

4

Mitigation Strategy

The State of Louisiana identified a hazard mitigation strategy in order to reduce and avoid long term vulnerabilities from the hazards identified in the hazard profiles and risk assessment (Chapter 2, Risk Assessment, Page 2). This includes identifying areas and situations experiencing a combination of geographic, social, and economic need. The State of Louisiana's hazard mitigation strategy is:

Reducing risks and the impacts of hazards by serving as a guide to decision makers on the commitment of resources, implementation of mitigation programs, and coordination of mitigation efforts that foster more resilient and sustainable people, property, and lifestyles across the State of Louisiana.

This demonstrates the state's commitment to reduce risks from hazards, and serves as a guide for state decision makers as they commit resources to help reduce the impacts of hazards.

The state, with the help of the hazard mitigation committee, identified goals and objectives to work to implement this strategy. This section allows the state to identify, evaluate, and prioritize, feasible, cost effective, and environmentally sound mitigation activities at the parish and municipal level. By doing so, the state can continue to work toward reducing identified risks.

For the purpose of this plan update, goals and objectives are defined as follows:

Goals are general guidelines that explain what the state wants to achieve, expressed as broad policy statement representing long term results.

Objectives are more specific projects, policies, and programs that can advance each goal.

2014 Goals and Objectives

The current goals of this plan update represent long-term commitments by the State of Louisiana. The State Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (SHMPC) reviewed the 2014 goals and objectives, and developed updated goals and objectives after this review.

The previous goals and objectives, from the 2014 plan update, are as follows:

GOAL 1 The State of Louisiana will improve education and outreach efforts regarding potential impacts of hazards and the identification of specific measures that can be taken to reduce their impact.

- 1.1 Statewide Education and Outreach
- 1.2 Education and Outreach for State Agencies
- 1.3 Analyze past Education and Outreach Activities

GOAL 2 The State of Louisiana will improve data collection, use and sharing to reduce the impacts of hazards.

- 2.1 Statewide Data-Related Effort
- 2.2 Data-Related Efforts for State Agencies

GOAL 3 The State of Louisiana will improve capabilities and coordination at the municipal, parish, regional and state level to plan and implement hazard mitigation projects.

- 3.1 Technical Support for Parish and Municipal Hazard Mitigation Planning
- 3.2 Technical Support for State Agencies Hazard Mitigation Planning
- 3.3 Plan Integration
- 3.4 Complete Web-Based Grant Application Tool

GOAL 4 The State of Louisiana will continue to pursue opportunities to reduce impacts to the State's manmade and natural environment through mitigation of repetitive and severe repetitive loss properties and other appropriate construction projects and related activities.

- 4.1 Identify Cost Effective Projects with Parishes and Municipalities
- 4.2 Identify Cost Effective projects with State Agencies
- 4.3 Legislative and Regulatory Enhancements
- 4.4 Enhance current State Hazard Mitigation Strategy

GOAL 5 The State of Louisiana will improve on the protection of Historic Structures/Buildings, Traditional Cultural Properties and Archaeological sites from natural and man-made hazards.

- 5.1 Integrate historic preservation into hazard mitigation planning
- 5.2 Education/Outreach for Historic Preservation Best Management Practices
- 5.3 Education/Outreach for Policies of Historic Preservation



2019 Goals and Objectives

Through reviewing the previous goals and objectives, the SHMPC identified common themes that the goals and objectives should address. These themes were hazard mitigation planning, coordination, outreach and education, implementation, and repetitive flood loss. The SHMPC used these themes to create updated goals, and specific objectives under each goal.

Using an online survey, the SHMPC ranked the goals and objectives according to funding priority. A total of 23 respondents prioritized the goals and objectives using the survey. The committee prioritized those objectives that would best reduce the vulnerabilities identified in the risk assessment (Chapter 2, Risk Assessment, Pages 3 and 4 – Table X). This includes identifying areas and situations experiencing a combination of geographic, social, and economic need.

The updated and prioritized goals and objectives are as follows:

GOAL Protect the people, property and natural resources of Louisiana, by promoting strategies and policies that
 1 increase resiliency, and minimize vulnerability to natural hazards.

Objective 1.1: Support the capacity of the State to implement mitigation, policies, practices and programs.

Objective 1.2: Improve communication, collaboration, and integration among Stakeholders.

Objective 1.3: Boost commitment to mitigation and resilient measures, opportunities, and activities.

Objective 1.4: Identify technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures and projects.

Objective 1.5: Establish and coordinate effective partnerships between state agencies for floodplain and watershed management and development.

GOAL 2 Increase public and private sector awareness and support of mitigation activities and opportunities in Louisiana

- Objective 2.1: Promote efforts to improve resiliency through public awareness/education, developments and improvements to infrastructure, planning and zoning requirements, floodplain management, and building codes.
- Objective 2.2: Work with other state and regional entities to incorporate mitigation concepts and information into their outreach efforts.
- Objective 2.3: Ensure that all communities are aware of available mitigation funding sources and cycles.
- Objective 2.4: Educate risk management entities on mitigation incentives and benefits.
- Objective 2.5: Educate Louisiana private sector about mitigation concepts and opportunities.

GOAL 3 Support local and regional mitigation initiatives and strategies.

- Objective 3.1: Develop integrated solutions for the implementation of regional and local mitigation strategies and comprehensive emergency management plans.
- Objective 3.2: Assist with the integration of local hazard mitigation plans and local land use plans, zoning codes, and other relevant plans a jurisdiction may maintain.
- Objective 3.3: Support local and regional capacity.
- Objective 3.4: Support floodplain management activities, such as the Community Rating System.
- Objective 3.5: Support hazard mitigation research and development.

GOAL 4 Reduce Louisiana's repetitive and severe repetitive loss property inventory

- Objective 4.1: Develop and implement the state Repetitive Loss Strategy for reducing RL and SRL properties.
- Objective 4.2: Investigate possible actions to mitigate RL and SRL properties.
- Objective 4.3: Update the RL and SRL inventory.
- Objective 4.4: Prioritize repetitive loss properties for funding.

GOAL 5 Implement and maintain a comprehensive and effective enhanced statewide hazard mitigation plan.

- Objective 5.1: Integrate mitigation practices throughout all state plans, programs, and policies.
- Objective 5.2: Pursue methodologies that will enhance mitigation successes.
- Objective 5.3: Develop plan performance and effectiveness strategy.
- Objective 5.4: Provide training opportunities.

Changes in Priorities

From 2014 and 2019, some of the mitigation priorities changed. While the 2014 goals were similar, with mention of education and outreach, data collection, coordination, repetitive losses, and protecting buildings, the 2019 plan ranked them differently, with general mitigation planning given the most importance, followed by outreach and education, coordination with other strategies, reducing repetitive losses, and implementing the plan. Furthermore, the 2019 plan objectives contain more detail, with more measurable targets. As one committee member stated: "These represent a significant advancement over previous goals and objectives. Monitoring and achieving them is the next step."

Funding

The SHMPC had multiple discussions concerning how to prioritize funding selected mitigation projects. The committee underlined communities at highest risk as the most important priority, followed by communities with repetitive loss properties, communities undergoing development, and finally, community commitment to mitigation. The results of the committee survey are shown in the table below.

In a follow up survey, the committee underlined the need to reach out to under resourced communities, particularly low income and elderly residents. Committee members also pointed out the need to use insurance, including private insurance, and reform building codes. Respondents further emphasized the need to coordinate projects with other planning efforts, and analyze the goals and objectives over time to better plan for mitigation.

The State of Louisiana can utilize the following source of funding to implement the mitigation goals and objectives:

- FEMA HMA funding (HMGP, PDM, and FMA)
- HUD CDBG funding
- State of Louisiana Capital Outlay/general fund
- DOTD Statewide Flood Control program funding
- Private partnership funding
- CPRA funding to include:
- Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) funding
- Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) funding
- Capital Outlay/state funds
- HUD CDBG funding
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NDRA) Restoration funding
- BP and Transocean Settlements
- Restore Act funding
- Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA) funding

Changes in Development

Parish-level population

Based on land cover data for the state and major urban areas, urban growth in previously rural locations was limited in the last 12 years, with the majority of urban areas established in Louisiana by 2001. Recent development primarily occurred in the outlying metropolitan areas of Shreveport, Monroe, Alexandria, Lake Charles, Lafayette, Houma, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans. The population of Louisiana was 4,533,372 in the 2010 census, and is projected to grow to 5,518,889 by 2043.

Vulnerable populations

The parishes with the highest sum of vulnerable population growth rates, indicating a greater likelihood of future increase in demographic vulnerability, are Ascension, Beauregard, Plaquemines, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, and Vernon Parishes. Refer to Chapter 2, Risk Assessment, Page 8 and Appendix X, the Technical Appendix, for more information on development changes in Louisiana.



Statewide Mitigation Funding Since 2014

The following are the Major Declared Disasters since 2014, and the HMGP award funding for each disaster. The non-disaster grant funding obligated since 2015 is also included.

2018 Non Disaster Grant Funding

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	—————	\$ 43,926,442
Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM)	—————	\$ 952,478

2017 Disaster Grant Funding:

Louisiana Tropical Storm Harvey (DR-4345)

Incident period:

August 28, 2017 to September 10, 2017

Major Disaster Declaration declared on October 16, 2017

HMGP Award: \$ 1,139,906

Louisiana Severe Storms, Tornadoes, and Straight-line Winds (DR-4300)

Incident period: February 07, 2017

Major Disaster Declaration declared on February 11, 2017

HMGP Award: \$ 561,551

2017 Non Disaster Grant Funding

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	—————	\$ 53,213,734
Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM)	—————	\$ 522,562

2016 Disaster Grant Funding:

Louisiana Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4277)

Incident period: August 11, 2016 to August 31, 2016

Major Disaster Declaration declared on August 14, 2016

HMGP Award: \$ 261,971,744

Louisiana Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4263)

Incident period: March 08, 2016 to April 08, 2016

Major Disaster Declaration declared on March 13, 2016

HMGP Award: \$ 28,992,576

2016 Non Disaster Grant Funding

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	—————	\$ 44,721,674
Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM)	—————	\$ 412,499

2015 Disaster Grant Funding:

Louisiana Severe Storms and Flooding (DR-4228)

Incident period: May 18, 2015 to June 20, 2015

Major Disaster Declaration declared on July 13, 2015

HMGP Award: \$ 1,216,154

2015 Non Disaster Grant Funding:

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	—————	\$11,246,286
Pre Disaster Mitigation (PDM)	—————	\$5,978,405

Mitigation Monitoring and Review

Each mitigation project or activity has an established period of performance that GOHSEP and FEMA monitor throughout the development and execution of the activity. As described in the State of Louisiana Administrative Guidelines and Procedures, GOHSEP uses the following system for monitoring mitigation projects and project closeouts. No changes have been made to this system in this plan update.

Monitoring Mitigation Projects

Mitigation projects are generally monitored as follows:

- ▶ GOHSEP regularly meets with representatives from FEMA Region VI to coordinate project monitoring activities
- ▶ Every calendar quarter, GOHSEP sends correspondence to all sub-grantees with open projects (i.e., ones that have been funded but are not completed), requesting a project progress update
- ▶ Each of the sub-grantees responds to the GOHSEP request by preparing a standard report that details progress on individual mitigation projects and indicates a percent complete estimate
- ▶ GOHSEP compiles the sub-grantee progress reports and produces a consolidated quarterly report that is sent to FEMA Region VI for review. The consolidated quarterly report identifies changes from previous reports, areas of concern, and strategies to address problems



Monitoring Project Closeouts

Mitigation project closeouts generally occur in the following sequence, as established in the State of Louisiana Administrative Guidelines and Procedures, and in accordance with FEMA requirements for State Administrative Plans and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) guidelines set in the HMGP Desk Reference.

- Sub-grantee indicates that a mitigation project is 100% complete in a quarterly project progress report
- GOHSEP reconciles the FEMA SmartLink account for the project (by disaster)
- GOHSEP initiates a comprehensive internal financial audit of the project
- GOHSEP works with sub-grantees to resolve any issues discovered in the audit
- GOHSEP sends FEMA Region VI a closeout letter that identifies the final eligible cost of the project, de-obligations that are required, and any monies that will be recovered from the sub-grantee

In order to review progress on achieving goals, GOHSEP ensures that both the annual and five-year plan evaluations include a detailed examination and analysis of the goals and various objectives under each goal. This section of the plan update describes five major hazard mitigation goals and describes twenty-three objectives that the state and the SHMPC identified to address the identified goals. In updated versions of the plan, GOHSEP will indicate the status of the various objectives, and a general indication of progress.

In order to review progress on activities and projects included in the mitigation strategy, and as part of the yearly and five-year evaluations and updates to this plan, GOHSEP will initiate a review of all activities and projects noted in the mitigation strategy. The review takes place in five stages:

- In cooperation with the SHMPC, GOHSEP's Hazard Mitigation Planning Section will undertake a preliminary review and analysis of progress on the goals and objectives.
- GOHSEP's Hazard Mitigation Planning Section will prepare a draft report that describes progress, remaining tasks, and projected time to complete the tasks.
- The draft report will be presented to the SHMPC during the meeting(s) related to the yearly (and five-year) updates.
- After SHMPC review, comment, and approval, results of the progress review will be included as a new or updated column in the tabulation of mitigation goals and actions.