



## Entry Form 2018 Annual Awards for Program Excellence

**Entry Deadline: Friday, June 15, 2018, Midnight ET**

Each entry must include a completed entry form. Please complete a form for each entry your HFA is submitting. The completed entry form will become the first page of your entry.

This form is a fillable PDF. Type your information into the entry form and save it as a PDF. Please do not write on or scan the entry form. **Questions: Call 202-624-7710 or email [awards@ncsha.org](mailto:awards@ncsha.org).**

**Entry Title:** Enter your entry's title exactly as you wish it to be published on the NCSHA website and in the awards program.

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**Category:**

**Subcategory:**

**Entry Summary:** A 15-word (max) summary of the program, project, or practice you are entering.

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**HFA:**

**HFA Staff Contact:**

**Phone:**

**Email:**

**Visual Aids:**

Are you mailing to NCSHA 10 copies of any visual aids that cannot be included in your entry PDF?      Yes      No

**Payment:**

My HFA is mailing a check to NCSHA.  
My HFA is emailing the credit card authorization form to [awards@ncsha.org](mailto:awards@ncsha.org).

**Louisiana Housing Corporation**  
**Louisiana's Housing Heroes**  
**Special Needs Housing | Combating Homelessness**

**Program Summary**

Louisiana Housing Corporation and Louisiana Housing Authority helped 287 families secure permanent housing following the worst natural disaster since Hurricane Sandy by developing statewide public-private partnerships while limiting the use of federal funds to achieve results.

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**Historic Floods Strike Louisiana Twice**

Since Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, Louisiana has been in a continuous state of recovery. While recovering from a disaster is an arduous and daunting process, the Louisiana Housing Corporation and its subsidiary Louisiana Housing Authority have made significant strides in improving its disaster response efforts. LHC has developed a comprehensive disaster response program that quickly and efficiently houses displaced families following a disaster. As a result, the LHC is considered the go-to experts for disaster planning and recovery in Louisiana and nationwide.

In 2016, Louisiana experienced two historic storms that caused widespread flooding across the state. The 'August Flood,' considered the worst storm to strike the United States since Hurricane Sandy, dumped 7.1 trillion gallons of water - more than three times as much rain as Hurricane Katrina. This torrential storm damaged an estimated 146,000 residential homes (109,000 flooded) totaling \$3.8 billion in property damage. This sweeping devastation in high and low flood risk areas forced thousands of families to move into shelters.

LHC immediately activated the Disaster Response Task Force, consisting of representatives from local, state and federal government agencies, non-profits and the private sector, to prevent widespread homelessness across Louisiana. Due to their vast disaster response experience and knowledge, LHC was equipped to instantaneously implement processes that would mitigate the number of individuals displaced after the floods.

By utilizing a unique combination of funding sources including the Emergency Solutions Grant, HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance and State Housing Trust Funds totaling \$1.35 million, LHC secured permanent housing for working families, seniors, persons with special needs and people experiencing homelessness living in emergency shelters and temporary housing supported by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA).

SOURCES OF FUNDING AND USES				
Funding Source	Investment	Assisted Households	Population	Purpose
Emergency Solutions Grant	\$657,997	167	Households living in temporary housing past deadline	Exit hotels and emergency shelters
State Housing Trust Funds	\$67,007	29	Households within 31%-80% Area Median Income	Exit hotels and emergency shelters
HOME Tenant Based Rental Assistance	\$610,000	51	Households with seniors or people with special needs	Exit emergency shelters

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**Louisiana's Housing Heroes**  
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SOURCES OF FUNDING AND USES				
Funding Source	Investment	Assisted Households	Population	Purpose
<b>Baton Rouge Area Foundation</b>	\$10,000	40	Households in East Baton Rouge Parish	Assist with rental fees i.e. deposits, application fee, background check, etc.
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$1,345,004	287	<b>Permanent housing was secured for all households.</b>	

LHC also managed a program that covered hotel expenses for qualifying individuals and families until every displaced person found permanent housing. As a result, FEMA was able to end the Transitional Shelter Assistance (TSA) Program sooner than the normal operations of the program. TSA provided short-term lodging assistance for evacuees who were unable to return home following the flood.

### **LHC Launches Louisiana's Housing Heroes and Housing Fairs**

The ability to immediately house individuals and families following a disaster is critical; however, this can be a challenging and lengthy process as hotels and shelters quickly fill to capacity. To reduce the timeline associated with housing displaced families, LHC launched *Louisiana Housing Heroes*.

In light of the dire need for quality, safe, affordable and accessible housing following the Great Floods of 2016, LHC in partnership with Governor John Bel Edwards and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), kicked off a statewide campaign - *Louisiana Housing Heroes* (March 2017). The campaign consisted of a comprehensive outreach strategy to property managers and owners across the affected parishes asking them to pledge to make their vacant units available for occupancy immediately following a major disaster. Because the devastation was so widespread, this initiative appealed to property managers and owners as they understood that even one unit could make a real difference in the state's recovery efforts.

This ongoing initiative resulted in the identification of more than 600 units across Louisiana. Many of the Housing Heroes waived security deposits and the first month's rent to assist families already experiencing financial hardships due to the floods. Aligning with the Governor's Office and HUD, enabled LHC to reach a much broader audience and ultimately register more Housing Heroes.

To expedite the delivery of services, LHC launched a series of Housing Fairs in the area of greatest impact. Housing Fairs served as a one-stop-shop, making it easier for households to find solutions to their housing needs. By participating in the Housing Fair, attendees were able to:

- complete Rapid Re-Housing applications and receive eligibility decision onsite
- receive a Rapid Re-Housing voucher
- connect with case managers
- meet with property managers and landlords
- view units and sign leases

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Offering this combination of services streamlined the housing process and significantly reduced the wait time to secure adequate housing. A total of 432 households were referred to the LHC for assistance due to their inability to return to their damaged dwelling - making them eligible to participate in the Housing Fair. Of the 432 eligible households, 181 attended the consecutive Housing Fairs. Ultimately, 100% of eligible attendees secured permanent housing, and LHC was able to alleviate the threat of homelessness completely.

Housing Fair Results				
Eligible Renters (pre-flood)	Housing Fair Attendees	Rapid Rehousing Eligible	Rapid Rehousing Ineligible	Same Day Placement
432	181	179	2	6

In addition to *Louisiana Housing Heroes* and the Housing Fairs, LHC maintained an online database ([LaHousingSearch.org](http://LaHousingSearch.org)) that allowed property owners and managers to market their vacant rental units, enabling renters to search for available units.

To sustain this three-prong program, LHC activates Housing Fairs as a method to provide housing rapidly by utilizing funding made available through a combination of programs such as Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing and Non-Elderly Disabled.

**Louisiana's Housing Heroes Sets a Blueprint for Success**

In December of 2017, LHC worked with the City of Baton Rouge to help house people in an area densely populated by individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Under the direction of Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome, the City mirrored Louisiana Housing Heroes by making a compelling request to property owners and managers in Baton Rouge to help house homeless families. As a result, 31 adults and five (5) children are no longer homeless.

Most recently, the Missouri Housing Development Commission expressed an interest in replicating Louisiana Housing Heroes and requested information on model design and implementation.

**Striving to End Homelessness**

In 2014, LHC adopted Louisiana's plan to end homelessness - Ma Maison (My Home in French). Since then, homelessness has continued to decline. However, research shows that disasters tend to cause large-scale homelessness. As Louisiana continues to experience record-setting catastrophes and a significant housing shortage, Louisiana's Housing Heroes offers a real opportunity to reduce the number of people affected by a disaster. This inclusive strategy to identify and assess the readiness of units critical to the ongoing recovery is the nexus of affordability, availability, and accessibility.

Louisiana's Housing Heroes is a cost-effective disaster response solution as it doesn't require funding to guarantee placement - only willing property owners and managers.

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**Partner Quote**

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

"The purpose of this letter is to recognize the Louisiana Housing Authority (LHA) staff for their incredible dedication, hard work, and exemplary leadership to assist individuals and families who were homeless or at risk of homelessness after the historic flooding in August of this year. Despite the personal loss, many staff members – led by Nicole Sweazy, the Executive Director of LHA – made the difficult decision to step away from their personal recovery and reconstruction to aid the community. Time and time again, LHA staff demonstrated their commitment to the people of Louisiana by working long hours and finding creative solutions and ways to expedite the processes to help those with greater needs. Without their involvement, the City of Baton Rouge and the State of Louisiana would certainly be facing an increase in homelessness after this flooding."

**Ann Marie Oliva**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs

## **Louisiana's Housing Heroes**

### Call to Serve & Program Description

#### **Louisiana's Housing Heroes Program**

*Collaborative Approach to Housing Solutions*

In light of the dire need for quality, safe, affordable and accessible housing following the 2016 floods in northern and southern Louisiana and February tornadoes, Governor John Bel Edwards, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) are kicking off a statewide campaign called the Louisiana's Housing Heroes Initiative. The initiative consists of an outreach campaign to landlords and property owners across affected parishes in an effort to target viable small and large scale housing opportunities.



#### **Overview**

The Housing Heroes collaborative will work to identify housing opportunities that are available immediately as well as those that are 30 days, 60 days and 90 days away from coming online. Louisiana is experiencing a significant housing shortage, and this initiative will promote an inclusive strategy to identify and assess the readiness of units critical to the ongoing recovery and ultimately the nexus of affordability, availability and accessibility.

The state experienced severe storms and flooding in both March (Disaster Number 4263) and August (Disaster Number 4277) 2016, resulting in 56 of the state's 64 parishes receiving a federal disaster declaration. From the March event, more than 16,462 homes had Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Verified Loss, also affecting 5,222 renters experiencing FEMA Verified Loss (FVL) as well. The total number of households impacted were 21,684. The August flooding event resulted in the flooding of more than 68,380 homes with FVL and impacting 23,248 renters, for a total of 91,628 impacted households. These figures add to the pre-disaster shortage of affordable rental housing that plagued the entire state.

#### **Approach**

The basic concept of the Housing Heroes initiative is to use outreach tools such as the media, statewide associations, chambers of commerce, and state and local governments to appeal to single and multi-family landlords who have affordable rental units. These units could include apartments, single family homes and mobile homes.

#### **How Will the Program Work?**

The two-tiered Housing Heroes initiative will allow for immediate access to properties ready for occupancy, as well as funding possibilities for landlords who have properties in need of repair. Possible funding sources could be from non-profits, philanthropic organizations and/or state Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds. These approaches would require additional program development to ensure appropriate incentives to participate and affordability.

March 21, 2017

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#### **Louisiana's Housing Heroes Program**

*Collaborative Approach to Housing Solutions*

- **Tier 1 – Occupancy Ready Units:** Tier 1 is the easiest and most expedient option because it does not involve providing funding to property owners. This option is similar to the approach HUD and homeless partners use to help identify rentals for homeless veterans participating in the HUD-VASH program. It has been implemented to end veteran homelessness in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Houma-Terrebonne and Shreveport.

**Note:** Housing units deemed **Occupancy Ready** will meet all housing quality standards and appropriate rehabilitation standards adopted by this initiative. Federal and State partners, in conjunction with Local municipalities and housing agencies will provide Technical Assistance.

- **Tier 2 – Units in Need of Repair:** Providing funding for repairs is the real incentive in this option, but it would involve more time and effort. Some critical areas that would need to be addressed include:
  - Qualifications and cap on repair funds
  - Requirements for landlords to sign a contract that outlines requirements for repair funds, time limit on repairs, and affordability
  - Vetting of property owners/landlords to ensure they are in good standing
  - Non-comps and survivors with GFIP policies limited to the FEMA IHP max grant
  - Establishing requirements for single family homes, multi-family units, and mobile homes
  - Execution of MOUs for non-profits and for-profits
  - Coordination by the Office of Community Development and LHC to determine requirements and restrictions for use of CDBG-DR funds
  - Legal aspects governing the program

#### **How Can Property Managers and Landlords Participate?**

The "ask" to you as property managers and landlords is to make units available and pledge to keep them affordable for an established affordability period. **The appeal is that you personally -- even if you only have one unit -- can make a real difference in the state's recovery efforts.**

#### **For More Information about Louisiana's Housing Heroes Program**

##### **Contact:**

Gay Owens | [aowens@lhc.la.gov](mailto:aowens@lhc.la.gov)  
Louisiana Housing Authority  
1690 North Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802  
(225) 242-1390 | (225) 342-8891



March 21, 2017

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**Louisiana Housing Corporation**  
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## Louisiana's Housing Heroes Success Story

### Sunquest Properties

#### Nicole Sweazy

**From:** Randall, Earl [earl.randall@hud.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 7:36 AM  
**To:** Nicole Sweazy; Crystal Jones-Taylor; Raymond Rodriguez (LHC); Lathon, Harold  
**Subject:** FW: Sunquest Properties / Brockman Family in March and August Floods

Housing Heroes Highlight - Sunquest Properties (Ralph & Alan Brockman)

**From:** Alan Brockman [mailto:Alan@sunquestproperties.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 4:39 PM  
**To:** Randall, Earl <earl.randall@hud.gov>  
**Cc:** Ana Lewis <ana@sunquestproperties.onmicrosoft.com>  
**Subject:** Sunquest Properties / Brockman Family in March and August Floods

Mr. Randall -

I appreciate you including us in the "Louisiana Housing Heroes" effort and am writing as per your request to give you an overview of our involvement with both the March floods in Monroe and the August flood in Denham Springs ... First, I'd like to give you a little background on our family business that has been involved in multi-family development, construction, and management for over 30 years ... My father Ralph Brockman began his career as a single family homebuilder, and about 40 years ago he decided to venture into building and developing multi-family properties ... Over the course of the past 40 years, together with the assistance of his brother Bill Brockman who ran our management company, he has built Sunquest Properties into a 3,600 unit multi-family management and ownership portfolio that is well balanced with approximately 1,800 affordable units and 1,800 conventional units throughout Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas... We have a long history of dealing with HUD, RD, LHC, and housing authorities throughout these regions, and both floods in 2016 tested us like no other year in our history ...

My uncle Bill retired from the company in 2011, and I have since been in charge of our management operations at Sunquest ... The bulk of our portfolio is located near our home base of Monroe, so when the rains started in March and didn't stop for a week, we were quick to take action ... Having been involved in previous flood efforts in Monroe in both 1991 and 1981, we went to work immediately to help not only our residents affected by the flood, but also thousands of neighbors, friends, and family ... In the March floods in Monroe, we lost a total of 277 apartment units as follows:

- Cotton Bayou I and II: 51-units of LIHTC single family homes
- Meadowbrook: 80-units of elderly low income HUD HAP development
- Seasons Apartments and Townhouses: 85 units
- Riverwood Apartments: 61 units

As this was a 1,000 year flooding event, very little flood insurance was required by the mortgagors on these properties ... We in turn were dealt a substantial financial blow, but we knew at the time of the storm that the best thing to do was to roll up our sleeves, help our residents, and try and clean up as best we could so we could rebuild as quickly as possible ... On the third day when the waters receded, we set up a command center at Riverwood Apartments which is centrally located in town with ServiceMaster's national disaster recovery response team ... Our maintenance crew immediately went to work with their assistance helping our displaced residents salvage what they could from their homes, while our managers contacted residents families, shelters, food banks, and other volunteer organizations to assist all of our residents... We worked hand in hand with these organizations to relocate our residents into other vacant units that we managed as well as where we could

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find other housing for them, while at the same time coordinating a monumental effort to demo, sanitize, and rebuild 277 residents' unit ... The rebuild process took approximately 6 months, and we began moving displaced residents back into our properties in late September ...

While we were at the tail end of rebuilding our Monroe properties, another weather event was brewing in August that looked similar to what we had faced in Monroe in March ... We in turn contacted all of our managers and checked all flood structures in advance of the impending rains, which instead started in Denham Springs and Baton Rouge and dumped nearly the same amount of rainfall in these areas as we received in March in Monroe ... My family and Sunquest Properties also own and manage a 45-unit elderly low income HAP development by the name of Livingston Manor in Denham Springs, and one of the residents contacted me the Saturday the rains began via Facebook to let me know of the encroaching waters ...

I immediately called the Denham fire and police departments and was finally able to get through after an hour of calling ... The responder informed me that if the situation was not life threatening, then they would be there to evacuate the residents in time as they were currently working to rescue people from roofs ... I then let the responder know that though it wasn't life threatening at the time of my call, in another 5 hours it would be for some of our residents who were elderly and couldn't walk ... I therefore asked her if I should come down with a boat to assist our residents, to which she responded they needed all the help they could get ...

I then immediately contacted a friend of mine in Monroe who worked with me in the Monroe floods, and he and I departed within 30 minutes with a bag of clothes and his airboat on a trailer ... As we drove the 3.5 hours to Baton Rouge, I contacted Monroe Mayor Jamie Mayo and Senator Mike Walsworth who in turn put us in touch with the head of the State Fire Marshal's command center and I requested their assistance in navigating to Denham Springs around the flooded roadways ... They were in turn able to send a rescue team to evacuate our residents at Livingston by the time we made it to Woodville, and upon our asking them if they still needed our help they responded "Absolutely".... We then arrived in Baton Rouge and worked 24-hours around the clock evacuating residents from various subdivisions ...

The flood in Denham Springs was another 1,000 year flooding event with very little flood insurance, so we faced yet another total loss for our 45-elderly residents ... Again, we went to work immediately assisting them by whatever means we could with locating alternate housing, supplies, shelters, food, locating family, etc... We again commenced the demo and clean up after our residents salvaged what they could from their homes, and we have since been working with the numerous partners in this syndicated investment in an effort to acquire their interest so that we can rebuild the property for our residents ...

Throughout this process, we have worked hand in hand with various agencies from Keith Cunningham and Robert McNeese at Louisiana Housing Corporation, Joe Pennel with the executive disaster recovery team at HUD in Ft. Worth, our insurers, FEMA, numerous syndicated investors and lenders, and most importantly 322 displaced residents from the elderly income restricted to upper income conventional units ... We have weathered these storms, and they have been a humbling lesson for us all throughout the state ... Nevertheless, my family will remain committed to providing quality affordable and conventional housing to all of our residents, and we will be here for our lenders, state agencies, and whomever at the time of need to see a project through to being rebuilt ... We are here to stay, and we appreciate your recognizing our efforts ...

Respectfully,

Alan W. Brockman  
Sunquest Properties, Inc.  
#3 Bancroft Circle  
Monroe, LA 71201  
Office 318.325.3735

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**Louisiana Housing Corporation**  
**Louisiana's Housing Heroes**  
**Special Needs Housing | Combating Homelessness**

**Louisiana's Housing Heroes Kickoff Invitation**  
U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development

**Nicole Sweazy**

**From:** Randall, Earl [earl.randall@hud.gov]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 20, 2017 7:47 AM  
**To:** Raymond Rodriguez (LHC); Nicole Sweazy; Crystal Jones-Taylor; Lathon, Harold  
**Subject:** FW: Louisiana Housing Heroes

Housing Heroes Highlight - IDP Housing, LP & Triumph Housing Management (Mike McLeod & Paul Ponte) Tangi Village

**From:** Mike McLeod [mailto:MMcLeod@idphousing.com]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 18, 2017 10:14 AM  
**To:** Randall, Earl <earl.randall@hud.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Louisiana Housing Heroes

Mr Randall,

We will be there along with Paul Ponte and David Gates with Triumph Housing Management. They are the Management Company for Tangi Village.

Thanks,

Mike McLeod  
IDP Housing, LP  
114 West Hill Ave.  
Valdosta, GA 31601  
229-219-6764 (Office)  
229-560-5398 (Mobile)

**From:** Randall, Earl <earl.randall@hud.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 18, 2017 10:47:54 AM  
**To:** Mike McLeod  
**Subject:** Louisiana Housing Heroes

Good Morning Housing Partners,

Please join Governor John Bel Edwards and the Housing Recovery Support Function (RSF) in announcing "Louisiana Housing Heroes" a statewide outreach Initiative to build affordable rental housing capacity. The Louisiana Housing Heroes Kickoff will be held **Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 10:00 am at the Louisiana Housing Corporation, 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808 at 10:00am.**



In light of the dire need for quality, safe, affordable and accessible housing following the 2016 floods in northern and southern Louisiana, Governor Edwards, the Housing RSF and the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) have proposed a statewide campaign called Louisiana

Housing Heroes. The initiative will consist of an outreach campaign to landlords and property owners across affected parishes in an effort to target viable small and large scale housing opportunities to help combat our critical affordable housing crisis.

The Housing Heroes collaborative will work to identify housing opportunities that are available immediately as well as those that are 30 days, 60 days and 90 days away from coming online. Louisiana is experiencing a significant housing shortage, and this program will promote an inclusive strategy to identify and assess the readiness of units critical to the ongoing recovery and ultimately the nexus of affordability, availability and accessibility. Your attendance and participation will be essential to the success of this program. This initiative will be launched on Tuesday and will roll out throughout the State.

Please join us for this important recovery event!!!

Earl Randall, III  
Housing Recovery Support Function Field Coordinator  
US Department of Housing and Urban Development

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## Louisiana's Housing Heroes

### In the News

The Advocate

BRProud.com

### Property owners asked to 'be a hero'

State: 45,000 flood victims need affordable housing

BY WILL SENTELL  
wsentell@theadvocate.com

With more than 45,000 flood victims still living with relatives, the state Tuesday launched a statewide effort to find property owners and landlords who can provide short- and long-term housing.

"This is obviously incredibly important," said Gov. John Bel Edwards, who took part in the kickoff.

The plan is called the Louisiana Housing Heroes Initiative. It is aimed at finding property owners who can offer affordable housing, including help for those who need financial assistance to make units livable.

The initiative will consist of an outreach effort through associations, the media, chambers of commerce and others to landlords and property owners in hopes of finding relief for flood victims.

Charmaine Roddy, general manager of the Fairway View apartments in Baton Rouge, was among those interested who attended the announcement.

Roddy and others took turns describing their interest in helping, then having their pictures taken with the governor. Roddy said she will have 20 units available on April 17 and tenants will be offered the same benefits as those who sought help immediately after the flood in south Louisiana.

That includes no deposit and the first month free.

"They need to apply early," Roddy said.

Edwards said that, in the past year, 56 of the state's 64 parishes have been declared federal disaster areas because of flooding and other problems.

That accounts for 85 percent of Louisiana's population, he said.

"We are asking for property owners to step up and be a hero," Edwards said.

➤ See HOUSING, page 6A

### HOUSING

Continued from page 1A

The governor also said the state needs another \$1 billion in federal aid strictly for housing on top of the \$130 million already received.

"We did not have the capacity we needed before all this," he said.

Edwards said 35 percent of households in Louisiana are renters.

Part of the effort is to find housing that is ready today.

The other is to find property owners whose housing needs repair.

Funds could come from state block grants, nonprofit groups and philanthropic organizations.

"We are faced with a critical housing shortage where every unit counts," said Earl Randall III, field coordinator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"This is significant; this is monumental," Randall said.

HUD and the Louisiana Housing Corp. are in charge of the program.

"This is an opportunity to demonstrate what Louisiana can do to help communities come back," said Keith Cunningham, executive director of the LHC.

Aside from the more than 45,000 flood victims living with relatives seven months after the south Louisiana flood, another 373 people are living in hotels, officials said.

HUD officials consider those in hotels to be homeless.

The governor said about 107,000 housing units are needed.

The August flood left more than 23,000 renters without a place to live.

The flooding in north Louisiana in March 2016 left another 5,000-plus renters homeless.

Tornadoes that struck in February worsened the problem.

The latest effort follows by seven months the time when the rental housing shortage became obvious.

After the flood in August, there was a crush of demand for emergency housing, and little to offer.

Edwards said he encounters the issue regularly on travels around the state.

"I still meet people who are not doing well as a result of the flood," he said.

The governor has made repeated trips to Washington, D.C., with more to come, seeking federal aid to address housing and other needs in the aftermath of the flood.

For information, email [asowens@lhc.la.gov](mailto:asowens@lhc.la.gov).

Follow Will Sentell on Twitter, @WillSentell.

## Louisiana Housing Heroes Initiative to launch Tuesday, March 21

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BATON ROUGE, LA (LOCAL 33) - Governor John Bel Edwards in collaboration with the U. S Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Louisiana Housing Corporation is launching the Louisiana Housing Heroes Initiative on Tuesday, March 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the Louisiana Housing Corporation, 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA.

"I am asking all owners and managers of rental housing to help our citizens who were displaced by the severe flooding last year by working with us in dedicating available rental housing to help the families and individuals who are still in need," said Gov. Edwards. "Owners and managers are the state's greatest asset to ensure everyone needing an affordable rental unit has a safe home. The request is to let us know if you will commit to the Louisiana Housing Heroes."

Louisiana Housing Heroes is a statewide initiative to increase affordable rental housing capacity as a result of the 2016 floods in Louisiana. The initiative will consist of an outreach campaign to landlords and property owners in the parishes affected by the flooding in order to target viable housing units.

The two-tiered Louisiana Housing Heroes Initiative would allow for immediate access to properties ready for occupancy.

Louisiana is in dire need of decent, safe, affordable, and accessible housing. This initiative will help identify housing units that are immediately available as well as those within a short window of availability.

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## **Housing Fairs**

In Action



HOUSING FAIR ATTENDANCE



LHA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NICOLE SWEAZY ASSISTING FAMILY



HOUSING FAIR PARTNERS INCLUDING HUD AND FEMA



LHC, LHA AND PARTNERS CONDUCTING CONDUCTING INTAKE



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## **Louisiana Housing Corporation and Louisiana Housing Authority Assists City of Baton Rouge with Homelessness Initiative**

[BRProud.com](http://BRProud.com)

### **Homeless initiative helps adults and children move into housing**

[brproud.com/news/local-news/homeless-initiative-helps-adults-and-children-move-into-housing/1115533519](http://brproud.com/news/local-news/homeless-initiative-helps-adults-and-children-move-into-housing/1115533519)

April 12, 2018

BATON ROUGE, La. (LOCAL 33) (FOX 44) - Local homeless adults and children who lived under the North Boulevard overpass have been moved into housing thanks to Mayor Broome's Homelessness to Housing Initiative.

On Wednesday, April 11, Mayor Broome shared the positive results of the initiative including the movement of 31 adults and five children off the streets.

According to Rachel Haney, Chief Communications Officer for the Mayor's office, the 36 individuals were moved using "Rapid Rehousing funds made available to Louisiana through the Louisiana Housing Corporation following the August 2016 flood."

Haney said in a press release that Rapid Rehousing funds are set aside to help individuals who have found a home through the initiative.

"Through this effort we not only secured long-term housing for citizens, but many have rejoined the workforce and are now thriving," said Mayor Broome. "Our community partners were instrumental in making this project a success, and we thank them for their efforts to combat homelessness year-round."

According to the Mayor's office, this group of service providers assisted in the homelessness initiative:

- Louisiana Housing Corporation
- Start Corporation
- Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless/One Stop
- St. Vincent de Paul
- It Takes A Village
- Options Foundation
- Way Home
- Christian Outreach Center
- Baton Rouge Police Department
- Volunteers of America
- Downtown Development District
- Capital Area Transit System
- Leo's Trailer Park

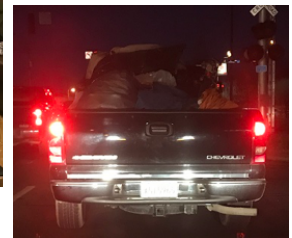
"Partnerships are key in the work to end homelessness," said Nicole Sweazy, Executive Director of the Louisiana Housing Authority. "Replicating the efforts of this initiative will lead us to end homelessness not only in Baton Rouge but throughout the entire state."

### **STREET OUTREACH**

LHA worked to house individuals and families living in a local homeless encampment. This outreach consisted of loading belongings into their personal vehicles and driving each family to safe and decent housing that would keep them out of below freezing temperatures.

Permanent Supportive Housing Services were authorized for everyone due to their length of time spent homeless. As a result, 31 adults and five (5) children are no longer homeless.

**NOTE:** The City of Baton Rouge replicated the Louisiana's Housing Heroes initiative to identify and secure housing for homeless these families.



## **LHA Director Selected to Spearhead Statewide Homeless Initiatives**

Following the successful implementation of Louisiana's Housing Heroes and Housing Fairs

### **LHC's Nicole Sweazy to Chair Governor's Council on Homelessness**

*Sweazy brings more than 15 years of affordable housing and homeless prevention experience to the council*

**BATON ROUGE, LA** - The [Louisiana Housing Corporation](#) (LHC) is pleased to announce that Nicole Sweazy has been selected to chair the Governor's Council on Homelessness (Council).

"Louisiana is blessed with abundance in many ways and with those blessings comes the responsibility to care for the least among us," said Gov. John Bel Edwards. "I am grateful to Nicole Sweazy for her willingness to chair my council on homelessness and guide our state in reducing homelessness with her wealth of experience working to create new resources and connect them with those who need help most."

The council serves to advise the Governor on issues concerning the operations of homeless services, program operations, and program development efforts.

Sweazy serves as executive director of the [Louisiana Housing Authority](#) (LHA), a subsidiary of the LHC. She is responsible for administering funds to help homeless and disabled households with rental assistance, homeless prevention, rapid rehousing and supportive services.



**Nicole Sweazy selected to chair Governor's Council on Homelessness.**

"It is an honor to serve as the chair of the Governor's Council on Homelessness," said Sweazy. "I look forward to continuing the work set forth in Ma Maison [Louisiana's 10-year plan to prevent and end homelessness] and building on the great accomplishments already made. Together, we will end homelessness in Louisiana."

Louisiana's homeless rate is declining. From 2011 to 2014, chronic homelessness decreased by 80 percent and veteran homelessness dropped by 60 percent. Overall, homelessness in Louisiana has declined 63 percent since 2010.

In 2014, in response to the White House initiative to end veteran homelessness, the LHC and LHA partnered with mayors and local Continuum of Care (CoC) agencies to strengthen Louisiana's homeless assistance programs. Sweazy and her team were instrumental in finding permanent supportive housing solutions for veterans across the state. Their efforts helped New Orleans become one of the first cities to end chronic veteran homelessness in the country and the city now serves as a model for others to follow.

"Providing housing solutions that are safe, affordable and offer vital supportive services is critical to ending homelessness in our state," Sweazy added. "It is the first step towards building a stable foundation and future for people experiencing homelessness."

More than 2,000 households across the state have received permanent, affordable housing and the support services needed to retain the housing.