



St. Bernard Parish — Hurricane Katrina

A decade of progress through partnerships

Ten years of progress since Hurricane Katrina

St. Bernard Parish, which lies east of New Orleans, claims to be "New Orleans' most historic neighbor" and is home to Los Isleños, the descendants of thousands of Spaniards who migrated to Louisiana from the Canary Islands in the late 18th century. After Hurricane Katrina, nearly every building in St. Bernard Parish experienced flood damage; up to 12 feet of floodwater carrying oil and other toxins submerged parish structures. The then-president of St. Bernard Parish declared every home unlivable. A tent city set up in Chalmette housed response and recovery workers. Ten years later, the parish has rebuilt even stronger than before with elevated, reinforced structures.

Since Katrina struck the Louisiana coast, more than **\$2.3 billion in federal funding** has been approved to help **St. Bernard 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.



“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

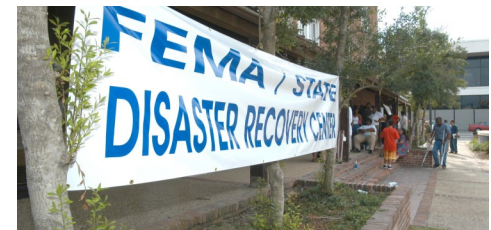
More than \$368.4 million was approved for more than 34,200 St. Bernard Parish individuals and households. That includes more than \$239.7 million for home repair and replacement costs and rental assistance. The remaining \$128.7 million helped survivors with other needs including repair or replacement of personal property, dental, medical and funeral costs, transportation and other disaster-related expenses.

Public Assistance

More than \$1.87 billion in FEMA Public Assistance grants has been obligated for recovery projects in St. Bernard Parish. This includes more than \$469 million for public infrastructure, nearly \$365 million for utilities, more than \$305.6 million for educational facilities, nearly \$70 million for fire, police and other services, and nearly \$3.8 million for health care facilities. Another nearly \$658 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 St. Bernard Parish, 13 mitigation projects have been approved for nearly \$64.3 million in total funding from Hurricane Katrina. The top projects to receive grants in St. Bernard Parish include home and building elevations, modifications to existing structures to strengthen them against high winds and future damage, drainage improvements to protect communities from floodwaters and acquisition of structures in flood-prone areas.



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



St. Bernard Parish Project Highlights



Consolidated School Project — \$149.8 million

Katrina severely damaged 15 schools owned by St. Bernard Parish School Board. FEMA approved the board's plans utilizing funding from the 15 schools, as well as infrastructure projects throughout the school system, to construct nine new educational and support facilities. The school board determined that the nine new facilities would more appropriately reflect the needs of the general public than would repair or replacement of the 15 damaged schools. Under a law addressing funding for educational facilities damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FEMA allowed for 100-percent federal funding for the project, obligating nearly \$149.8 million in Public Assistance grant funds. Completed facilities include: New Lacoste Elementary School; Cultural and Performing Arts Center; Transportation, Maintenance and Storage Building; Arabi Elementary School Gym; J.J. Davies Elementary School enclosed walkway; and New Gautier Elementary School. Construction is ongoing for Chalmette High School and its baseball field house, football field house and storage facility as well as the Maumus Center and Planetarium. **Medical**



Sheriff's Office Substations — \$6.2 million

The St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office's St. Claude Substation, Arabi Substation and Evidence Storage Facility were all damaged and found eligible for replacement by FEMA. The sheriff's office chose to use eligible funding from these projects to build three new substations. The three substations will cover a larger service area than the previous substations and will maintain pre-disaster functions. Under a law addressing funding for police, fire and criminal justice facilities damaged by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FEMA allowed 100-percent federal funding for this alternate project. FEMA obligated nearly \$6.2 million in Public Assistance grant funding for the work. The new St. Claude Substation is completed. Construction of the other two substations is ongoing.



34th Judicial District Courthouse — \$21.7 million

The historic St. Bernard Parish 34th Judicial District Courthouse, built in 1939, suffered extensive damage as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The recovery work required careful removal and recycling of historic building fabric, such as paneling and hardware that defined the character of various spaces within the facility. The project included a hazard mitigation measure that elevated two emergency generators and electrical equipment within a second-floor addition built over an existing concrete roof. The repaired courthouse and annex has been returned to use by the community and is now more resistant to future disaster damage. FEMA obligated nearly \$21.7 million for the project.

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