



# Plaquemines Parish — Hurricane Katrina

*A decade of progress through partnerships*

## Ten years of progress since Hurricane Katrina

Plaquemines Parish is the gateway to the nation. Encompassing the first 70 miles of the Mississippi River, 460 million tons of cargo enter the United States through Plaquemines Parish. The parish is also home to 78 lakes and hundreds of miles of coastline. The parish sustained catastrophic damage from high winds and flooding when Hurricane Katrina made landfall Aug. 29, 2005. Ten years later, the parish has rebuilt even stronger than before with elevated, reinforced structures.

In the 10 years since Katrina struck the Louisiana coast, nearly **\$986 million in federal funding** has been approved to help Plaquemines 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



*“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 **\$126.2 million** was approved for nearly **13,500** Plaquemines Parish individuals and households. That includes nearly **\$86.8 million** for home repair and replacement costs and rental assistance. The remaining **\$39.4 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 **\$835 million** in FEMA Public Assistance grants has been obligated for recovery projects in Plaquemines Parish. This includes more than **\$172 million** for public infrastructure, more than **\$207 million** for educational facilities, nearly **\$146.4 million** for fire, police and other services, more than **\$86 million** for utilities, and nearly **\$41.3 million** for health care facilities. Another **\$181.4 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 Plaquemines Parish, **11** mitigation projects have been approved for more than **\$24.7 million** in total funding from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The top projects to receive grants in Plaquemines Parish include home and building elevations, modifications to existing structures to protect against high winds and future damage and drainage improvements to protect communities from floodwater.



**FEMA**

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

# Plaquemines Parish Project Highlights



## **Plaquemines Parish Government Complex — \$16.5 million**

The Plaquemines Parish Government Complex facility was severely damaged during Hurricane Katrina. FEMA funding was used to help cover repair costs. The parish chose to seek funding under the Public Assistance Alternate Procedures Pilot Program under the Sandy Recovery Act of 2013 for renovations and new construction at the proposed Government Complex in Belle Chasse. Specifically, funding was for the demolition of existing buildings at seven sites and the renovation of four buildings. One of the four buildings will serve as an emergency operations center, and the remaining buildings will provide office space for parish and council staff. This funding also included the cost of repairs to canopies and walkways between buildings and the construction of an open air pavilion, and baseball and softball quads for general public use. Funding for the construction of paved parking lots, asphalt overlays of roadways and the installation of street lights in and around the complex was also included. FEMA obligated approximately \$16.5 million for the project. Construction is underway.



## **Plaquemines Medical Center — \$25 million**

Flooding from Hurricane Katrina severely damaged the Plaquemines Medical Center, a provider of emergency and non-emergency health care services in Plaquemines Parish. Damaged facilities included Plaquemines Medical Center, a 27,392 square-foot one-story building consisting of four wings, and the adjacent Families In Need of Services building, a 2,975 square-foot one-story, wood-framed residential style structure. Plaquemines Medical Center Service District #1 requested to utilize the eligible funding from these two facilities to construct a consolidated facility in an alternate location. The design included additional function and capacity beyond that of the damaged buildings, so a Consolidated Improved Project was requested. The new, 47,000 square-foot facility is elevated and includes dual vehicle ramps, a rooftop helipad and a pharmacy. The facility is now open and serving the medical needs of Plaquemines residents 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week. FEMA obligated \$25 million in Public Assistance grant funding for the project.



## **Plaquemines Fire Stations — \$29.6 million**

Nearly \$29.6 million in FEMA Public Assistance grant funding covered costs for the repair and replacement of 12 damaged fire stations and for the provision of temporary facilities for the fire stations throughout Plaquemines Parish. The funding also helped cover costs associated with repair and replacement of damaged vehicles and equipment. The facilities include fire stations and substations for Belle Chasse, Boothville-Venice, Braithwaite, Buras, Lake Hermitage, Obrien, Pointe a la Hache, Port Sulfur and Scottsville. Construction is complete.

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