

Office of Community Development

Disaster Recovery Unit

State of Louisiana

JOHN BEL EDWARDS
Governor



JAY DARDENNE
Commissioner of Administration

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2019

Contact: govpress@la.gov

LOUISIANA RELEASES CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES CREATED THROUGH LA SAFE PROGRAM'S REGIONAL APPROACH TO RESILIENCE

BATON ROUGE – Today, the state of Louisiana released a set of seven climate adaptation strategies created for six coastal parishes recently awarded more than \$41 million in Community Development Block Grant funding for flood-resilience projects developed through [Louisiana's Strategic Adaptions for Future Environments \(LA SAFE\)](#).

Based on projections of coastal land loss and flood risk, the strategies outline a vision of development in the parishes over the next 50 years and provide context for the [ten recently funded LA SAFE projects](#).

Incorporating input from residents in each parish, the strategies also outline policy and land-use recommendations that are responsive to the economic, population and social shifts that occur from repetitive flooding and disaster events.

“Louisiana is the most flood-prone state in the country,” Gov. John Bel Edwards said. “Through LA SAFE, we are proactively working with our communities to plan for a more resilient future in the face of rising seas and continued flood risk. LA SAFE has taken a vital step by investing in community-driven plans that allow for holistic adaptation across various sectors, as well offer a replicable model for Louisiana and climate-vulnerable communities everywhere.”

Created through a partnership between the Louisiana Office of Community Development and the Foundation for Louisiana, each adaptation strategy presents an overview of the LA SAFE program and describes the parish-specific process used to

develop community-driven plans. Each strategy also illustrates how the various sectors—such as housing, transportation, storm water management, economics and education—are moving parts of an interconnected system considered as a whole during the adaptation process to projections across 10, 25 and 50-year timelines.

“We must plan for the various ways that land loss and flood risk impact our communities and be both strategic and equitable in developing comprehensive practices to address this threat,” OCD Executive Director Pat Forbes said. “The state’s expertise in managing large-scale projects like LA SAFE, combined with the Foundation for Louisiana’s extensive networking experience in grass-roots outreach, allowed us to incorporate input from a staggering number of affected coastal residents.”

The state’s partnership with FFL is a first-of-its-kind collaboration between a state government and a philanthropic organization to develop a regional approach for climate adaptation planning. This alliance allowed LA SAFE to assemble partners from across sectors who were committed to a community-driven planning process, which included 71 public events and engaged nearly 3,000 residents throughout the six-parish region.

“We know that when government partners with the people closest to the work—across communities and sectors—we can and will create better outcomes,” FFL CEO and President Flozell Daniels said. “For us at FFL, LA SAFE was another opportunity to test what we already know works, to make sure coastal Louisianans have a seat at the table, and for all partners to learn from the process.”

The set of seven adaptation strategies, representing the final piece of the LA SAFE process, are as follows:

- [LA SAFE Regional Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [Jefferson Parish Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [Lafourche Parish Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [Plaquemines Parish Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [St. John the Baptist Parish Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [St. Tammany Parish Adaptation Strategy](#)
- [Terrebonne Parish Adaptation Strategy](#)

For more information on the projects or the LA SAFE planning process, please visit the [LA SAFE](#) website.