

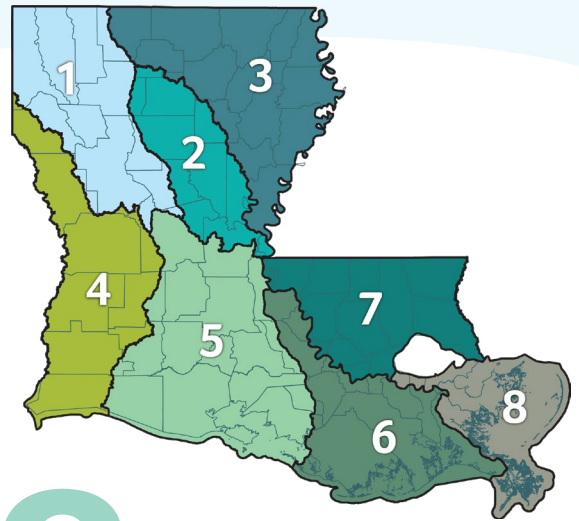
REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM



LOUISIANA
WATERSHED
INITIATIVE

WHAT DOES THE PROGRAM DO?

This three-year grant program is designed to help the state's eight provisional watershed regions build staff capacity for regional watershed management, as well as provide technical assistance to municipal partners. In each watershed region, the primary goal is to establish a long-term entity—a watershed coalition—responsible for regional watershed management activities that align with LWI's long-term resilience goals.



8

 watershed regions

In August 2019, the Council on Watershed Management recognized eight watershed regions to coordinate regional flood mitigation efforts organized around watershed boundaries.

\$400,000

grants awarded per region

The state awarded \$400,000 grants to each watershed region to support staff capacity and watershed coordination efforts.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Form one-year **regional steering committees**, which will develop work plans and ultimately recommend and implement long-term watershed coalitions.
- Ensure transparent, public **decision-making processes** based on data and science and using watershed models for project planning and development.
- Establish a long-term **watershed coalition** for regional watershed management, which includes developing watershed plans and supporting the implementation of projects, programs and policies.
- Support higher **development standards on a regional scale**, advancing regional flood risk reduction.
- Develop and maintain a **regional inventory of flood risk reduction projects** to evaluate cross-jurisdictional impacts and advance regional capital improvement planning.
- Establish **long-term capacity and funding** to continue watershed coordination beyond the life of the program.



Unprecedented & Transparent Local Engagement

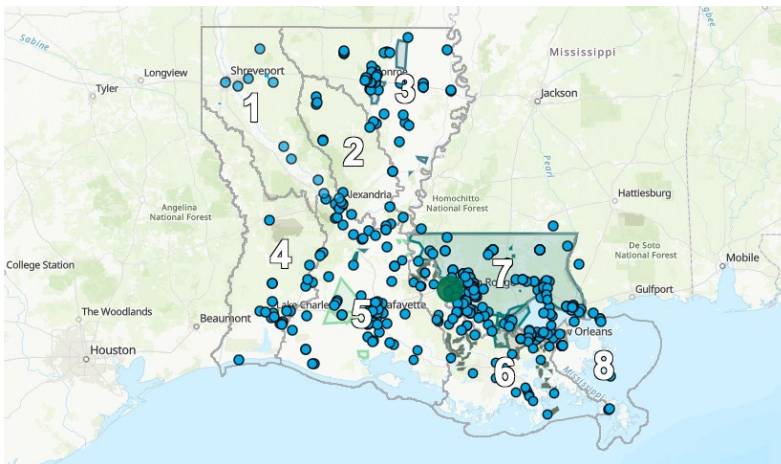
EQUITABLE & DIVERSE REPRESENTATION

RSC membership reflects the demographic diversity and interests of each region. Committee members include a mix of watershed professionals, such as floodplain managers and engineers, as well as community representatives drawn from diverse backgrounds, some of whom have strong ties to local institutions.

75
public
RSC
meetings
held in
year one

116 regional steering committee members throughout the state

ADVANCING REGIONAL FLOOD RISK REDUCTION THROUGH CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING



A capital improvement plan, typically created by a local or regional planning district that delivers a variety of federal, state and local services, helps organizations make good budgeting decisions for large projects and purchases. Each watershed region completed a project inventory so all regional steering committee members could see the universe of project needs and strategize about aligning capital improvements across jurisdictional boundaries. Multi-jurisdictional coordination is a best practice that can advance comprehensive flood risk reduction at a regional watershed scale.

Map (above) of 759 projects submitted for long-term consideration (as of January 2021)

STANDARDS SET BY THE STATE, CUSTOMIZED BY REGIONS

The RCBG program consists of partnerships between the state and regions, in which leadership roles are shared and collaborative, making consensus-building possible.

This program is part of the state's Action Plan to spend \$1.2 billion in federal Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds. For more information, visit the RCBG webpage at watershed.la.gov or email watershed@la.gov.

Stay up to date on our progress