



# Calcasieu Parish — Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

*A decade of progress through partnerships*

## Ten years of progress since hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Calcasieu Parish, home to the city of Lake Charles in southwestern Louisiana, sustained extensive damage from Hurricane Rita's high winds, heavy rains and devastating flooding when the storm made landfall near the Louisiana/Texas border Sept. 24, 2005, less than a month after Hurricane Katrina slammed the state and, to a lesser extent, Calcasieu Parish. Many homes and buildings were leveled to the ground. Ten years later, the parish has rebuilt even stronger than before with elevated, reinforced structures.

In the 10 years since Katrina and Rita struck the Louisiana coast, **\$372.5 million in federal funding** has been approved to help **Calcasieu Parish survivors, local governments and private nonprofits recover and rebuild**. This includes assistance for the parish and its cities to repair and rebuild disaster-damaged infrastructure, assistance to individuals for housing and other needs, and projects designed to mitigate damage from future natural disasters. Projects include roads, bridges, schools, police and fire departments and healthcare facilities.



*“The success of Louisiana’s recovery so far has been all about solidifying and strengthening partnerships. It’s about coming together, finding common ground and focusing on rebuilding communities that are stronger and more sustainable for the future.”*

**Mike Womack**  
*Director*  
**Louisiana Recovery Office**

### Individual Assistance

Nearly **\$237.5 million** was approved for nearly **88,000** Calcasieu Parish individuals and households. That includes nearly **\$207.3 million** for home repair and replacement costs and rental assistance. The remaining **\$30.2 million** helped survivors with other needs including repair or replacement of personal property, dental, medical and funeral costs, transportation and other disaster-related expenses.



### Public Assistance

Nearly **\$124 million** in FEMA Public Assistance grants has been obligated for recovery projects in Calcasieu Parish. This includes nearly **\$31.2 million** for public infrastructure, more than **\$27.6 million** for educational facilities, more than **\$2.8 million** for utilities, more than **\$1.4 million** for fire, police and other services, and more than **\$2.6 million** for health care facilities. Another **\$58.2 million** was obligated for debris removal and emergency measures taken to protect lives and property.



### Hazard Mitigation

FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program has pledged **\$1.86 billion** to fund projects designed to help make Louisiana communities stronger and safer. To date, nearly **\$1.4 billion** of the total has been provided to the state-administered program. In Calcasieu Parish, **26** mitigation projects have been approved for more than **\$11 million** in total funding from hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The top projects to receive grants in Calcasieu Parish include home and building elevations, modifications to existing structures to strengthen them against high winds and future damage and acquisition of homes in flood-prone areas.



*Recovery figures as of 5/1/2015*  
*Mitigation figures as of 6/15/2015*

# Calcasieu Parish Project Highlights



## Lake Charles Regional Airport Terminal — \$3.7 million

Hurricane Rita caused catastrophic damage to the terminal building at Lake Charles Regional Airport in Lake Charles. The facility was inundated and structurally compromised by storm surge. FEMA funding helped with replacement of the 31,000 square-foot pre-engineered metal building. FEMA obligated approximately \$3.7 million in Public Assistance grant funding for this project. The new facility is 44,328 square feet and was completed in October 2012.



## Burton Arena — \$3.4 million

Burton Arena, part of the Burton Complex in Lake Charles, was completely destroyed by the damaging winds caused by Hurricane Rita. FEMA funding includes the replacement of the 54,000 square-foot pre-engineered metal building. With seating for approximately 1,000 people, the facility is used for equestrian and rodeo events. FEMA obligated more than \$3.4 million in Public Assistance grant funding for this project. The new arena was completed in June 2012.



## Chennault International Airport Authority — \$13 million

Hurricane Rita destroyed Hanger B and Annex B at Chennault International Airport in Lake Charles. FEMA funding includes the permanent repairs and code upgrades of the 224,026 square-foot Hangar B and permanent repairs of the 27,020 square-foot Annex B. Both facilities are pre-engineered metal buildings. FEMA obligated more than \$13 million in Public Assistance grant funding for this project. Repairs of both buildings were completed in July 2008.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from and mitigate all hazards.

For more information, visit <https://beta.fema.gov/Katrina10>. News Desk: 225-907-7534