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## Mitigation Strategies



Chapter 4 presents Louisiana's 2024 Mitigation Strategy including goals and actions that were developed and prioritized to reduce statewide vulnerabilities. It addresses the following requirements per the *State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (2022)*:

- S9** DOES THE MITIGATION STRATEGY INCLUDE GOALS TO REDUCE LONG-TERM VULNERABILITIES FROM THE IDENTIFIED HAZARDS? [44 CFR § 201.4(C)(3)(I)]
- S10** DOES THE PLAN PRIORITIZE MITIGATION ACTIONS TO REDUCE VULNERABILITIES IDENTIFIED IN THE RISK ASSESSMENT? [44 CFR §§ 201.4(C)(1); 201.4(C)(3)(I), 201.4(C)(3)(II) AND 201.4(C)(3)(III); 201.4(C)(4)(II); FMAG: 44 CFR § 204.51(D)(2)]
- S11** DOES THE PLAN IDENTIFY CURRENT AND POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT MITIGATION ACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES? [44 CFR § 201.4(C)(3)(IV)]
- S12** WAS THE PLAN UPDATED TO REFLECT PROGRESS IN STATEWIDE MITIGATION EFFORTS AND CHANGES IN PRIORITIES? [44 CFR § 201.4(D)]

The State of Louisiana identified a hazard mitigation strategy to reduce long term vulnerabilities from the hazards identified in Chapter 2 – Hazard Identification and Statewide Risk Assessment. The strategy also reflects the identification of areas and situations experiencing a combination of geographic, social, and economic needs. Overall, the State of Louisiana's hazard mitigation strategy is to reduce risks and the impacts of hazards by providing guidance 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.

The state, with the help of the 2024 State Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee (SHMPC) identified goals and actions to implement this strategy. These goals and actions provide guidance to the state to identify, evaluate, and prioritize activities at the parish



and municipal level that are technically feasible, cost effective, and environmentally sound mitigation. By doing so, the state can continue to work toward reducing identified risks. Per FEMA's State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (2022), goals are defined as "long-term policy or vision statements that guide the implementation of hazard mitigation actions". Mitigation actions are more specific and refer to projects, policies and programs that support each of the goals.

The following sections provide an overview of the 2019 goals and objectives followed by a description of the 2024 updated goals and actions and the process under which they were developed.

## 2019 Goals and Objectives

The current goals of this plan update represent long-term commitments by the State of Louisiana to reduce risks identified in the statewide risk assessment. The 2024 goals were set by the SHMPC after a thorough review and update of the goals and objectives set for the 2019 Plan.

The 2014 goals and objectives are as follows:

### GOAL 1

**Protect the people, property and natural resources of Louisiana, by promoting strategies and policies that 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.



## 2024 Goals and Actions

In its review of the previous goals and objectives, the SHMPC confirmed the importance of the common themes identified in the 2019 goals and objectives. These themes included hazard mitigation planning to minimize risk, increase awareness, support for local and regional initiatives, the reduction of repetitive flood loss, and implementation of statewide mitigation.

The SHMPC updated the goals and related actions to support those goals. Members of the committee also ranked the goals and objectives in terms of importance to the reduction of vulnerabilities identified in the statewide assessment and prioritization for funding. Input from members of the SHMPC was provided during in-person and online meetings, email communications, and through an online survey. A total of 14 SHMPC members prioritized the goals and actions using the survey. The updated and prioritized goals and objectives are as follows:

### GOAL 1

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

- ACTION 1.1** ▶ Support the capacity of the State to implement mitigation policies, practices, and programs.
- ACTION 1.2** ▶ Improve communication, collaboration, and integration among all state agencies, local decision makers, and the public.
- ACTION 1.3** ▶ Boost commitment to mitigation and resilient measures and activities while providing more equitable opportunities.
- ACTION 1.4** ▶ Develop tools to assess the technical feasibility and cost-effectiveness of proposed mitigation measures and projects.
- ACTION 1.5** ▶ Establish and coordinate partnerships among state agencies to evaluate the recognition and consideration of disaster risk and resilience in state agency project planning.



**GOAL 2****Support local, regional, and state mitigation initiatives and strategies.**

- ACTION 3.1** ▶ Develop integrated solutions for the implementation of state, regional and local mitigation strategies, and comprehensive emergency management plans.
- ACTION 3.2** ▶ Assist with the integration of local hazard mitigation plans, local land use plans, zoning codes, and other relevant plans a jurisdiction may maintain.
- ACTION 3.3** ▶ Support local and regional capacity to plan for and implement mitigation.
- ACTION 3.4** ▶ Support the implementation of floodplain management activities, such as the Community Rating System and substantial damage plans, and other risk reduction programs such as Firewise USA, and FORTIFIED programs.
- ACTION 3.5** ▶ Support hazard mitigation research and development across all levels of government.

**GOAL 3****Reduce Louisiana's repetitive loss and severe repetitive loss property inventory.**

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



**GOAL 4**

**Implement and maintain a comprehensive and effective statewide hazard mitigation plan.**

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

**GOAL 5**

**Increase public and private sector awareness and support of mitigation activities and opportunities throughout Louisiana.**

- ACTION 1.1** ▶ Promote efforts to improve resiliency through public awareness/education, development and improvements to infrastructure, planning and zoning requirements, floodplain management, and building codes.
- ACTION 1.2** ▶ Work with other state and regional entities to incorporate mitigation concepts and information into their outreach efforts.
- ACTION 1.3** ▶ Ensure that all communities are aware of available mitigation funding sources and cycles.
- ACTION 1.4** ▶ Educate risk management entities on mitigation incentives and benefits.
- ACTION 1.5** ▶ Educate the Louisiana private sector about mitigation concepts and opportunities.





## Changes in Priorities

Based on recommendations from the 2024 SHMPC, several changes were made from the mitigation priorities set for the 2019 Update. While the number and substance of the goals remained largely the same, two significant changes were made. First, support for equitable strategies and policies was added to the first goal. Second, the goal related to public and private sector awareness was moved in the list of priorities from Goal 2 to Goal 5.

Regarding the mitigation actions tied to each goal, the number of actions and the substance of each action remained the same; however, a few actions now include a bit more specificity. For instance, under the goal to support local, regional, and state initiatives, there is an action that now includes a reference to substantial damage plans, Firewise USA, and FORTIFIED programs. Additionally, the order of the actions was changed for the implementation goal. Specifically, the action to provide statewide training opportunities was moved in order of importance from the last action to the second action. Also, the term “action” is now used and replaced the term “objective” which was used in previous mitigation planning efforts.

## Funding

The SHMPC had multiple discussions concerning funding and how to prioritize mitigation activities. The committee stressed the importance of prioritizing projects that minimize impacts on people, property and natural resources while supporting equitable outcomes. To do this, the committee discussed focusing on communities at highest risk, those undergoing development, and those with repetitive loss properties.

The results of a survey completed by fourteen members of the SHMPC provided more insight related to the prioritization of mitigation funding. Committee members stated the need for projects to “meet multiple state mitigation priorities” that provide a “range of benefits.” Additionally, members argued for critical facilities to be prioritized for funding. Others suggested that repetitive loss areas impacted by federal disaster declarations and those with vulnerable populations should be prioritized for funding while others argued for CRS communities to be given priority. The following is a list of funding sources that the State of Louisiana can utilize to implement its stated mitigation goals and actions. This list includes funding sources currently utilized by the State.



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▶ **FEMA**

- ▶ Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- ▶ Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- ▶ Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current (Swift Current)
- ▶ Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
- ▶ Legislative Pre-Disaster Mitigation (LPDM)
- ▶ Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- ▶ Public Assistance
- ▶ Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program

▶ **US Department of Housing & Urban Development**

- ▶ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

▶ **US Department of Agriculture**

▶ **US Environmental Protection Agency**

▶ **US Fish & Wildlife Service**

▶ **National Park Service**

▶ **CPRA**

- ▶ Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA)
- ▶ Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

▶ **La DOTD Statewide Flood Control Program**

▶ **State of Louisiana Capital Outlay/general funds**

▶ **Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (GOMESA)**

▶ **Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NDRA) Restoration funding**

▶ **Restore Act funding**

▶ **BP and Transocean Settlements**

**Private partnerships**



## Statewide Mitigation Funding Since 2019

The following table provides information on disaster and non-disaster grants funds awarded from 2019.

	Total Project Cost	Federal Obligated
<b>HMGP</b>		
2019	\$505,749,930.92	\$137,666,123.26
2020	\$496,713,834.19	\$40,384,317.65
2021	\$348,573,028.05	\$35,267,266.88
2022	\$204,827,535.41	\$29,495,829.85
2023	\$1,285,836,392.88	\$131,665,265.12
<b>BRIC</b>		
2022	\$1,716,934.00	\$1,290,563.00
2023	\$89,523.00	\$89,523.00
<b>FMA</b>		
2019	\$12,451,579.52	\$12,451,579.52
2020	\$46,497,223.88	\$49,592,356.78
2021	\$111,535,511.86	\$103,662,865.32
2022	\$87,121,871.67	\$80,062,345.74
2023	\$43,179,863.22	\$42,232,861.00
<b>LPDM</b>		
2023	\$3,787,000.00	\$2,520,000.00
<b>PDM</b>		
2020	\$3,192,217.65	\$2,393,157.75
2021	\$4,871,776.54	\$3,653,832.40
2023	\$14,516,220.00	\$10,887,165.10
<b>Swift Current</b>		
2022	\$3,025,682.00	\$2,978,762.00
2023	\$42,016,284.52	\$35,670,893.62



## Mitigation Monitoring and Review

Each funded mitigation project or activity has an established period of performance that GOHSEP and FEMA monitor throughout the development and execution of the project or activity. Monitoring is essential to ensure that sub-grantees are making progress, meeting financial requirements, maintaining proper documentation, and are held accountable for all federal resources allocated for a specific mitigation project or 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 monitored as follows:

- ▶ **GOHSEP meets regularly 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 sub-grantee responds to GOHSEP's 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 progress 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 any identified problems.**

## Monitoring Project Closeouts

Mitigation project closeouts 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 and the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide (2023).

- ▶ **Sub-grantees indicate 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

## Monitoring Mitigation Strategy Progress

To review progress on the implementation of the mitigation strategy, GOHSEP ensures that both the annual and five-year plan evaluations include a detailed examination and analysis of the goals and related actions identified in this chapter. Chapter 4 describes five major hazard mitigation goals and twenty-three actions that the State and the SHMPC identified as part of overall mitigation strategy. Future versions of the plan will include the status of the various actions, and a general indication of progress on each action.

GOHSEP will initiate a review of all mitigation activities and projects noted in the mitigation strategy as part of an annual review and its five year evaluation and update. The review takes place in five stages:

- 1.** In cooperation with the SHMPC, GOHSEP's Hazard Mitigation Planning Section will undertake a preliminary review and analysis of progress on the goals and actions.
- 2.** GOHSEP's Hazard Mitigation Planning Section will prepare a draft report that describes progress, remaining tasks, and projected time to complete the tasks.
- 3.** The draft report will be presented to the SHMPC during the meeting(s) related to the yearly (and five-year) updates. Members of the SHMPC requested that the report be shared via email and posted to GOHSEP's website.
- 4.** 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.

