



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **GOV. EDWARDS ANNOUNCES \$100 MILLION FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS**

The state is accepting pre-applications from local and regional public entities to access \$100 million in anticipated federal funds for projects that will address immediate flood mitigation needs throughout Louisiana.

The funding is part of the state's proposed Action Plan to spend \$1.2 billion in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds. The state will soon submit this plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for approval and expects funding to be available in spring 2020. This step to solicit pre-applications will help ensure projects are ready for implementation when HUD approves the plan.

"Through this funding opportunity, we are prioritizing high-impact local projects that are already vetted and will provide immediate flood relief to communities and reduce known flood risks as quickly as possible," Gov. John Bel Edwards said. "This process will help address some of our state's most pressing flood protection needs while we prepare to spend hundreds of millions more on similar projects throughout our state in the coming years."

The state plans to allocate \$60 million of these funds statewide and to evenly distribute the remaining \$40 million to the state's eight [watershed regions](#). Any public entity is eligible to submit a project for consideration. [Regional steering committees](#) in each watershed region, which are in the process of being established, will select projects for their region that meet the low-risk, high-reward criteria used to guide all Round 1 funding decisions. The selected projects must align with the long-term resilience objectives of the [Louisiana Watershed Initiative](#).

The state will host in-person briefings, as well as technical assistance sessions, in each watershed region Dec. 2 – 11 to provide more information and answer questions from prospective applicants.

Upcoming regional briefing dates and locations are as follows:

- **9:30 a.m. Dec. 2 – Region 1**  
Coordinating and Development District  
4000 Viking Drive, Bossier City, LA 71111
- **9:30 a.m. Dec. 3 – Region 3**  
Ouachita Parish Emergency Operations Center



1000 New Natchitoches Road, West Monroe, LA 71292

- **9:30 a.m. Dec. 4 – Region 8**  
New Orleans Regional Planning Commission  
10 Veterans Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70124
- **9:30 a.m. Dec. 5 – Region 4**  
Calcasieu Parish Emergency Operations Center  
901 Lakeshore Drive, Lake Charles, LA 70601
- **9:30 a.m. Dec. 6 – Region 7**  
Bluebonnet Library  
9200 Bluebonnet Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810
- **9:30 a.m. Dec. 9 – Region 2**  
Miko Steak and Spirits  
3011 Chata Hina St., Jena, LA 71342
- **9:30 a.m. Dec. 10 – Region 5**  
Rosa Parks Transportation Center  
101 Jefferson St., Lafayette, LA 70501
- **9:30 a.m. Dec. 11 – Region 6**  
South Central Planning and Development Commission  
5058 W. Main St., Houma, LA 70360

For more information, click [here](#).

#### **About the Louisiana Watershed Initiative**

*Gov. John Bel Edwards established the **Council on Watershed Management** in 2018, which serves as the coordinated, interagency organization at the state level for watershed-based flood risk reduction. The **Louisiana Watershed Initiative** serves as the Council's programmatic arm under which all related efforts operate.*