

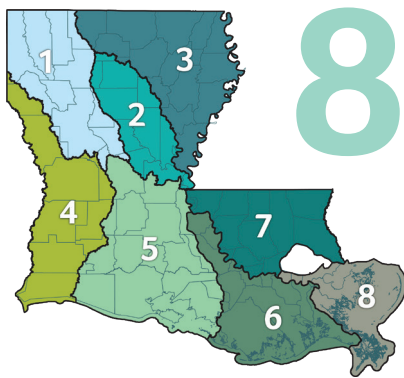
REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM



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.

PROGRAM GOALS

- Form temporary **regional steering committees** to develop work plans and recommend long-term watershed coalitions.
- Ensure transparent **decision-making** based on data, science and watershed models for project planning.
- Establish long-term **watershed coalitions** for regional watershed management.
- Support higher **development standards on a regional scale** for flood risk reduction.
- Maintain a **regional inventory of mitigation projects**, 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.

PHASE 1

\$400,000

grants per watershed region

Phase 1 supports initial efforts to build staff capacity and regional coordination. Regions formed temporary regional steering committees to develop work plans and make recommendations for long-term watershed coalitions.

PHASE 2

\$800,000

grants per watershed region

Phase 2 supports continued regional watershed-based floodplain management to reduce flood risk. Regions will implement long-term watershed coalitions, regional flood mitigation strategies and resilience standards, as well as coordinate project funds to advance steering committee recommendations.



Unprecedented & Transparent Local Engagement

EQUITABLE REPRESENTATION

RSC membership reflects the demographics 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 various backgrounds, some of whom have strong ties to local institutions.

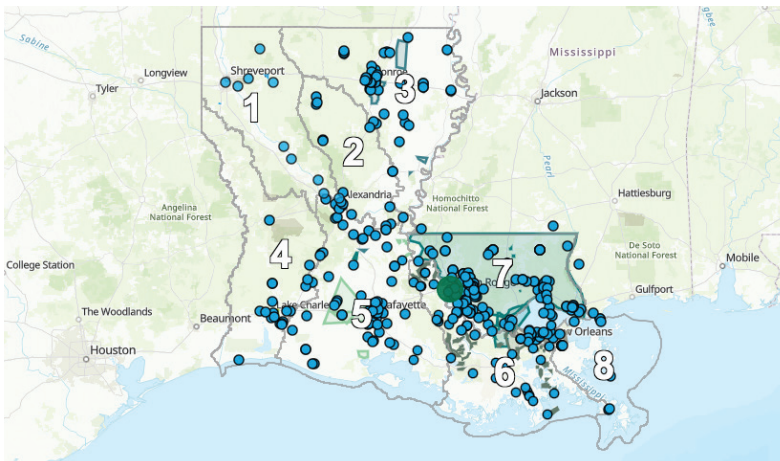
120

public RSC
meetings
throughout
2020 and
2021

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 government services, helps organizations make good budgeting decisions for large projects and purchases. Each watershed region completed a project inventory so all regional steering committees could view the universe of project needs and coordinate capital improvements across jurisdictional boundaries. This 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 watershed regions in which leadership roles are shared, making collaborative 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