CDBG-MIT Action Plan Overview

OCT. 29, 2019

Pat Forbes, P.E.
Louisiana Office of Community Development

Se pondrán a disposición los materiales en idioma español cuando se los solicite. Envíe las solicitudes a watershed@la.gov.

Khi có yêu cầu, tài liệu sẽ được cung cấp bằng tiếng Việt. Vui lòng gửi yêu cầu đến địa chỉ watershed@la.gov.
Agenda

• Background on the Louisiana Watershed Initiative
• CDBG-MIT funds and federal rules
• Draft Action Plan
• Next steps
• Public comment
Background on the Louisiana Watershed Initiative
Context

- Louisiana’s landscape is very flat, has many water bodies, and receives a lot of rain—the sources of our floods are complex.
- Our flood risk is changing—places are flooding now that have never flooded before.
- Flood risk is interconnected—where the rain falls is not necessarily where flooding will occur.
- We must understand and address how actions taken in one community can impact regional flood risk.
• A **watershed**, drainage basin or catchment, is an area of land that drains all streams and rainfall to a common point.

• Large watersheds, like the Mississippi River basin, contain thousands of smaller watersheds. Natural ridges are often the boundaries between watersheds.

• Managing flood risk based on watersheds helps communities understand and address how decisions may impact upstream or downstream areas.
The Challenge

Louisiana’s watersheds are not defined by political boundaries.
Louisiana’s approach to addressing flood risk relies on several key elements

- Better data and modeling capabilities.
- Watershed-based coordination at all levels of government.
- Investments in evidence-based flood risk reduction projects.
- New or modified approaches to development.
Platform for Change

“It’s harder. It requires more work. It’s politically risky, but it is the right thing to do.”

- Gov. John Bel Edwards
About the Louisiana Watershed Initiative

• **Fundamental reform** of state flood-risk management
  o Regional management scale
  o Based on natural watersheds
  o Science-based decision-making via “living” watershed computer modeling, tools and data

• Supports expenditure of other *existing* and *future* funding sources, including **$1.2 billion in federal flood mitigation funds**

• **Looks to long-term solutions** (tools, management structures and improved decision-making)
Watershed Modeling is Underway

SCIENCE-BASED UNDERSTANDING OF RISK

- The state is collaborating with experts throughout the country to build world-class models for all of Louisiana’s watersheds.
- The recently completed Amite River Basin model is an example.
- DOTD recently selected engineering firms to develop watershed models for four areas of the state and will soon select firms to develop models for the remainder of the state’s watersheds.
Local Leaders are Coordinating
WATERSHED-BASED DECISION MAKING

• Eight watershed regions will coordinate modeling and planning activities throughout the state.
• The state is offering grant funding to build local technical capacity for watershed and floodplain management activities, with awards expected in January 2020.
$1.2 Billion in Mitigation Funds

Congressional Allocation in 2018
HUD Guidance Published Aug. 30, 2019
Draft Action Plan Posted Online Sept. 26, 2019
45-Day Public Comment Period Oct. 16 – Nov. 29
HUD Rules Overview

• All funds must be used for mitigation activities.
• At least 50 percent of funds must benefit most impacted and distressed areas, or MIDs, as identified by HUD.
• HUD must approve the state’s Action Plan before funds are available.
• The Action Plan describes unmet mitigation needs and allocation of funds.
• The state is holding four public hearings to gather input and public comment.
• The draft Action Plan was posted online Oct. 16, with comments accepted until Nov. 29 as part of HUD’s 45-day public comment period.
HUD Most Impacted or Distressed Areas

- MIDs include:
  
  * East Baton Rouge, Livingston, Ascension, Tangipahoa, Ouachita, Lafayette, Vermilion, Acadia, Washington and St. Tammany parishes*

- At least $607 million (50 percent of these funds) must be spent in or benefit these areas.
Louisiana’s Draft Action Plan
Action Plan Overview

- Details the state’s approach for using the funds.
- Includes draft projects, data collection and modeling programs.
- Incentivizes policy measures to advance community resilience.
Draft Action Plan

- **$1.2 billion** in CDBG-MIT funds to reduce statewide flood risk.
- Invest in **mitigation activities** and improve development standards.
- Includes more than **$970 million** for **watershed projects and programs**, as well as funding for improved data gathering and modeling.
**Draft Action Plan**

**DATA DRIVEN SOLUTIONS**
- High-quality gauge network.
- Watershed models that empower local decision making.
- Informed decisions based on science.

**WATERSHED MODELING**

**PROJECTS THAT REDUCE FLOOD RISK**
- Enhanced natural retention and local drainage functions.
- Focus on helping to move people out of harm’s way.

**FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS**

**COLLABORATION IS KEY**
- Regional watershed management that empowers collaboration between stakeholders and decision makers.
- Building better to mitigate the next disaster’s impact.

**REGIONAL PROGRAMS**
# Action Plan Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 2018 – August 2019</td>
<td>Engagement with local stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 30, 2019</td>
<td>Federal rules published</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 19, 2019</td>
<td>Lafayette public hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 25, 2019</td>
<td>Baton Rouge public hearing</td>
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<td>Oct. 24, 2019</td>
<td>Monroe public hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 29, 2019</td>
<td>Mandeville public hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
<td>Action Plan submitted to HUD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late 2019 – Early 2020</td>
<td>HUD review period</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 3, 2020</td>
<td>Action Plan submittal deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring 2020</td>
<td>Grant agreement executed and line of credit established</td>
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Public Comment

3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT
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