



ISLE DE JEAN CHARLES RESETTLEMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

Where can I find background information on the Isle de Jean Charles resettlement project?

- A description of the IDJC resettlement project, the LA SAFE project, and the NDRC application process can be accessed on OCD-DRU's NDRC page at: <http://www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Isaac/NDRC.aspx> .
- A description of causes, conditions and mitigation of Louisiana's coastal land loss can be accessed on the Coastal Master Plan page of the state's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority at: <http://coastal.la.gov/a-common-vision/2012-coastal-master-plan/> .

What is your timeline for the resettlement of the Isle de Jean Charles residents; and how will you measure success?

- September 2022 is the federal deadline for expenditure of all NDRC award funds. We hope and expect to finish the project before then, because the sooner we make the investment, the sooner the people of the community will be safe. This involves a very complex planning process to ensure the new community meets the needs of the people, in addition to creating a model for other such moves in the future. As such, it makes sense to take the time to get it right.
- **Immediate success** will be defined by our ability to complete all projects in a timely and cost-effective manner:
 - For the resettlement, this will be the relocation of an entire community in an efficient manner that is respectful and supportive of the cultural sensitivities of Island residents, and in a way that provides opportunity for success in the new community.
 - For the LA SAFE Fund, this will be development of the processes to attract and build good resilience projects, to leverage additional funds for these and future projects, and the completion of projects as defined, on time, and within their budgets.
- **Long-term success** will be defined by seeing these achievements replicated both inside and outside of Louisiana – knowing we have created a body of best practices to be built on as a national template for future disaster-related relocations.
- **Ultimate success** would be defined by our ability to stimulate a radical rethinking of the nation's coastal land use and development patterns, which would reduce the need for future government intervention because of coastal crises.

Is the \$100M price tag for 100 families part of current or future projections?

- We've also heard the \$100 million price tag, but this it is not a price tag we developed or vetted. In fact, OCD-DRU was awarded \$48,379,249 to design, implement and administer the resettlement project for the Isle de Jean Charles residents. While our project doesn't include moving or building housing for 100 families, we do intend to create a community capable of receiving many more than the 25-30 families included in the initial move.

- The reason we included the Isle de Jean Charles project in the state's NDRC application was to provide HUD with our vision of a prototype resettlement model. In keeping with that, we asked for an award amount we believe is sufficient to achieve our main goals, which are:
 - a) To provide every Island resident with an opportunity to relocate from the Island; and
 - b) To lay the groundwork for a new community that can grow and thrive beyond HUD's initial investment.
- Keep in mind, we are attempting to do something that is unprecedented, and this project is in the early stages of development. Once we have completed the planning phase, we will have a much better picture of how much it will cost to achieve these goals. The \$48 million is our best estimate of that cost at this time.

Are people going to be able to own their own homes in the new community?

- It will depend on the community's ownership structure, as well as any other funding sources that may be leveraged for the project. For example, if the community chooses to include affordable rental housing as part of the community, Low Income Housing Tax Credits may be part of the financial structure.
- Our role as the state's lead agency on this project is to envision all possible real estate structures for the resettlement. Then, with our assistance during the planning process, the community will come to an agreement on what type of housing makes the most sense for them.

How are you going to handle ownership of the Island after the resettlement?

- The state's first objective is to move residents out of harm's way through the resettlement project, while still allowing them continued use of the Island for cultural and recreational purposes.
- Secondly, we want to prevent future development on the Island, which means the state will have to acquire a minimal interest in real property on the Island – perhaps a conservation easement. We understand that the ability to continue to have access to the Island for as long as it exists is very important to the residents, which will be a result of the resettlement.

How will you deal with residents of the Island who don't want to be a part of the future community?

- While it is our hope everyone will want to be a part of the future community, we will offer a full buyout of property for households who do not wish to be included. Every Island resident will be offered an opportunity to relocate and build a life in a safer place – either through the new community, or on their own.
- If there are Island residents who aren't ready to take advantage of either of those options and wish to remain, that's OK too. Participation in the resettlement/relocation plan is strictly voluntary, and we will leave the options open as long as possible. If, at some point down the road, those residents change their minds and decide it is time to leave, we'll provide whatever assistance we still have available for them to do so.
- What we can do is provide good options for people who currently do not have any.

Is there anything else you would like me to know?

- Unfortunately, Louisiana is in the vanguard in experiencing subsidence, relative sea level rise and coastal land loss.
- Fortunately, we're also on the leading edge of resilience-building activities designed to protect, fortify and enhance our natural and built environments by using world-class science and technology.
- In addition to the Isle de Jean Charles project funding, the State was awarded \$39,750,000 for the LA SAFE project, a separate initiative to implement a risk-based policy framework for development in other coastal areas of the state. We are very proud HUD demonstrated confidence in our resilience framework and our ability to select and fund impactful resilience projects in our coastal area. We are at ground zero of the world's next great challenge, and we're poised to deliver a set of solutions that changes the way the world thinks about and interacts with the sea.
- We've heard the term "climate refugees" used several times to describe the residents of Isle de Jean Charles. We don't like this term and find it disrespectful to the residents. What the residents of Isle de Jean Charles are planning to participate in is an organized, reasoned retreat from a coast that is going away.

If I have follow-up questions, who can I contact for more information?

- If you need more information specific the IDJC resettlement project, please contact OCD-DRU PIO Janice Lovett ([225.342.1790](tel:225.342.1790)/Janice.lovett@la.gov) and she will try to arrange an interview with OCD-DRU Executive Director Patrick Forbes.
- If you need more information specific to Louisiana's coastal land loss, please contact CPRA Director of Communications Chuck Perrodin ([225.342.7615](tel:225.342.7615)/Chuck.perrodin@la.gov) and he will try to arrange an interview with CPRA Chief of Policy and Planning Bren Haase.

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The Disaster Recovery Unit within the Office of Community Development is dedicated to helping Louisiana's residents recover from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike and Isaac. As the state's central point for hurricane recovery, OCD-DRU manages the most extensive rebuilding effort in American history, working closely with local, state and federal partners to ensure that Louisiana recovers safer, stronger and smarter than before.