DR-4263-LA/DR-4277-LA ECONOMIC RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ERSF)

COORDINATING FEDERAL AGENCY: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA)

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The Economic Recovery Support Function is tasked with providing three deliverables:
- 1. An assessment of impacts (Mission Scoping Assessment)
- 2. Strategies to address them (Recovery Support Strategy)
- 3. Support for implementation by state/regional/local partners

This presentation states seven recovery issues and:
- 1. The challenge presented by each issue
- 2. The opportunity to address the challenge
- 3. Actions taken to implement the opportunity

Two additional issues post-strategy are addressed, as is ongoing support for long-term recovery efforts.
ECONOMIC RECOVERY ISSUE 1

• Challenge: Adverse impacts on businesses including uninsured losses

• Opportunity: Help the 26,000+/- businesses impacted by 2016 floods become more resilient

• Actions: Supported Louisiana Economic Development and Office of Community Development in implementing recovery loan and technical assistance programs
ECONOMIC RECOVERY ISSUE 2

• Challenge:
  – $367 Million in Impacts to Agriculture and Related Industries

• Opportunity:
  – Several Louisiana Communities have Local Food Movements, highlighting those and adding high-value specialty crops

• Actions:
  – Held two Agriculture, Business, and Community forums and a Recovery Summit to highlight available resources; form statewide resilient food network
ECONOMIC RECOVERY ISSUE 3

• Challenge
  – A history of disasters that negatively impact the movement of commerce

• Opportunity
  – Create a Statewide Supply Chain/Transportation Council, a public-private partnership (PPP) for resilience

• Actions
  – Assisted the State in identifying/recruiting key players
  – Supported development of committees, priority actions
  – Council leadership introduced/passed concurrent resolution by legislature-authorized input from Council
ECONOMIC RECOVERY ISSUE 4

• Challenge
  – Address employment and shortages in demand occupations

• Opportunity
  – Address acute shortage in workforce affordable housing, provide training in high demand skills, while using Louisiana products in a highly impacted industry (wood products)

• Actions
  – Partnering with Housing Recovery Support Function to identify a system based on temporary-to-permanent housing coined RAPIDO, successfully implemented in Texas, and recommend pilot projects that would train workers in construction skills, using Louisiana products
ECONOMIC RECOVERY ISSUE 5

• Challenge
  – Adverse impacts to economies and tax base of communities

• Opportunity
  – Diversify the economic base of communities already impacted by natural resource prices through cultural economy development—tourism and creative industries

• Actions
  – Partnered with Natural and Cultural Resources to access National Park Service comprehensive planning resources for parks in impacted areas including Poverty Point, a UNESCO world heritage area, all of from which cultural economy assets could develop
ECONOMIC RECOVERY ISSUE 6

• Challenge
  – Need to access Louisiana Higher Education Institutions’ recovery and resilience assets and resources

• Opportunity
  – Create a searchable database of recovery and resilience projects, programs, and people categorized by the six recovery support functions and three advisory functions

• Actions
  – Created and categorized comprehensive datasets, seeking funding for implementation
**ECONOMIC RECOVERY ISSUE 7**

- **Challenge**
  - Need for regional ongoing recovery capacity and enhanced resilience through public-private partnerships

- **Opportunity**
  - Funding to enable five regional Planning and Development Districts to hire Local Disaster Recovery Managers and establish regional business/community networks in each

- **Actions**
  - EDA has approved five grants, matched by the Office of Community Development, to hire Managers in Northwest, Northeast, Central, Capitol Area, and Acadiana Regions
ADDITIONAL RECOVERY ISSUES

1. Need for long-term recovery planning capacity
   - Opportunity: To form a partnership between Louisiana Economic Development and Office of Community Development to utilize an established planning framework
   - Action: Worked with Office of Community Development Consultant to produce first draft of a planning guide, now being finalized with oversight of Community Development

2. Need for timely activation of funding for recovery
   - Opportunity: Utilize Community Development Financial Institutions Fund resources dedicated to disaster recovery
   - Action: Developed position paper for PPP combining existing program with voluntary contributions from financial institutions
ONGOING RECOVERY SUPPORT

• The Community Planning and Capacity Building Recovery Support Function is leading five long-term recovery planning efforts
  – Baton Rouge City/Parish, Baker, Denham Springs, Livingston Parish, and Tangipahoa Parish
  – ERSF is providing support to economic components

• Louisiana, supported by FEMA, is undertaking three regional watershed resilience pilot projects
  – Vermilion, Lower Ouachita, and Amite Watersheds
  – ERSF will provide support for economic issues
SUMMARY

• It has been said that “the economy leads the recovery”—businesses=jobs=tax base=well-being
• The Economic Recovery Support Function brings 10 federal agencies to provide resources and assistance
• Planning and Development/Economic Development Districts are excellent regional recovery partners
• State Partner Louisiana Economic Development first ever to embed a senior official; Office of Community Development is a very valuable partner, as are all
• National Recovery Framework brings it all together