



Cameron Parish — Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

A decade of progress through partnerships

Ten years of progress since hurricanes Katrina and Rita

Cameron Parish lies in the southwest corner of Louisiana, the heel of the boot. Bordering the Gulf of Mexico, the parish bore the brunt of Hurricane Rita's high winds, heavy rains and devastating flooding when the storm made landfall near the Louisiana/ Texas border Sept. 24, 2005. Many homes and buildings were leveled to the ground. Less than a month earlier, Hurricane Katrina slammed the eastern portion of the state, resulting in damage in Cameron Parish to a lesser extent. 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, **\$273.1 million in federal funding** has been approved to help **Cameron 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 health care 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 **\$38.6 million** was approved for more than **4,300** Cameron Parish individuals and households. That includes more than **\$23.3 million** for home repair and replacement costs and rental assistance. The remaining **\$15.2 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

More than **\$223.5 million** in FEMA Public Assistance grants has been obligated for **recovery projects** in Cameron Parish. This includes nearly **\$78 million** for public infrastructure, nearly **\$67 million** for educational facilities, more than **\$27.8 million** for utilities, more than **\$26 million** for health care facilities, and more than **\$12.4 million** for fire, police and other services. An additional **\$12.5 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 Cameron Parish, **six** mitigation projects have been approved for more than **\$11 million** in total funding from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The top projects to have received grants in Cameron Parish include home and building elevations, modifications to existing structures to protect against high winds and future damage and drainage improvements



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

Cameron Parish Project Highlights



South Cameron Memorial Hospital — \$26.2 million

Hurricane Rita caused catastrophic damage to South Cameron Memorial Hospital, resulting in the building being inundated and structurally compromised by the storm surge. Lower Cameron Hospital Service District replaced the original 26,000 square-foot facility with a new, approximately 31,000 square-foot hospital. FEMA funding included the replacement and elevation of the new building above the flood plain requirements. Construction of the new hospital was completed in September 2010. FEMA has obligated nearly \$26.2 million in Public Assistance grant funding for the project.



South Cameron High School/Elementary — \$27.4 million

Hurricane Katrina completely destroyed South Cameron High School. Cameron Parish School Board replaced the original 95,000 square-foot facility with a new, approximately 101,000 square-foot school. FEMA funded the replacement of South Cameron High School as a consolidated project with South Cameron Elementary School. Included in the funding were temporary facilities during the demolition and reconstruction of the high school, as well as the replacement of food, text materials and other contents. FEMA has obligated more than \$27.4 million in Public Assistance grant funding for the project. Work was completed on the new Pre-k through 12th grade school in February 2011.



Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge — \$11.4 million

Hurricane Rita struck the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries' Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge with a 14-foot-high tidal surge that completely flooded the site. The tidal surge caused severe scouring of the refuge's approximately 51-mile-long levee system, which protects the fresh water portions of the site from salt water infiltration from the Gulf of Mexico. More than 1.4 million cubic yards of soil were washed away. The project included replacing the scoured portion of the levee with soil material dredged from the adjacent canal and deposited to the top of the levee and reshaping the dredged material. FEMA obligated approximately \$11.4 million in Public Assistance grant funding for this project.



Cameron Recreation/Gymnasium Building — \$4.5 million

Hurricane Rita destroyed the Cameron Recreation/Gymnasium Building. Its foundation was undermined by storm surge. The original building consisted of two block and brick masonry buildings with standing seam metal roofs with a combined 13,150 square feet. A new, single facility was constructed with the same approximate total square footage. FEMA has obligated approximately \$4.5 million in Public Assistance grant funding for this project. Construction of the new Cameron Recreation/Gymnasium was completed in June 2011.

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