

Office of Community Development
State of Louisiana
Division of Administration

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
GOVERNOR



JAY DARDENNE
COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact Marvin McGraw
Louisiana Office of Community Development
marvin.mcgraw@la.gov

**STATE ACCEPTING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON
MIT ACTION PLAN AMENDMENT 3 FOR DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS IN
LOUISIANA WATERSHED INITIATIVE**

The Louisiana Office of Community Development is accepting public comments on an action plan amendment that will modify the amounts and method of distribution for Community Development Block Grant disaster recovery funds in several programs of the Louisiana Watershed Initiative. The 30-day public comment period starts today and ends at **5 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023.**

Mitigation APA 3 makes the following LWI program changes:

- **LWI Local and Regional Watershed Projects and Programs:** Due to inflation, Round 3 will be eliminated and funds for Rounds 1 and 2 will be increased up to 20% for awarded projects. Because of these anticipated increases, the maximum award for all projects in Rounds 1 and 2 will be increased from \$10 million to \$20 million.
- **LWI State Projects and Programs:** \$15 million earmarked for the State Economic Development and Resilience program will be moved into the State Infrastructure and Housing program.
- **LWI Non-Federal Cost Share Assistance:** \$15 million earmarked for state and federal matching funds in response to Hurricanes Laura and Delta will be eliminated, as the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development subsequently awarded additional allocations specific to these hurricanes.
- **LWI Region 9 Allocation:** \$100 million will be allocated from Local and Regional Projects and Programs to LWI Region 9, which includes all or part of the following parishes: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, St. Helena and St. James. As a result of the Great Floods of 2016, 74% of damaged households were in one of these seven parishes.

This amendment is considered substantial because it includes a change in benefit for Local and Regional Projects and Programs. Substantial amendments require a public comment period.

After accepting public comments, the state will submit the plan to HUD for final federal approval. Once HUD approves the plan, the state will be able to implement the proposed changes.

The action plan is available at doa.la.gov/doa/oed/policy-and-reports/apa/ or by calling 225.219.9600.

Members of the public can submit comments in several ways:

- Emailing them to oed@la.gov;
- Mailing them to Disaster Recovery Unit, P.O. Box 94095, 70804-9095, Attn: Janice Lovett; or
- Faxing them to the attention of Janice Lovett at 225.219.9605.

Vietnamese Muốn biết thêm chi tiết về Kế Hoạch Hành Động, xin gọi số 225.219.9600 hoặc viết về địa chỉ điện thư janice.lovett@la.gov.

Spanish Para más información sobre el plan de acción, llame al 225.219.9600 o email janice.lovett@la.gov.