhood Improvements, Public Services	Region
Capital Area Finance Authority	Departments and agencies	Economic Development, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Ownership, Planning, Rental	Region
Louisiana Housing Corporation	Government	Non-Homeless Special Needs, Ownership, Planning, Rental	State

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RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY TYPE	ROLE	GEOGRAPHIC AREA SERVED
EmployBR	Regional Organization	Economic Development, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Public Services	Jurisdiction
Louisiana Workforce Commission	Government	Economic Development, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Public Services	State
Capital Region Planning Commission	Departments and Agencies	Non-Homeless Special Needs, Planning, Neighborhood Improvements, Public Services	Region
Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care	Departments and Agencies	Homelessness	State
Louisiana Small Business Development Center	Government	Economic Development, Non-Homeless Special Needs	State
Small Business Administration	Departments and Agencies	Economic Development, Non-Homeless Special Needs	Nation

ASSESS OF STRENGTHS AND GAPS IN THE INSTITUTIONAL DELIVERY SYSTEM

East Baton Rouge Parish benefits from an institutional delivery system anchored by experienced public, nonprofit, and private organizations working to address housing, community development, and supportive service needs. The OCD serves as the lead agency for HUD-funded programs and works in collaboration with a range of partners at the local, regional, and state levels.

Strengths

THE SYSTEM INCLUDES SEVERAL ESTABLISHED, CAPABLE ORGANIZATIONS:

THE CITY-PARISH (through OCD)
Has program administration capacity and longstanding experience managing HUD funding.

THE EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH HOUSING AUTHORITY (EBRPHA)
Provides public housing and Housing Choice Vouchers and operates a Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program to promote resident economic mobility.

BUILD BATON ROUGE
Manages land banking and redevelopment efforts and plays a key role in neighborhood improvement strategies.

THE LOUISIANA BALANCE OF STATE CONTINUUM OF CARE (BOSCOC)
Leads the Continuum of Care and coordinates homeless services across the region.

VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA GULF COAST & THE BRIDGE CENTER FOR HOPE
Provide critical behavioral health and supportive services for vulnerable populations.

THE LOUISIANA HOUSING CORPORATION (LHC) & CAPITAL AREA FINANCE AUTHORITY (CAFA)
Offer essential affordable housing financing tools.

EMPLOYBR AND THE LOUISIANA WORKFORCE COMMISSION
Workforce development partners that deliver workforce training and employment services.

CAPITAL AREA UNITED WAY & NONPROFIT SERVICE PROVIDERS
Contribute to housing stability and neighborhood services across the region.

Public input gathered through focus groups and workshops highlighted strong local partnerships as key system assets.

Gaps and Challenges

WHILE THE SYSTEM HAS MANY STRENGTHS, PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS AND STAKEHOLDERS IDENTIFIED SEVERAL IMPORTANT GAPS

AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRODUCTION

remains insufficient to meet current demand, particularly for extremely low- and very low-income households.

SUPPORTIVE HOUSING OPTIONS AND WRAPAROUND SERVICES

for people with behavioral health needs, returning citizens, and chronically homeless individuals are limited.

SHELTER CAPACITY

is inadequate relative to the number of individuals experiencing homelessness.

THE NONPROFIT SERVICE PROVIDER LANDSCAPE

is fragmented, with limited structured coordination or shared accountability models.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING STABILITY EFFORTS

are not yet fully integrated, and visibility of employment programs remains low.

COORDINATION

between housing investments, transportation planning, and workforce initiatives is not consistent.

SYSTEM NAVIGATION AND ACCESS TO SERVICES

remain challenging for vulnerable populations, including seniors, people with disabilities, and legal/documented immigrant and refugee communities.

Public input emphasized the need for greater investment in system capacity and improved cross-sector coordination to strengthen delivery of services and programs.

Availability of services targeted to homeless persons and persons with HIV and mainstream services.

TABLE 55: HOMELESS PREVENTION SERVICES SUMMARY

	AVAILABLE IN THE COMMUNITY	TARGETED TO HOMELESS	TARGETED TO PEOPLE WITH HIV
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES			
Counseling/Advocacy	✓	✓	✓
Legal Assistance	✓		✓
Mortgage Assistance	✓		✓
Rental Assistance	✓	✓	✓
Utilities Assistance	✓		✓
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES			
Law Enforcement	✓		
Mobile Clinics	✓	✓	✓
Other Street Outreach Services	✓	✓	✓
HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SERVICES			
Alcohol & Drug Abuse	✓	✓	✓
Child Care	✓	✓	✓
Education	✓	✓	✓
Employment and Employment Training	✓	✓	
Healthcare	✓	✓	✓
HIV/AIDS	✓	✓	✓
Life Skills	✓	✓	✓
Mental Health Counseling	✓	✓	✓
Transportation	✓	✓	✓
OTHER			

Describe how the service delivery system including, but not limited to, the services listed above meet the needs of homeless persons (particularly chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth).

The service delivery system in East Baton Rouge Parish provides a foundation of targeted and mainstream services to meet the needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. The Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care, as the lead agency for the Continuum of Care (CoC), coordinates many of the region's core homelessness prevention, outreach, and supportive service efforts. CAAH works closely with a network of partners, including Volunteers of America Gulf Coast, the Bridge Center for Hope, St. Vincent de Paul, and a variety of nonprofit service providers.

The system includes street outreach, shelter and housing placement, and supportive services. The Street Outreach Network achieves a high housing placement success rate and serves as an important front-line resource. Volunteers of America and other partners deliver case management, behavioral health services, and life skills training, while the Bridge Center provides critical crisis stabilization and short-term care. Legal advocacy, benefits navigation, and document recovery services help individuals secure the identification and resources necessary for housing access.

Services address the needs of specific subpopulations:

- Chronically homeless individuals receive housing-focused case management and access to permanent supportive housing, though supply remains limited.
- Families with children are supported through coordinated entry and access to emergency shelter, rental assistance, and case management, but gaps in family-friendly shelter capacity persist.
- Veterans and their families benefit from partnerships with the VA and HUD-VASH resources, although outreach indicated that awareness of these resources varies.
- Unaccompanied youth are an underserved population. While some targeted programs exist, including efforts to support youth aging out of foster care, focus group participants stressed the need for expanded shelter options and supportive housing for this group.

Overall, the delivery system has demonstrated notable strengths in housing placement and outreach. However, public input highlighted ongoing challenges, including insufficient supportive housing capacity, limited shelter space, and the need for greater integration of employment services, healthcare, and behavioral health supports to promote long-term housing stability.

DESCRIBE THE STRENGTHS AND GAPS OF THE SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION AND PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE SERVICES LISTED ABOVE

Strengths

PUBLIC INPUT HIGHLIGHTED SEVERAL SYSTEM STRENGTHS:

- A well-established street outreach network and housing problem-solving interventions, which have produced housing placement success rates above national averages.
- The Bridge Center for Hope provides high-quality crisis stabilization and behavioral health services for individuals with complex needs, including those experiencing homelessness.
- Nonprofit organizations such as Volunteers of America, St. Vincent de Paul, and the Christian Outreach Center deliver a wide array of supportive services, including legal advocacy, employment assistance, and life skills programming.
- Partnerships with the public library system, churches, and food banks extend access to low-barrier support services for people with special needs.
- For persons with HIV/AIDS, the community benefits from coordinated housing and supportive services through HOPWA-funded programs and partnerships with healthcare providers such as HAART/Open Health.
- outh Oasis is a local non-profit dedicated to supporting youth and young adult recover from the trauma of homelessness and family separation through housing, healthcare, and advocacy.

Gaps

STAKEHOLDERS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPANTS ALSO IDENTIFIED KEY GAPS AND CHALLENGES:

- Supportive housing capacity remains inadequate, particularly for individuals with behavioral health needs, co-occurring disorders, and chronic homelessness.
- Shelter availability is limited, with a shortage of beds for families with children and for special populations such as at-risk youth.
- Employment services are not fully integrated with housing stability efforts; there is a need for greater alignment between workforce development programs and housing outcomes.
- Navigation services are inconsistently available, making it difficult for individuals with low literacy, cognitive impairments, or other barriers to access and maintain supportive services.
- While the HOPWA system is relatively strong, medical transportation and supportive housing options for persons living with HIV/AIDS remain limited.
- Services for legal/documented immigrant and refugee communities with special needs are underdeveloped, with trust and language barriers impeding access to mainstream and targeted services.
- At risk youth are particularly underserved as they do not qualify for many services based on their age and lack of credit history. They also often have trouble attaining documentation such as birth certificates to apply for or qualify for some services. Youth Oasis provides services targeted to this population, but funding is limited, and landlords are often resistant to renting to this age class so housing options are limited.

Public input stressed that improving system coordination, expanding supportive housing, and investing in navigator and outreach roles are essential to addressing these gaps and ensuring that individuals with special needs and those experiencing homelessness can access the full range of services they require.

Provide a summary of the strategy for overcoming gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system for carrying out a strategy to address priority needs.

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH WILL PURSUE SEVERAL STRATEGIES TO STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE AND IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES:

EXPAND SYSTEM COORDINATION

The Office of Community Development and partners will work to promote better alignment across housing, workforce, health, and transportation services. Public input highlighted the need for more structured coordination models and shared accountability frameworks to address fragmentation in the current system.

INVEST IN SUPPORTIVE HOUSING CAPACITY

The City-Parish and its partners will prioritize efforts to increase the supply of supportive housing for persons with behavioral health needs, returning citizens, persons with HIV/AIDS, and individuals with other special needs. This will require both capital investment and expansion of supportive services.

STRENGTHEN NONPROFIT CAPACITY

Stakeholders emphasized the importance of technical assistance, operational support, and training for nonprofit service providers. The Parish will seek opportunities to invest in nonprofit capacity to deliver services more effectively and participate in cross-sector partnerships.

IMPROVE SYSTEM NAVIGATION AND ACCESS

To better serve vulnerable populations, the City-Parish will explore the expansion of community navigator roles and enhanced outreach to underserved groups, including seniors, persons with disabilities, legal/ documented immigrants and refugees, and low-income households with limited digital or literacy skills.

INTEGRATE EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING STABILITY EFFORTS

Public input stressed that access to employment and workforce services is key to long-term housing stability. The Parish will work with workforce partners to better connect job training and employment services with housing programs.

LEVERAGE ANCHOR INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL PLANNING EFFORTS

Southern University, LSU, and the Capital Region Planning Commission can play a stronger role in advancing community development and workforce strategies. The City-Parish will seek opportunities to more fully integrate these partners into housing and service delivery strategies.

Through these strategies, East Baton Rouge Parish aims to build a more cohesive, responsive, and equitable system to address priority needs identified in this Consolidated Plan.

SP-45 GOALS SUMMARY – 91.215(A)(4)

Goals Summary Information

TABLE 56: GOALS SUMMARY

GOAL NAME	START YEAR	END YEAR	CATEGORY	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NEEDS ADDRESSED	FUNDING	GOAL OUTCOME INDICATOR
Improve Housing Conditions for LMI Households	2025	2029	Affordable Housing, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Blight Removal	Scotlandville, Zion City and Glen Oaks, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Health and Public Safety, Public Services, Housing Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing	CDBG: $828,252 HOPWA: $0 HOME: $0 ESG: $0	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 75 Household Housing Units
Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development, Public Safety, Pedestrian Safety, Public Improvements	Scotlandville, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Health and Public Safety, Public Services, Housing Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing, Support for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDs, Economic Development, Homeless Service and Emergency Shelter	CDBG: $894,511 HOPWA: $0 HOME: $0 ESG: $0	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 75 Households Assisted Buildings Demolished: 40 Buildings Other: 10 Other
Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development, Economic Development	Scotlandville, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Health and Public Safety, Public Services, Housing Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing, Economic Development	CDBG: $430,691 HOPWA: $0 HOME: $0 ESG: $0	Facade treatment/ business building rehabilitation: 25 Business Other: 2 Other
Provide Public Services to LMI Residents, Neighbors	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development, Public Services	Scotlandville, Zion City and Glen Oaks, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Public Services	CDBG: $496,951 HOPWA: $0 HOME: $0 ESG: $0	Businesses assisted: 50 Businesses Assisted Other: 25 Other

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GOAL NAME	START YEAR	END YEAR	CATEGORY	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NEEDS ADDRESSED	FUNDING	GOAL OUTCOME INDICATOR
Increase Affordable Housing	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Valley Park, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Health and Public Safety, Housing Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing, Economic Development	CDBG: $0 HOPWA: $0 HOME: $1,141,254 ESG: $0	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 40 Households Assisted Rental units constructed: 7 Household Housing Unit Rental units rehabilitated: 40 Household Housing Units Other: 10 Other
Provide Supportive Housing Services for People with HIV/AIDs	2025	2029	Non-Homeless Special Needs	East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Support for individuals living with HIV/AIDs	CDBG: $0 HOPWA: $2,187,219 HOME: $0 ESG: $0	HIV/AIDS Housing Operations: 1500 Household Housing Unit
Provide Assistance to Local Homeless Population	2025	2029	Homeless	East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Public Services, Homeless Service and Emergency Shelter	CDBG: $0 HOPWA: $0 HOME: $0 ESG: $269,615	Homelessness Prevention: 2500 Persons Assisted
Planning and Administration	2025	2029	Planning and Administration	East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Public Services, Support for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDs, Economic Development, Homeless Service and Emergency Shelter	CDBG: $662,601 HOPWA: $67,646 HOME: $126,806 ESG: $21,861	Other: 1 Other

Goal Descriptions

GOAL NAME	DESCRIPTION
Improve Housing Conditions for LMI households	Home rehabilitation services for low-income homeowner households and ADA compliance outfitting for elderly and disabled persons will be provided under this goal.
Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents	Projects aimed at improving safety in LMI areas will fall under this goal. This may include but is not limited to crosswalk additions, increased lighting, removing condemned and blighted structures, and aiding entities providing behavioral health services for low-income, at risk, and homeless individuals.
Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas	Boosting economic development in LMI areas may include projects related to decreasing blight and repairing exterior facilities of local businesses to improve the visual aspect of the area and promote economic growth. Projects involving rehabbing or adapting unused public buildings, such as out of use neighborhood schools, to office space or co-working spaces can also boost the economy and opportunity of the surrounding areas.
Provide Public Services to LMI Residents	Public services is a broad goal that encompasses services that are community and special population focused. These services could include providing non-profit capacity building funds, coordinating and attending seasonal outreach events, hosting neighborhood clean-up days, crime intervention and prevention events, community development services, and aid for at-risk youth.
Increase Affordable Housing	Increasing affordable housing can take shape in multiple forms. Some projects aimed at increasing affordable housing include rehabilitating units in choice neighborhoods, providing anti-displacement services, increasing the stock of available units, providing training and support to establish and grow local CHDOs, and funding a Tenant Based Rental Assistance program.
Provide Supportive Housing Services for People with HIV/AIDS	Under this goal housing and related support services are provided to people living with HIV/AIDs. Providing housing assistance offers some relief to this special population and helps them manage challenges associated with HIV/AIDs like increased medical appointments, medication management, and other related issues.
Provide Assistance to Local Homeless Population	This goal supports efforts to provide assistance and support services to homeless individuals and families. Homelessness is a complex issue often requiring coordinated assistance. The homeless shelters in the Baton Rouge region consistently operate at capacity often turning individuals away due to lack of available resources. This goal serves the Baton Rouge COC Region, not just EBR boundary.
Planning and Administration	Continued progress of current and future eligible projects.

Estimate the number of extremely low-income, low-income, and moderate-income families to whom the jurisdiction will provide affordable housing as defined by HOME 91.315(b)(2).

Over the five-year period covered by this Consolidated Plan, the City-Parish of East Baton Rouge estimates that it will provide affordable housing to approximately 1,250 low-income households, through a combination of rental assistance, housing rehabilitation, and new construction activities supported by federal funding.

The estimated breakdown by income level is as follows:

- Extremely Low-Income Households (≤30% AMI): 500 households
- Low-Income Households (31–50% AMI): 400 households
- Moderate-Income Households (51–80% AMI): 350 households

These estimates are based on current funding levels through the HOME, CDBG, ESG, and HOPWA programs, and the priorities identified in the Strategic Plan. The majority of households served will benefit from rental assistance and housing rehabilitation activities, while a smaller share will be supported through homebuyer and new construction programs. All housing units will meet the affordability requirements as defined by HOME regulations at 24 CFR 91.315(b)(2).

SP-50 PUBLIC HOUSING ACCESSIBILITY AND INVOLVEMENT – 91.215(C)

Need to Increase the Number of Accessible Units (if Required by a Section 504 Voluntary Compliance Agreement).

The East Baton Rouge Public Housing Authority (EBRPHA) is a separate entity from the Baton Rouge Office of Community Development. EBRPHA has identified the need for accessible units as one of its greatest needs and priorities. There are currently not enough units to meet the demand. According to the EBRPHA 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan, one notable project set to begin construction is a 70-unit senior independent living building. EBRPHA serves a total of 12,799 residents. Elderly or disabled residents account for 58% of affordable housing and Housing Choice Voucher households.

Activities to Increase Resident Involvements

EBRPHA believes that homeownership is one key way to achieve a solid financial base for the future. EBRPHA families are encouraged to pursue this goal through its Family Self-Sufficiency Program. Participants receive information and coaching that guides their journey to homeownership. The Housing Choice Voucher program is temporary assistance, and EBRPHA celebrates resident achievements when they become self-sufficient. The EBRPHA bell-ringing ceremony signifies overcoming hardships and symbolizes outward joy and excitement for creating a new chapter of their own.

Is the public housing agency designated as troubled under 24 CFR part 902?

No

Plan to remove the 'troubled' designation.

Not applicable

SP-55 BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 91.215(H)

BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

There are several public policies that negatively affect affordable housing and residential investment in Baton Rouge. At the 2022 East Baton Rouge Housing Summit, community members and stakeholders had the opportunity to provide input, and numerous policies were identified. These include:

ZONING AND LAND USE POLICIES

Restrictive Zoning Laws: Baton Rouge uses single-family zoning, which prohibits the development of multi-family housing, townhomes, or accessory dwelling units in higher-income areas of the city. Single-family zoning accounts for approximately 36% of the parish's zoned area. These zoning laws restrict density, limit affordable housing choice, and increase per-unit development costs in the parish.

Minimum Lot Sizes & Parking Requirements: Minimum lot sizes can restrict density and require more infrastructure to develop. This increases the cost of land per unit and discourages affordable, infill, or small-scale developments.

Complex Permitting and Approval Processes: East Baton Rouge has a notoriously complex permitting process and inconsistent approval outcomes, which deter investment and delay housing projects.

Negative Effects on Construction Material: While the cost of construction materials is primarily market-driven, local policy barriers, such as restrictive zoning, lengthy permitting processes, and a lack of development incentives, amplify the cost burden, making affordable housing projects less financially viable.

LIMITED OR INCONSISTENT USE OF TAX INCENTIVE POLICIES

Programs like the Restoration Tax Abatement, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and state and federal historic tax credits are difficult to access, and smaller developers often lack the capacity to participate in them.

Each incentive program has a separate application process, public hearing requirements, and timelines, making coordination among these policies difficult.

Incentive programs still require upfront housing costs to be paid, which are later reimbursed through credits. This is not feasible for smaller developers who lack access to capital.

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BLIGHT, ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES, AND VACANT BUILDING POLICIES

Blight: The decades-long concentration of blight in large swaths of the city has not been properly or efficiently addressed through local or state policy. This has resulted in blighted and vacant buildings disproportionately affecting low-income areas and contributing to a poor tax base and lowered property values. Local data estimates there are over 5,000 blighted properties in the parish. Buildings and properties can become blighted when they are adjudicated.

Adjudicated Properties: If an owner does not pay property taxes in East Baton Rouge, the property can go through a tax sale or become adjudicated. Adjudicated properties are those whose ownership is in limbo, with the government body holding claim but not full ownership. The parish cannot legally fix, sell, or demolish these properties in a timely manner as they must go through a legal process to clear the title or transfer it, a process that can take years. Adjudicated properties are often vacant buildings.

Vacant Buildings: Vacant buildings in the parish are often blighted and/or adjudicated properties with no legal owner. The parish lacks a vacant, out-of-town, or negligent owner policy, which contributes to the lack of accountability for property owners who do not maintain their properties. When there is no legal owner, the owner is out of town, or the owner is no longer receiving rent due to lack of maintenance, these sites sit vacant and deteriorate, adding to blight.

Strategy to Remove or Ameliorate the Barriers to Affordable Housing

Baton Rouge is addressing these barriers through several initiatives and strategic partnerships with housing stakeholders, including, but not limited to, Build Baton Rouge, the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority, the Louisiana Housing Corporation, the Department of Development, the Planning Commission, and many private and non-profit housing developers.

Zoning and Land Use Strategies for removing or ameliorating zoning and land use policies will be implemented through coordination with the Planning Commission and implementation of FUTUREBR. Action items within the housing element of FUTUREBR were identified and include:

- Identify where affordable housing is needed
- Support the development of affordable housing options
- Research an affordable housing trust fund to help leverage local and federal funds that can be used to create affordable housing
- Partner with non-profit housing developers to create high-quality affordable housing

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- Promote educational workshops on affordable housing development, home repair, and homeownership
- Increase affordable housing production, promote investment in disinvested neighborhoods, improve aging housing stock, and encourage implementation of energy efficiency and weather resiliency improvements
- Advocacy and education to promote policy changes, such as allowing inclusionary zoning, missing middle housing, accessory dwelling units, higher density along transit routes, and smaller lots, can help alleviate barriers.

BLIGHT, ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES, AND VACANT BUILDING POLICIES

To address blight, adjudicated properties, and vacant buildings, Baton Rouge will use land banking strategies to secure land for affordable housing. Community land trusts, especially in resource rich neighborhoods, can be done to maintain long-term affordability. Baton Rouge will balance the demolition of blighted homes with the construction of new units so that the affordable housing supply does not diminish.

The rehabilitation and reuse of vacant buildings for affordable housing will be supported through existing programs such as the Brownfield Program, historic tax credits, opportunity zones, and other state and local incentives.

LIMITED/INCONSISTENT USE OF TAX INCENTIVES

Baton Rouge can attract private investment while reducing financial barriers for developers to construct or rehabilitate affordable housing units using incentives. Educating stakeholders on how to apply for and use tax incentives through outreach, public-private partnerships, and capacity-building initiatives can alleviate this barrier. The city can organize regular workshops aimed at developers, nonprofits, and community organizations to clarify eligibility and application processes for state and federal tax incentives, like Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, historic tax credits, restoration tax abatements, and Opportunity Zones.

Baton Rouge can leverage funding by establishing collaborative funding pools, blending municipal resources with state grants and philanthropic contributions to attract private investments in affordable housing projects. Clear online guides, technical assistance programs, and dedicated housing navigators or liaisons can also alleviate this barrier.

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DISASTER AND INSURANCE POLICIES

To alleviate the rising insurance costs impacting affordable housing in Baton Rouge, the city can undertake several strategies. These include:

Promote resilient housing development: Encourage construction and retrofitting of affordable housing units to higher resilience standards, reducing vulnerability and lowering insurance premiums. Incorporate disaster-resistant materials and building techniques into local building codes.

Advocate for policy changes: Work with state legislators and insurance regulators to advocate for policies that offer affordable insurance rates or subsidies specifically for properties dedicated to affordable housing.

Implement hazard mitigation strategies: Use federal and state disaster mitigation grants, such as FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, to strengthen vulnerable housing stock and infrastructure, which could reduce risk and insurance costs.

Expand the community rating systems CRS: Continue to improve the CRS score (currently a 6) to lower flood insurance premiums through proactive floodplain management, public education, and emergency preparedness measures.

Promote public education and technical assistance: Offer resources to affordable housing providers and homeowners on risk mitigation techniques, insurance coverage options, and disaster preparedness.

SP-60 HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY – 91.215(D)

Reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs.

The Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (BOSCOC) works to coordinate homeless services within the Baton Rouge region. BOSCOC has established coordinated entry access points for all of the regions it administers. Through street outreach, unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness are engaged and linked to mainstream resources and benefits, housing, and treatment services.

Addressing the emergency and transitional housing needs of homeless persons.

BOSCOC coordinates access to emergency and transitional housing through its established coordinated entry system. Street outreach teams engage unsheltered individuals and families and connect them to available shelter beds, transitional housing opportunities, and supportive services to address immediate needs.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.

BOSCOC has spearheaded the state's implementation of homelessness prevention, diversion, and rapid resolution practices to prioritize the return of people experiencing homelessness to housing via their existing support networks.

All ESG-funded projects are required to engage in these practices. Homeless Prevention projects stabilize people at risk of homelessness in their existing housing. Outreach projects rapidly return people to housing without a public subsidy. Emergency Shelter projects divert participants back to housing on their date of entry.

Help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families who are likely to become homeless after being discharged from a publicly funded institution or system of care, or who are receiving assistance from public and private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education or youth needs

BOSCOC prioritizes homelessness prevention, diversion, and rapid resolution practices to help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless. All ESG-funded projects are required to engage in these practices. Homeless Prevention projects stabilize people at risk of homelessness in their existing housing. Outreach projects rapidly return people to housing without a public subsidy. Emergency Shelter projects divert participants back to housing on their date of entry.

SP-65 LEAD BASED PAINT HAZARDS – 91.215(I)

ACTIONS TO ADDRESS LBP HAZARDS AND INCREASE ACCESS TO HOUSING WITHOUT LBP HAZARDS

Projects that involve the acquisition or renovation of property built prior to 1979 must be tested for lead-based paint. Interim controls and safe work practices are required during construction. In addition, housing assisted with federal funds is subject to the:

- Prohibition of lead-based paint
- Elimination of immediate lead-based paint hazards in residential structures
- Notification of the hazards of lead-based paint poisoning to purchasers and tenants of residential structures constructed prior to 1978

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To ensure consistent compliance, OCD will monitor all funded projects for adherence to the HUD Lead Safe Housing Rule (24 CFR Part 35). This includes conducting desk reviews, on-site inspections, and reviewing documentation such as clearance reports, occupant notifications, contractor certifications, and training logs. Non-compliant projects may be subject to suspension of funding or corrective actions.

Paid renovators and multi-family housing maintenance workers who work in pre-1978 housing and child-occupied facilities will be required to meet the training and certification requirements of both the HUD Lead Safe Housing Rule (LSHR) and the EPA Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule (RRP). Paid renovators include renovation contractors, painters, and other specialty trades.

OCD will maintain a list of contractors certified in lead-safe work practices and will support the training of new workers through partnerships with local workforce agencies. Where feasible, OCD may offer training subsidies or collaborate with training providers to increase the pool of certified renovators in the region.

As necessary, EBRRA will conduct a risk assessment to identify lead-based paint hazards, perform interim control measures to eliminate hazards that are identified, or, in lieu of a risk assessment, perform standard treatments throughout a unit. The type and amount of federal assistance and rehabilitation hard costs for the unit will determine the level of lead hazard reduction completed.

Lead procedures to be followed will be specified in project bid documents.

How are the actions listed above related to the extent of lead poisoning and hazards?

The actions listed above are designed to reduce the risk of lead poisoning and to control hazards that may be present in older housing units. The Office of Community Development (OCD) and its subrecipients operate under the presumption that all housing built prior to 1978 contains lead hazards. All workers involved in lead hazard reduction activities must either be supervised by an EPA or State of Louisiana Abatement Supervisor or have received HUD-approved training in lead-safe work practices prior to beginning work.

Actions must be taken to protect occupants from lead-based paint hazards if the unit will not be vacant during the rehabilitation project. Occupants may not enter the worksite during lead hazard reduction activities. Reentry is permitted only after such activities are completed and the unit has passed a clearance examination.

The worksite shall be prepared to prevent the release of leaded dust and to contain lead-based paint chips and other debris from hazard reduction activities within the worksite until they can be safely removed. Practices that minimize the spread of leaded dust, paint chips, soil, and debris shall be used during worksite preparation.

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All objects that cannot be moved (cabinets, appliances, built-in furniture) shall be covered with plastic sheeting at least six mils thick, taped securely in place. Floors in the worksite shall also be covered with plastic sheeting at least six mils thick and sealed.

How are the actions listed above integrated into housing policies and procedures?

The use of lead-based paint is strictly prohibited in any of the HOME Rehabilitation Programs. Notification concerning the dangers of lead-based paint will be distributed to the occupants of all homes to be rehabilitated, and signed documentation of the receipt of such information will be made part of the official case file.

Each rehabilitation contract shall contain language prohibiting the use of lead-based paint. All exposed surfaces (walls, ceilings, floors, etc.) in all homes built prior to 1978 will be inspected during the inspection process for the presence of previously applied lead-based paint.

If lead-based paint is present, coverage, removal, or other corrective actions taken in accordance with HUD Regulation 24 CFR Part 35 must be conducted in a manner that avoids further diffusion of lead particles throughout the residence.

TO SUPPORT LONG-TERM RISK MITIGATION AND COMPLIANCE, OCD WILL ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A LEAD-BASED PAINT HAZARD REGISTRY. THIS REGISTRY WILL INCLUDE:

- All properties assessed for lead-based paint hazards
- Properties where lead-based paint was identified and/or remediated
- Dates and results of lead inspections, risk assessments, and clearance tests
- Type of lead hazard control (interim control or abatement) performed
- Status of the unit (cleared, pending work, re-occupancy restricted)

THIS REGISTRY WILL SERVE AS AN INTERNAL TOOL FOR:

- Informing future rehabilitation decisions
- Ensuring proper follow-up monitoring
- Tracking compliance across projects
- Avoiding redundant lead testing
- Sharing data with public health partners when appropriate

Where applicable and allowed by law, non-sensitive portions of the registry may be shared with residents or landlords to increase transparency and public awareness of lead-safe housing options.

SP-70 ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY – 91.215(J)

JURISDICTION GOALS, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES FOR REDUCING THE NUMBER OF POVERTY-LEVEL FAMILIES

The City of Baton Rouge – Parish of East Baton Rouge will fund the maximum amount allowed under public services to assist in reducing the number of poverty-level families in the City-Parish. CDBG public services will be used to assist low-income families with transportation, job skills training, case management, financial literacy, and other support services. The City-Parish will continue to partner with public and private entities to produce affordable housing and related services for low-income individuals and families. The City-Parish will pursue multiple strategies to reduce the number of families in poverty and to promote long-term economic stability:

CONTINUE FUNDING FOR HOUSING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS.

SUPPORT SERVICES THAT HELP HOMELESS FAMILIES AND FAMILIES AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS INCREASE HOUSING OPTIONS AND STABILITY.

SUPPORT WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS THAT HELP LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS OBTAIN THE SKILLS AND JOBS NEEDED TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT.

This includes targeted support for youth workforce programs and small business development initiatives, as emphasized in recent community engagement findings.

ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN HIGH-OPPORTUNITY AREAS.

Enabling low-income families with children to move into such neighborhoods has been shown to contribute to significant long-term income gains for those children.

IMPLEMENT THE NEWLY SIGNED LOUISIANA ACT 456, WHICH AMENDS LAWS RELATED TO THE REMOVAL AND EXPROPRIATION OF BLIGHTED OR ABANDONED PROPERTIES IN CERTAIN MUNICIPALITIES, PARTICULARLY IN BATON ROUGE.

Through this new expropriation process, Baton Rouge can revitalize economically depressed areas by placing abandoned or blighted properties back into the economic stream of commerce through the rehabilitation of those properties.

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CONTINUE SUPPORTING INFORMATION AND REFERRAL NETWORKS THAT IMPROVE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES.

DISSEMINATE INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS

such as Head Start, Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/ Food Stamps), Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services, and Medicaid.

In addition to these efforts, addressing health disparities, especially among women of color, has emerged as a critical component of the City-Parish's anti-poverty work. Louisiana has one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the country, and risk is greatest among low-income and legal/ documented immigrant women. In response, the City-Parish is exploring collaborative efforts to address health disparities by integrating housing, environmental, and health interventions.

A locally led initiative involving the Women's Wing network will train legal/documented immigrant women to conduct health assessments, provide referrals, and support follow-up for at-risk residents. The program will also screen for lead-based hazards in the home and support safe housing as a critical health determinant. These efforts will help break down barriers to care, promote better mental health, and create new pathways to opportunity for residents facing intergenerational poverty.

The City-Parish will also continue its collaborative efforts to build the capacity of individuals, families, and community organizations. These efforts aim to create suitable living environments, reduce the growth of poverty, and expand economic opportunity through continued support of public service programs and community-based partnerships.

How are the Jurisdiction poverty reducing goals, programs, and policies coordinated with this affordable housing plan?

CDBG funds will be used primarily for public services and rehabilitation of existing housing stock. HOME and other funding sources (LIHTC, Choice Neighborhood Grant, Louisiana Housing Corporation awards, etc.) will be used for the development of new affordable housing.

To encourage resource sharing and collaboration, the City-Parish will implement regular stakeholder meetings to foster communication between affordable housing developers and public service providers. This aligns with community feedback emphasizing the need for stronger integration between housing, workforce, and supportive service delivery.

FUTUREBR, the Parish's Comprehensive Plan, has been taken into consideration during the development of this Consolidated Plan. FUTUREBR contains goals for housing development and public services and integrates them into the master plan for the City-Parish.

SP-80 MONITORING - 91.230

Describe the standards and procedures that the jurisdiction will use to monitor activities carried out in furtherance of the plan and will use to ensure long-term compliance with requirements of the programs involved, including minority business outreach and the comprehensive planning requirements.

The Office of Community Development (OCD) in the City of Baton Rouge – Parish of East Baton Rouge maintains a formal Monitoring Plan to ensure that activities carried out under this Consolidated Plan comply with applicable federal, state, and local requirements, including comprehensive planning requirements and standards for minority business outreach. The OCD is responsible for monitoring all subrecipients, contractors, and developers funded through the CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA programs.

Each year, OCD conducts a formal risk assessment of all subrecipients and funded projects to prioritize monitoring efforts. This risk assessment considers factors such as the size of the grant, past performance, staff turnover,

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audit findings, and program complexity. Based on this assessment, OCD develops an annual monitoring schedule and determines the appropriate level of oversight, including both on-site and desk monitoring reviews.

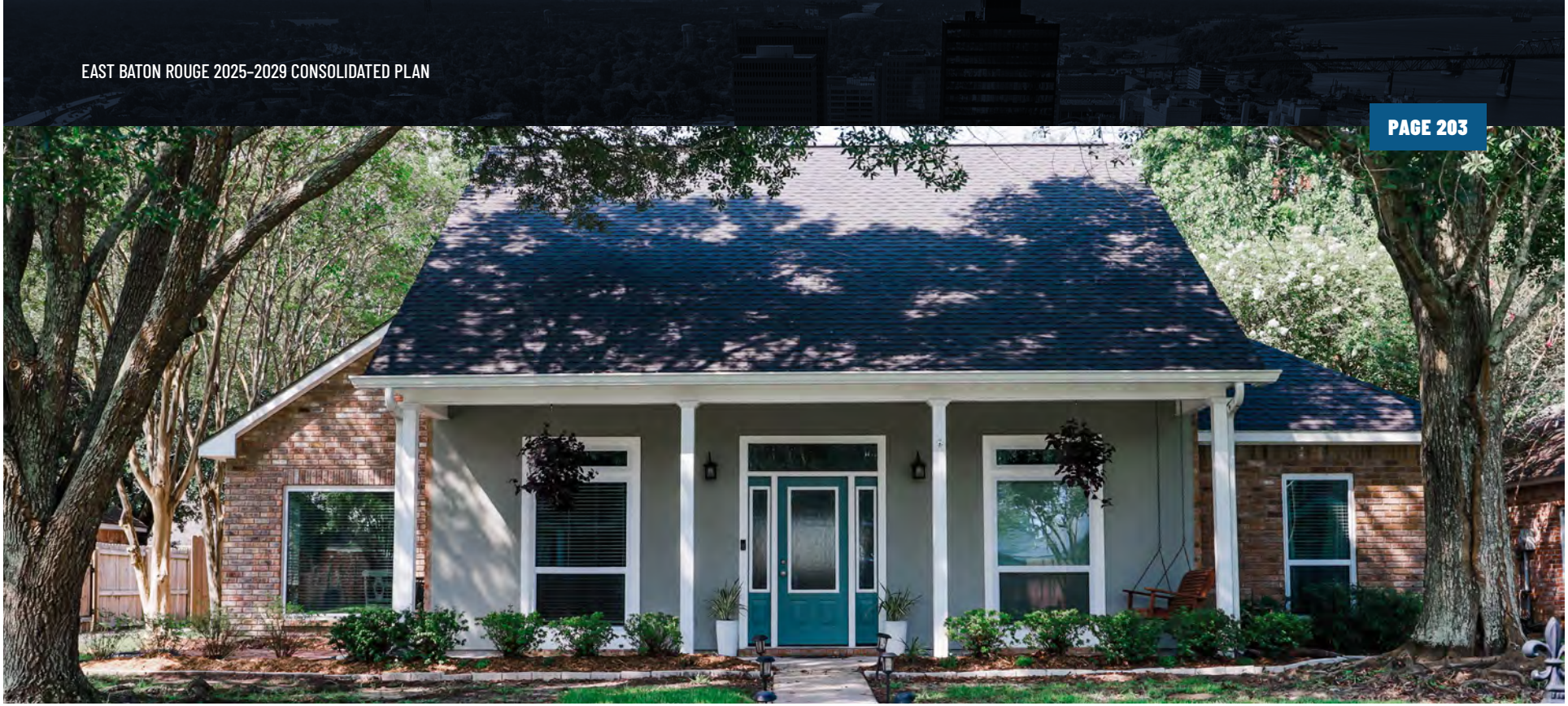
Monitoring procedures include the use of standardized monitoring checklists tailored to each program. OCD staff conduct comprehensive reviews of programmatic and financial performance, including participant eligibility, compliance with written agreements, record-keeping, financial management, and adherence to federal regulations such as the Lead Safe Housing Rule and Section 3 requirements. OCD also reviews affirmative marketing efforts and minority- and women-owned business outreach, consistent with the Parish's broader economic inclusion goals.

If deficiencies or findings are identified during monitoring, OCD follows a formal corrective action process. This includes written notification to the subrecipient, a required response outlining corrective measures, and follow-up reviews to ensure compliance is achieved. Persistent or severe deficiencies may result in the suspension of funding or other enforcement actions.

The OCD also ensures that monitoring processes support long-term compliance with comprehensive planning requirements. Program outcomes, service delivery progress, and beneficiary data are tracked and reported regularly. Information gathered through monitoring informs ongoing planning and performance evaluation under the Consolidated Plan and the Parish's FUTUREBR comprehensive planning framework.

Through these procedures, the City-Parish maintains robust oversight of funded activities, fosters continuous improvement among its partners, and advances the goals of the Consolidated Plan in a transparent and accountable manner.

EXPECTED RESOURCES



AP-15 EXPECTED RESOURCES – 91.220(C)(1,2)

INTRODUCTION

In Baton Rouge, federal funds from programs such as CDBG, HOME, and ESG will be strategically used to leverage additional state, local, and private investment in affordable housing and supportive services. Local funding sources, such as tax increment financing districts and bond allocations, will be paired with federal dollars to finance site acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and gap funding. Additionally, leveraging publicly owned land to address the affordable housing and community development needs identified in this plan as a method to increase funding efficiency and effectiveness.

ANTICIPATED RESOURCES

TABLE 57: EXPECTED RESOURCES

PROGRAM	SOURCE OF FUNDS	USES OF FUNDS	EXPECTED AMOUNT AVAILABLE YEAR 1				EXPECTED AMOUNT AVAILABLE REMAINDER OF CONPLAN	NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
			ANNUAL ALLOCATION	PROGRAM INCOME	PRIOR YEAR RESOURCES	TOTAL		
CDBG	Public Federal	Acquisition, Admin and Planning, Economic Development, Housing, Public Improvements, Public Services	$3,313,007	$70,000	$2,556,325	$5,939,332	$0	Expected amount for remainder of Con Plan is Year 1 times 4. This includes Housing Rehabilitation, Health and Public Safety, Economic Development, and Public Services.
HOME	Public Federal	Acquisition, Homebuyer Assistance, Homeowner Rehab, Multifamily Rental New Construction, Multifamily Rental Rehab, New Construction for Ownership, TBRA	$1,268,061	$500,000	$2,665,457	$4,433,518	$0	Expected amount for remainder of Con Plan is Year 1 times 4. This includes Affordable Housing, CHDO training, and possible TBRA program.
HOPWA	Public Federal	Permanent Housing in Facilities, Permanent Housing Placement, Short Term or Transitional Housing Facilities, STRMU, Supportive Services, TBRA	$2,254,865	$0	$0	$2,254,865	$0	Expected amount for remainder of Con Plan is Year 1 times 4. This includes Housing and Support Services for Persons with HIV/AIDS.
ESG	Public Federal	Conversion and Rehab for Transitional Housing, Financial Assistance, Overnight Shelter, Rapid Re-Housing (Rental Assistance, Rental Assistance Services, Transitional Housing	$291,476	$0	$0	$291,476	$0	Expected amount for remainder of Con Plan is Year 1 times 4. This includes Homeless Assistance, Emergency Shelter, and Support Services to address homelessness in the Capitol Region.

Explain how federal funds will leverage those additional resources (private, state and local funds), including a description of how matching requirements will be satisfied

In Baton Rouge, federal funds from programs such as CDBG, HOME, and ESG will be strategically used to leverage additional state, local, and private investment in affordable housing and supportive services. Local funding sources, such as tax increment financing districts and bond allocations, will be paired with federal dollars to finance site acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and gap funding.

Matching requirements, particularly under the HOME program, will be met through a combination of in-kind contributions, local housing trust funds, and private developer funds secured through LIHTC and philanthropic partnerships. This blended financing approach ensures that federal investments catalyze larger-scale, sustainable housing outcomes.

If appropriate, describe publicly owned land or property located within the jurisdiction that may be used to address the needs identified in the plan.

Baton Rouge is well positioned to leverage publicly owned land to address the affordable housing and community development needs identified in this plan. The first step should be to conduct an inventory and assessment at the parcel level of the Parish to identify vacant and/or underused public land and buildings. This could include:

- Vacant city-owned lots, or vacant/underused buildings
- Tax-delinquent or adjudicated or condemned properties
- Surplus land from public agencies (BREC, DOTD, school boards etc.)
- Brownfield sites near transit or employment centers

The American Planning Association's Housing Supply Accelerator identifies the importance of interagency coordination in using public lands as opportunities to increase affordable housing options. Public land use for affordable housing should be integrated with:

- Transportation investments (Bus Rapid Transit corridors, MOVEBR projects, Complete Streets)
- Hazard mitigation and green infrastructure, especially in flood-prone areas
- Workforce development and economic mobility efforts
- Underused or vacant public land in resource rich-areas (such as Valley Park, Melrose East)

This integration and coordination will help ensure that affordable housing is not only available but well situated to support long-term resilience and access for low- to moderate-income households.

DISCUSSION

In Baton Rouge, federal funds from programs such as CDBG, HOME, and ESG will be strategically used to leverage additional state, local, and private investment in affordable housing and supportive services. Local funding sources, such as tax increment financing districts and bond allocations, will be paired with federal dollars to finance site acquisition, infrastructure improvements, and gap funding. Additionally, leveraging publicly owned land to address the affordable housing and community development needs identified in this plan as a method to increase funding efficiency and effectiveness.

ANNUAL GOALS & OBJECTIVES

AP-20 ANNUAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals Summary Information

TABLE 58: GOALS SUMMARY

GOAL NAME	START YEAR	END YEAR	CATEGORY	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NEEDS ADDRESSED	FUNDING	GOAL OUTCOME INDICATOR
Improve Housing Conditions for LMI Households	2025	2029	Affordable Housing, Non-Homeless Special Needs, Blight Removal	Scotlandville, Zion City and Glen Oaks, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, Valley Park, HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Health and Public Safety, Public Services, Housing Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing	CDBG: $828,251.75	Homeowner Housing Rehabilitated: 15 Household Housing Units
Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development, Public Safety, Pedestrian Safety, Public Improvements	Scotlandville, Zion City and Glen Oaks, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, Valley Park, HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Health and Public Safety, Public Services, Housing Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing, Support for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDs, Economic Development, Homeless Service and Emergency Shelter	CDBG: $894,511.89	Public Facility or Infrastructure Activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 15 Households Assisted Buildings Demolished: 8 Buildings Other: 2 Other
Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development, Economic Development	Scotlandville, Zion City and Glen Oaks, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, Valley Park, HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Public Services, Economic Development	CDBG: $430,690.91	Facade Treatment/ Business Building Rehabilitation: 5 Businesses Other: 2 Other
Provide Public Services to LMI Residents, Neighbors	2025	2029	Non-Housing Community Development, Public Services	Scotlandville, Zion City and Glen Oaks, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, Valley Park, HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Health and Public Safety, Public Services, Affordable Housing, Economic Development	CDBG: $496,651.05	Businesses assisted: 10 Businesses Assisted Other: 5 Other

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GOAL NAME	START YEAR	END YEAR	CATEGORY	GEOGRAPHIC AREA	NEEDS ADDRESSED	FUNDING	GOAL OUTCOME INDICATOR
Increase Affordable Housing	2025	2029	Affordable Housing	Scotlandville, Zion City and Glen Oaks, Plank Road Corridor, Eden Park, Downtown East, Old South Baton Rouge, Gardere, Valley Park, HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Health and Public Safety, Housing Rehabilitation, Affordable Housing, Economic Development	HOME: $1,141,254.69	Public service activities for Low/Moderate Income Housing Benefit: 8 Households Assisted Rental units rehabilitated: 8 Household Housing Units Other: 2 Other
Provide Supportive Housing Services for People with HIV/AIDs	2025	2029	Non-Homeless Special Needs	East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Support for individuals living with HIV/AIDs	HOPWA: $2,187,219.05	HIV/AIDS Housing Operations: 800 Household Housing Unit
Provide Assistance to Local Homeless Population	2025	2029	Homeless	East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Public Services, Homeless Service and Emergency Shelter	ESG: $269,615.30	Homelessness Prevention: 200 Persons Assisted
Planning and Administration	2025	2029	Planning and Administration	HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Public Services	CDBG: $662,601.40 HOPWA: $67,645.95 HOME: $126,806.08 ESG: $21,860.70	Other: 1 Other

Goal Descriptions

GOAL NAME	DESCRIPTION
Improve Housing Conditions for LMI Households	Rehabilitate and or provide ADA compliance outfitting 15 housing units
Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents	Partner on 2 or more infrastructure improvement projects, demolish 8 or more condemned structures, provide support to one or more entities providing behavioral health services
Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas	Assist in 5 façade improvement projects, Complete feasibility study or pre-construction requirements for adaptive reuse of vacant schools
Provide Public Services to LMI Residents	Assist 10 local non-profit or small businesses, participate in 5 or more community outreach events.
Increase Affordable Housing	Add or rehabilitate 2 or more affordable housing units in choice neighborhoods with providing anti-displacement assistance, provide training and assistance to one or more CHDOs
Provide Supportive Housing Services for People with HIV/AIDS	Provide housing assistance for 800 Persons living with HIV/AIDs
Provide Assistance to Local Homeless Population	Fund assistance for 800 persons in overnight shelters
Planning and Administration	Planning and administration

PROJECTS

AP-35 PROJECTS – 91.220(D)

INTRODUCTION

The following projects were identified through data collection, stakeholder input, community development needs, and administrative priorities.

PROJECTS

The following projects were identified through data collection, stakeholder input, community development needs, and administrative priorities.

TABLE 59: PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT NAME
Housing Rehabilitation
Health and Public Safety
Economic Development
Public Services
Affordable Housing
Housing & Supportive Services for Persons with HIV/AIDs
ESG25 OCD Homeless Assistance, Emergency Shelter, & Supportive Services
Planning and Administration

Describe the reasons for allocation priorities and any obstacles to addressing underserved needs.

Much of OCD's work will be in continuing programs aimed at improving the lives of low- to moderate-income households in Baton Rouge, focusing on creating opportunities for affordable housing, public services, public improvements, infrastructure, and economic development. The priorities have been established through coordination with numerous existing plans, community input, the continuation of high-need and successful programs, consultation with partner agencies, and alignment with the Mayor's four main priorities: public safety, homelessness, blight, and mental health.

AP-38 PROJECT SUMMARY

TABLE 60: PROJECT SUMMARY

PROJECT	TARGET AREA	GOALS SUPPORTED	NEEDS ADDRESSED	FUNDING	DESCRIPTION	TARGET DATE	FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Housing Rehabilitation	Scotlandville, Plank Road Corridor, Valley Park, East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Improve Housing Conditions for LMI Households	Housing Rehabilitation; Health and Public Safety; Affordable Housing	CDBG: $828,251.75	This project encompasses home rehabilitation services from low-income homeowner households and ADA compliance outfitting for elderly and disabled persons.	12/31/2026	Estimated as greater than 15 families/ households	TBD in EBR City-Parish jurisdictional boundary	Home Rehab Program; ADA Compliance Outfitting for Special Needs Populations Especially the Elderly and Disabled
Health and Public Safety	Scotlandville; Zion City and Glen Oaks; Plank Road Corridor; Eden Park; Downtown East; Old South Baton Rouge; Gardere; HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts; East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI residents	Health and Public Safety; Economic Development; Public Services; Affordable Housing	CDBG: $894,511.89	This project may include but is not limited to crosswalk additions, increased lighting, removing condemned and blighted structures, and aiding entities providing behavioral health services for low-income, at risk, and homeless individuals.	12/31/2026	Community based projects will benefit families in surrounding neighborhoods.	TBD in EBR City-Parish jurisdictional boundary	Infrastructure; Blighted Housing Demolition; Crosswalks; Lighting; Storm Prep, Roof Tarps, Tree Work; Case Management; Housing Counseling; Workforce Training and Education
Economic Development	Scotlandville; Plank Road Corridor; Eden Park; Downtown East; Old South Baton Rouge; Gardere; Valley Park; HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts; East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas	Economic Development; Public Services	CDBG: $430,690.91	Exterior facade improvements to promote economic development in low-income areas. 24CFR 570.202(a)(3)Adaptive reuse of vacant school building to co-working, office, multi-use facility.	12/31/2026	Community based projects will benefit families in surrounding neighborhoods.	TBD in EBR City-Parish jurisdictional boundary	Building Façade and Signage Rehabilitation; Adaptive Reuse Project
Public Services	Scotlandville; Plank Road Corridor; Eden Park; Downtown East; Old South Baton Rouge; Gardere; Valley Park; HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts; East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Provide public services to LMI residents, neighbor	Health and Public Safety; Economic Development; Public Services; Affordable Housing	CDBG: $496,951.05	This project encompasses public services aimed at improving the lives of LMI residents while being community and special population focused. This could include providing non-profit capacity building funds, coordinating and attending seasonal outreach events, hosting neighborhood clean-up days, crime intervention and prevention events, community development services, and aid at-risk youth.	12/31/2026	Community based projects will benefit families in surrounding neighborhoods.	TBD in EBR City-Parish jurisdictional boundary	Kids Aging Out of Foster Support Services; Seasonal Community Outreach Events; Community Engagement Services/Non-profit Capacity Building; Clean Up Days; Crime Intervention/Prevention; Community Development Services; Workforce Training

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PROJECT	TARGET AREA	GOALS SUPPORTED	NEEDS ADDRESSED	FUNDING	DESCRIPTION	TARGET DATE	FAMILIES THAT WILL BENEFIT FROM PROPOSED ACTIVITIES	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	PLANNED ACTIVITIES
Affordable Housing	Valley Park; HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts; East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Improve Housing Conditions for LMI Households; Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents; Boost Economic Development in LMI Areas; Increase Affordable Housing;	Housing Rehabilitation; Health and Public Safety; Economic Development; Affordable Housing	HOME: $1,141,254.69	Increasing affordable housing can take shape in multiple forms. This project is aimed at increasing affordable housing and may include rehabilitating units in choice neighborhoods, providing anti-displacement services, increasing the stock of available units, providing training and support to establish and grow local CHDOs, and funding a Tenant Based Rental Assistance program.	12/31/2026	Individual LMI households of rehabilitated affordable homes will benefit as well as the homes in the surrounding areas. CHDO training and establishment assistance will have benefits realized in the future as development projects are completed.	TBD in EBR City-Parish jurisdictional boundary	Home Rehabilitation Assistance with Anti-Displacement; Homeowner Assistance Tenant Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
Housing & Supportive Services for Persons with HIV/AIDs	East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Provide Supportive Housing Services for People with HIV/AIDS	Affordable Housing Support for individuals living with HIV/AIDs	HOPWA: $2,187,219.05	Under this project housing and related support services are provided to people living with HIV/AIDs. Providing housing assistance offers some relief to this special population and helps them manage challenges associated with HIV/AIDs like increased medical appointments, medication, and other related issues.	12/31/2026	The Baton Rouge area has approximately 4,200 people living with HIV/AIDS.	EBR City-Parish jurisdictional boundary	Housing & Supportive Services for Persons with HIV/AIDs
ESG25 OCD Homeless Assistance, Emergency Shelter, & Supportive Services	East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	Improve Health and Public Safety for LMI Residents; Provide Assistance to Local Homeless Population; Planning and Administration	Homeless Service and Emergency Shelter	ESG: $269,615.30	This project supports efforts to provide assistance and support services to homeless individuals and families. Homelessness is a complex issue often requiring coordinated assistance. The homeless shelters in the Baton Rouge region consistently operate at capacity often turning individuals away due to lack of available resources.	12/31/2026	800 individuals	EBR City-Parish jurisdictional boundary	Homeless Assistance, Emergency Shelter, Supportive Services
Planning and Administration		Planning and Administration	Housing Rehabilitation; Health and Public Safety; Economic Development; Public Services; Affordable Housing; Support for Individuals Living with HIV/AIDs; Homeless Service and Emergency Shelter	CDBG: $662,601.40 HOPWA: $67,645.95 HOME: $126,806.08 ESG: $21,860.70	The planning and administration project covers the planning and administration required to manage the projects aimed at achieving the established goals and improving overall quality of life for LMI individuals, households, and communities throughout East Baton Rouge City-Parish. Support technical assistance, partnerships, and HUD related educational training to be inclusive of the entire City-Parish to increase capacity and funding efficiency and efficacy.		As planning and administration is an integral part of every listed project, the expected benefit is a culmination of all listed projects.		Planning and Administration

AP-50 GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION – 91.220(F)

Description of the geographic areas of the entitlement (including areas of low-income and minority concentration) where assistance will be directed.

Assistance will be directed throughout the parish and concentrated on identified areas of special concern. Some neighborhoods have been identified as having priority needs such as public safety, blight, and areas with potential for successful community service programs. These areas were identified through the needs analysis, the market analysis, community and stakeholder engagement, and through local knowledge of the community. Priority areas include neighborhoods with high concentrations of low-income households and minority residents, where targeted investments can improve housing stability, public safety, and access to opportunity.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

TABLE 61: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

TARGET AREA	PERCENTAGE OF FUNDS
Scotlandville	8%
Zion City and Glen Oaks	7%
Plank Road Corridor	7%
Eden Park	7%
Downtown East	7%
Old South Baton Rouge	7%
Gardere	7%
Valley Park	7%
HUD 2025 LMI Census Tracts	7%
East Baton Rouge jurisdictional boundary	36%

Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically.

A multifaceted, data-driven approach was used to geographically allocate CDBG and HOME funding. Funding has been allocated based on the needs analysis, the market analysis, community and stakeholder input, local knowledge of the area, and existing projects and funding. Together, these elements were used to decide which types of projects have the greatest need and the best chance of successfully reaching the desired outcomes and goals.

ESG funds have been geographically allocated to the City-Parish, as services are available throughout the parish. Homeless services administered by the Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care are provided on a regional basis. The Baton Rouge Region includes seven parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Pointe Coupee, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana.

HOPWA funds have been geographically allocated to the City-Parish, as services are available throughout the parish. Low- to moderate-income individuals living with HIV/AIDS are not denied benefits based on their geographic location within the City-Parish.

DISCUSSION

Public safety, blight, lack of affordable housing, homelessness, and the need for community services, especially those targeted to youth, have all been identified as top priorities by the City-Parish. Some geographic areas of concern were identified based on data analysis and community and stakeholder input. The geographic allocation of funds is reflective of this data, identified needs and goals, and current projects and funding.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

AP-55 AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 91.220(G)

TABLE 62: ONE YEAR GOALS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY SUPPORT REQUIREMENT

ONE YEAR GOALS FOR THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS TO BE SUPPORTED	
Homeless	3,000
Non-Homeless	5,000
Special-Needs	500
Total	**8,500**

TABLE 63: ONE YEAR GOALS FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY SUPPORT TYPE

ONE YEAR GOALS FOR THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS SUPPORTED	
Rental Assistance	100
The Production of New Units	10
Rehab of Existing Units	40
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	**150**

AP-60 PUBLIC HOUSING – 91.220(H)

INTRODUCTION

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority (EBRPHA) is an independent agency. Its leadership and policymaking authority rests with a Board of Commissioners appointed by the City-Parish. The mission of the EBRPHA is to provide and develop affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families while promoting self-sufficiency and neighborhood revitalization.

Actions planned during the next year to address the needs to public housing.

The EBRPHA is an independent entity that is not regulated by the Baton Rouge Office of Community Development.

Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership.

The EBRPHA THRIVE Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) program assists Housing Choice Voucher families in achieving their career and financial goals. This program allows participants to work toward their goals and earn savings while doing so.

If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance.

EBRPHA is not designated as troubled.

DISCUSSION

The East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority (EBRPHA) is an independent agency. Its leadership and policymaking authority rests with a Board of Commissioners appointed by the City-Parish. The mission of the EBRPHA is to provide and develop affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families while promoting self-sufficiency and neighborhood revitalization.

AP-65 HOMELESS AND OTHER SPECIAL NEEDS ACTIVITIES – 91.220(I)

INTRODUCTION

The City-Parish works in close partnership with the Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (BOSCOC) to support a coordinated system of homelessness prevention, outreach, emergency shelter, and rapid re-housing services. BOSCOC implements a regionally aligned approach that leverages federal, state, and local resources to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness or housing instability in Baton Rouge. The following sections describe key strategies currently in place to address homelessness and special needs housing in the City-Parish.

Describe the jurisdictions one-year goals and actions for reducing and ending homelessness including reaching out to homeless persons (especially unsheltered persons) and assessing their individual needs.

The Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care (BOSCOC) works to coordinate homeless services within the Baton Rouge region. BOSCOC has established coordinated entry access points for all of the regions it administers. Through street outreach, unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness are engaged and linked to mainstream resources and benefits, housing, and treatment services.

Addressing the emergency shelter and transitional housing needs of homeless persons.

BOSCOC has established coordinated entry access points for all of the regions it administers. Through street outreach, unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness are engaged and linked to mainstream resources and benefits, housing, and treatment services.

Helping homeless persons (especially chronically homeless individuals and families, families with children, veterans and their families, and unaccompanied youth) make the transition to permanent housing and independent living, including shortening the period of time that individuals and families experience homelessness, facilitating access for homeless individuals and families to affordable housing units, and preventing individuals and families who were recently homeless from becoming homeless again.

BOSCOC has spearheaded the state's implementation of homelessness prevention, diversion, and rapid resolution practices to prioritize the return of people experiencing homelessness to housing via their existing support networks.

All ESG-funded projects are required to engage in such practices. Homeless Prevention projects stabilize people at risk of homelessness in their existing housing. Outreach projects rapidly return people to housing without a public subsidy. Emergency Shelter projects divert participants back to housing on their date of entry.

Helping low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless, especially extremely low-income individuals and families and those who are: being discharged from publicly funded institutions and systems of care (such as health care facilities, mental health facilities, foster care and other youth facilities, and corrections programs and institutions); or, receiving assistance from public or private agencies that address housing, health, social services, employment, education, or youth needs.

BOSCOC prioritizes homelessness prevention, diversion, and rapid resolution practices to help low-income individuals and families avoid becoming homeless. All ESG-funded projects are required to engage in such practices. Homeless Prevention projects stabilize people at risk of homelessness in their existing housing. Outreach projects rapidly return people to housing without a public subsidy. Emergency Shelter projects divert participants back to housing on their date of entry.

DISCUSSION

BOSCOC continues to implement a multifaceted and regionally coordinated strategy to address homelessness across the Baton Rouge region. Their efforts are rooted in a comprehensive system of outreach, shelter support, housing transition services, and homelessness prevention—all tailored to meet the unique needs of vulnerable populations, particularly those who are unsheltered or at high risk of housing instability.

BOSCOC WORKS TO:

REACH AND ASSESS THE NEEDS OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS

ADDRESS EMERGENCY SHELTER AND TRANSITIONAL HOUSING NEEDS

FACILITATE TRANSITIONS TO PERMANENT HOUSING AND INDEPENDENT LIVING

PREVENT HOMELESSNESS AMONG AT-RISK POPULATIONS

AP-70 HOPWA GOALS - 91.220 (L)(3)

ONE YEAR GOALS FOR THE NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS TO BE PROVIDED HOUSING THROUGH THE USE OF HOPWA FOR:	
Short-term rent, mortgage, and utility assistance to prevent homelessness of the individual or family	20
Tenant-based rental assistance	200
Units provided in permanent housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	100
Units provided in transitional short-term housing facilities developed, leased, or operated with HOPWA funds	100
Total	**420**

AP-75 BARRIERS TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING – 91.220(J)

INTRODUCTION

The availability of affordable housing in East Baton Rouge is constrained by a range of regulatory, financial, and structural barriers. These include restrictive zoning laws, lengthy permitting processes, limited access to development incentives, and high insurance costs. The City-Parish is committed to identifying and addressing these barriers through targeted policy changes, cross-agency coordination, and strategic investment. The following section outlines the most significant barriers to affordable housing and describes the actions the City-Parish will take during the Consolidated Plan period to reduce their impact.

Actions it planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policies that serve as barriers to affordable housing such as land use controls, tax policies affecting land, zoning ordinances, building codes, fees and charges, growth limitations, and policies affecting the return on residential investment

There are several public policies that negatively affect affordable housing and residential investment in Baton Rouge. These are identified in MA-40 of the 2025–2029 Consolidated Plan.

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PLANNED ACTIONS TO ADDRESS THEM INCLUDE:

ZONING AND LAND USE POLICIES

Restrictive Zoning Laws: Actions include advocacy and education for zoning reform with the Planning Commission. Baton Rouge's single-family zoning, covering about 36% of the parish, limits multi-family housing, townhomes, and accessory units in higher-income areas. This restricts density, reduces housing options, and raises per-unit development costs.

Minimum Lot Sizes & Parking Requirements: Actions include advocating for higher density and reduced parking mandates, particularly near transit and employment centers. Large lot size and parking requirements increase infrastructure needs, inflate land costs, and discourage affordable or small-scale infill development.

Complex Permitting and Approvals: Actions include early coordination with the Department of Development and Planning Commission. The parish's complex and inconsistent permitting process deters investment and delays affordable housing projects.

Cost of Construction Materials: While largely market-driven, high material costs are worsened by local barriers like restrictive zoning, lengthy permitting, and limited incentives. Actions include educating developers on available incentives, assisting with gap financing, and working with resource partners.

LIMITED OR INCONSISTENT USE OF TAX INCENTIVES

Actions include education and workshops to support developers, particularly small ones, in accessing incentives like the Restoration Tax Abatement, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, and historic tax credits. These programs have complex and varied applications, timelines, and reimbursement structures, creating a high barrier for small-scale developers who often lack capital and capacity.

BLIGHT, ADJUDICATED PROPERTIES, AND VACANT BUILDINGS

Actions include rehabilitation of salvageable buildings, demolition of condemned ones, and title clearing of adjudicated properties in partnership with Build Baton Rouge. Legal aid may be provided to low-income homeowners needing succession planning.

Blight: Large swaths of the parish suffer from long-standing blight that policy has failed to adequately address. Over 5,000 blighted properties erode the tax base and depress property values, particularly in low-income areas.

Adjudicated Properties: These result from unpaid property taxes and are in legal limbo. The parish can't repair, sell, or demolish them without a lengthy title-clearing process.

Vacant Buildings: Many are blighted or adjudicated with no responsible owner. The parish lacks strong enforcement policies for absentee owners, which allows further deterioration.

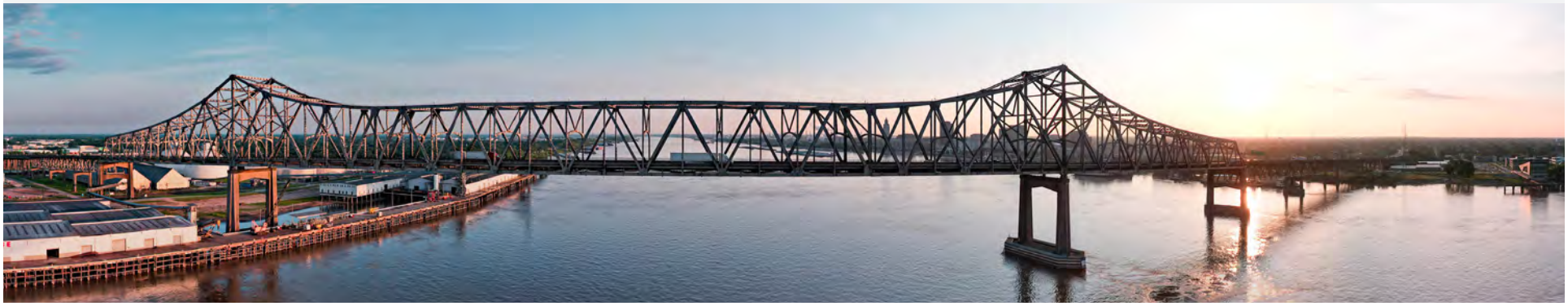
DISASTER AND INSURANCE POLICIES

Actions include discouraging development in flood-prone areas, promoting resilient construction (e.g., fortified roofs), and coordinating public education on stormwater and flood management.

Rising insurance costs are a growing barrier to affordable housing. Recurring storms have led to some of the highest premiums in the country. With many insurers exiting the state, the insurer of last resort, often the most expensive, remains the only option for many residents.

DISCUSSION

Actions planned to remove or ameliorate the negative effects of public policy are discussed in the previous pages.



AP-85 OTHER ACTIONS – 91.220(K)

INTRODUCTION

The City-Parish of East Baton Rouge will undertake several coordinated actions during FY2025 to address barriers to affordable housing, support underserved populations, reduce poverty, mitigate lead hazards, and strengthen institutional capacity. These actions complement the jurisdiction's core HUD-funded programs and reflect the priorities identified through the Consolidated Plan process.

Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved needs.

The Office of Community Development issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) for CDBG, HOME, ESG, and HOPWA funds each program year. Demand for services regularly exceeds available resources, and many proposals go unfunded.

Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing.

The jurisdiction proposes to use HUD funding to address the priority need of affordable housing. Three guiding principles will shape efforts to increase and maintain affordable, healthy housing. The guiding principles are:

- Improve and preserve the existing stock of affordable housing
- Increase the stock of available affordable housing, especially in identified choice neighborhoods
- Increase the ability of individuals to afford standard housing

During FY2025, actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing include rehabilitating homes in priority neighborhoods, providing anti-displacement assistance, encouraging the development of new CHDOs, and completing homeowner rehabilitation projects for low-income households.

Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards.

EBR City-Parish OCD successfully secured a HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Capacity Building Program grant in the amount of $1,500,000 in 2024. The funds will be used to enhance the City-Parish's infrastructure and capacity to address lead-based paint hazards in owner-occupied and rental units occupied by low- to moderate-income families with children under six. The City-Parish will partner with the Healthy City Initiative, Safe, Hopeful, Healthy Baton Rouge, and other state and local agencies to maximize the reach and effectiveness of the program and services.

During FY2025, planned actions to reduce lead-based paint hazards include assisting with the removal and cleanup of lead-based paint in low-income homes, particularly those with children present.

Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families.

The Office of Community Development (OCD) implements a holistic approach aimed at supporting community efforts and public services designed to reduce the number of poverty-level families. Key initiatives include local programs providing job training and workforce readiness, financial literacy education, and support for small business development, empowering participants to increase their income and achieve greater economic independence.

Additional support services such as access to affordable childcare, transportation assistance, and mental health support will further contribute to this goal. By investing in resources that help individuals improve their circumstances, these efforts will strengthen families and foster more resilient communities. Supporting established organizations and community ambassadors will be a key component of efforts to meet this community development priority.

THE CITY-PARISH PLANS TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF FAMILIES IN POVERTY THROUGH ADDITIONAL STRATEGIES SUCH AS:

CONTINUING TO FUND HOUSING, COMMUNITY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES
for low-income families with children to move into high-opportunity neighborhoods, which has been shown to result in long-term income gains

SUPPORTING SERVICES THAT HELP HOMELESS FAMILIES AND THOSE AT RISK OF HOMELESSNESS ACCESS STABLE HOUSING

MAINTAINING SUPPORT FOR REFERRAL NETWORKS THAT IMPROVE ACCESS TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES

DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ABOUT PROGRAMS
such as Head Start, Earned Income Tax Credit, TANF, SNAP, WIOA services, and Medicaid

FUNDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS THAT HELP LOW-INCOME RESIDENTS GAIN SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT

The City-Parish will continue its collaborative efforts to build the capacity of individuals, families and community organizations creating suitable living environments, reducing the growth of poverty and increasing economic development opportunities through continued support of public service programs.

Actions planned to develop institutional structure.

The City-Parish has been working to reduce gaps in the institutional structure and service delivery system. The Bridge Center for Hope is a strong example of this progress. Since its opening in 2021, the Center has served over 12,000 individuals, 65 percent of whom have received mental health services. The Center also provides discharge planning and connects patients to services, increasing awareness of available resources and improving system navigation.

IN FY2025, ACTIONS PLANNED TO STRENGTHEN THE INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE WITHIN THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE:

STAFFING AND CAPACITY
Hiring skilled staff, expanding internal capacity, and implementing succession planning

POLICY AND PROCEDURES
Improving documentation, streamlining application reviews, and organizing records

TRAINING AND BEST PRACTICES
Attending trainings, obtaining certifications, and keeping up with current HUD guidance

PARTNERSHIPS AND NETWORKS
Engaging nonprofits, developers, agencies, healthcare providers, and the Continuum of Care

PERFORMANCE METRICS AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
Creating feedback channels, updating public information, and reporting performance against metrics

TO FURTHER IMPROVE COORDINATION AND REDUCE SERVICE DELIVERY GAPS, THE CITY-PARISH AND ITS PARTNERS WILL:

HOST BI-ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS TO ASSESS NEEDS AND DEVELOP SOLUTIONS

CONTINUE PURSUING ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES AND ALIGN PROJECTS ACCORDINGLY

DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE FOR STAKEHOLDERS

ENCOURAGE NONPROFIT COLLABORATION AND RESOURCE SHARING

Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies.

The OCD will maintain regular communication with public and private agencies across the parish to ensure coordination and avoid duplication of services. Agencies involved include those focused on social services, mental health, youth, healthcare, and housing. As affordable and supportive housing strategies are implemented, it is essential to coordinate housing assistance with services that promote self-sufficiency and contribute to long-term community stability.

Bi-annual stakeholder meetings will support collaboration by providing a forum to share information, identify service gaps, and build partnerships across sectors.

DISCUSSION

Through these coordinated actions, the City-Parish of East Baton Rouge aims to enhance its capacity to meet the needs of low-income residents, improve service delivery, and address persistent barriers to affordable housing. By aligning institutional improvements, cross-sector partnerships, and targeted investments, the City-Parish will continue to build a stronger, more equitable housing and community development system during the FY2025 program year.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

AP-90 PROGRAM SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS – 91.220(L)(1,2,4)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (CDBG) REFERENCE 24 CFR 91.220(L)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	$50,000
The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	$0
The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	$0
The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	$0
Total Program Income	**$50,000**

Other CDBG Requirements

The amount of urgent need activities	0
The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income.Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	0%

HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (HOME) REFERENCE 24 CFR 91.220(L)(2)

A description of other forms of investment being used beyond those identified in Section 92.205 is as follows:

No other form of HOME fund investment is being undertaken other than those identified under this plan.

A description of the guidelines that will be used for resale or recapture of HOME funds when used for homebuyer activities as required in 92.254, is as follows:

The resale and recapture guidelines for HOME funds are outlined in the EBR OCD HOME Policy and Procedures Manual, Section 3.5.5. The following is an excerpt from the manual, revised June 2018:

> *The OCD administers the federal HOME program, which provides a funding mechanism to assist low-income people in achieving homeownership. The OCD will contract with nonprofit agencies in the community to administer the program. Contracts and agreements will contain either a resale or recapture clause. Additional information can be obtained in the Homebuyer Program Description.*
>
> *The OCD may demand payment in full for any of the following reasons. The specific criteria are detailed in the deed and note attached to the property:*
>
> - *Change of use of the property*
> - *Transfer of all or any part of the property or interest in the property*
> - *Breach of any stated covenant or failure to satisfy any stated condition or regulation*

A description of the guidelines for resale or recapture that ensures the affordability of units acquired with HOME funds? See 24 CFR 92.254(a)(4) are as follows:

The resale and recapture guidelines for HOME funds are outlined in the EBR OCD HOME Policy and Procedures Manual, Section 3.5.5. The following is an excerpt from the manual, revised June 2018:

> *The OCD administers the federal HOME program, which provides a funding mechanism to assist low-income people in achieving homeownership. The OCD will contract with nonprofit agencies in the community to administer the program. Contracts and agreements will contain either a resale or recapture clause. Additional information can be obtained in the Homebuyer Program Description.*
>
> *The OCD may demand payment in full for any of the following reasons. The specific criteria is detailed in the deed and note attached to the property:*
>
> - *Change of use of the property*
> - *Transfer of all or any part of the property or interest in the property*
> - *Breach of any stated covenant or failure to satisfy any stated condition or regulation*

Plans for using HOME funds to refinance existing debt secured by multifamily housing that is rehabilitated with HOME funds along with a description of the refinancing guidelines required that will be used under 24 CFR 92.206(b), are as follows:

No HOME funds are being used or planned to be used to refinance existing debt.

If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of the preference for persons with special needs or disabilities. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(i) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

Not applicable.

If applicable to a planned HOME TBRA activity, a description of how the preference for a specific category of individuals with disabilities (e.g. persons with HIV/AIDS or chronic mental illness) will narrow the gap in benefits and the preference is needed to narrow the gap in benefits and services received by such persons. (See 24 CFR 92.209(c)(2)(ii) and 91.220(l)(2)(vii)).

Not applicable.

If applicable, a description of any preference or limitation for rental housing projects. (See 24 CFR 92.253(d)(3) and CFR 91.220(l)(2)(vii)). Note: Preferences cannot be administered in a manner that limits the opportunities of persons on any basis prohibited by the laws listed under 24 CFR 5.105(a).

Not applicable.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT (ESG) REFERENCE 91.220(L)(4)

Include written standards for providing ESG assistance (may include as attachment)

Please see the attached Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) Policies and Procedures manual.

If the Continuum of Care has established centralized or coordinated assessment system that meets HUD requirements, describe that centralized or coordinated assessment system.

The regional CoC now is under the Louisiana's Balance of State CoC. All policies and procedures may be found at the following web address: https://laboscoc.org/policies-and-procedures.

Identify the process for making sub-awards and describe how the ESG allocation available to private nonprofit organizations (including community and faith-based organizations).

The City-Parish uses a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process to solicit applications from eligible nonprofit organizations and units of local government interested in ESG funding. The process begins with the City advertising a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA), requesting proposals from nonprofit organizations. The City hosts a technical assistance conference for prospective applicants, during which staff addresses any questions or concerns regarding the application package.

After the pre-submission conference is complete and the submission deadline has passed, an evaluation committee reviews and scores the proposals based on a checklist of predetermined criteria and an evaluation of past performance outcomes. Staff forwards funding recommendations through the Office of Community Development administrators to the Mayor-President's Office.

If the jurisdiction is unable to meet the homeless participation requirement in 24 CFR 576.405(a), the jurisdiction must specify its plan for reaching out to and consulting with homeless or formerly homeless individuals in considering policies and funding decisions regarding facilities and services funded under ESG.

In compliance with Section 576.405(a), the City-Parish requires all of its subrecipients to provide for the participation of at least one homeless or formerly homeless individual on the Board of Directors or a similar entity that sets policy or makes decisions for the recipient agency. In instances where subrecipients are unable to meet this requirement, they must consult with homeless or formerly homeless individuals when making policy or funding decisions. In addition, this involvement may include opportunities for these individuals to be employed or to volunteer in project activities such as construction, renovation, maintenance, and general operations of the facility, including staffing the reception desk.

Describe performance standards for evaluating ESG.

The City proposes the following performance objectives under the Emergency Solutions Grant.

TARGETING HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION RESOURCES TOWARD THOSE IN MOST NEED.

REDUCING THE NUMBER OF PERSONS/HOUSEHOLDS EXITING TO THE STREETS OR EMERGENCY SHELTERS.

INCREASING HOUSING STABILITY THROUGH LINKAGES WITH JOBS AND INCOME GROWTH.

THE HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS) WILL BE USED TO TRACK OUTCOMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE ABOVE OBJECTIVES.

The capacity to collect and enter data into HMIS is an essential component within the local continuum.