



Louisiana Balance of State Continuum of Care



What is a Balance of State?

- CoC organizational option for large often rural areas not covered by existing County or City CoCs
- Balance of States often include highly functional mid size or small communities as well as very rural communities with little organization or resources around homelessness
- These areas join together to submit a single NOFA application for their combined geographical area



What is a Balance of State Cont'd

- Balance of State geographies do not have to be contiguous
- Variety of different planning structures support Balance of States depending on the construct of the geography
- Currently there are 32 Balance of States in the US



Purpose of the Louisiana Balance of State

- Vehicle for renewing the State's Shelter Plus Care project which funds PSH projects in the GoZone
- No overlap between the Balance of State geography and existing CoCs
- Will not impact current CoCs Pro Rata
- Allows Louisiana to take advantage of every federal dollar available for homelessness in your State



Benefits of forming a Balance of State

- Fund programs in very rural areas of the State not attached to a CoC
- Smaller communities can benefit from the planning support of the State which will strengthen services in underserved areas
- Information sharing and education across statewide participants in the Balance of State
- More robust services and housing in underserved areas



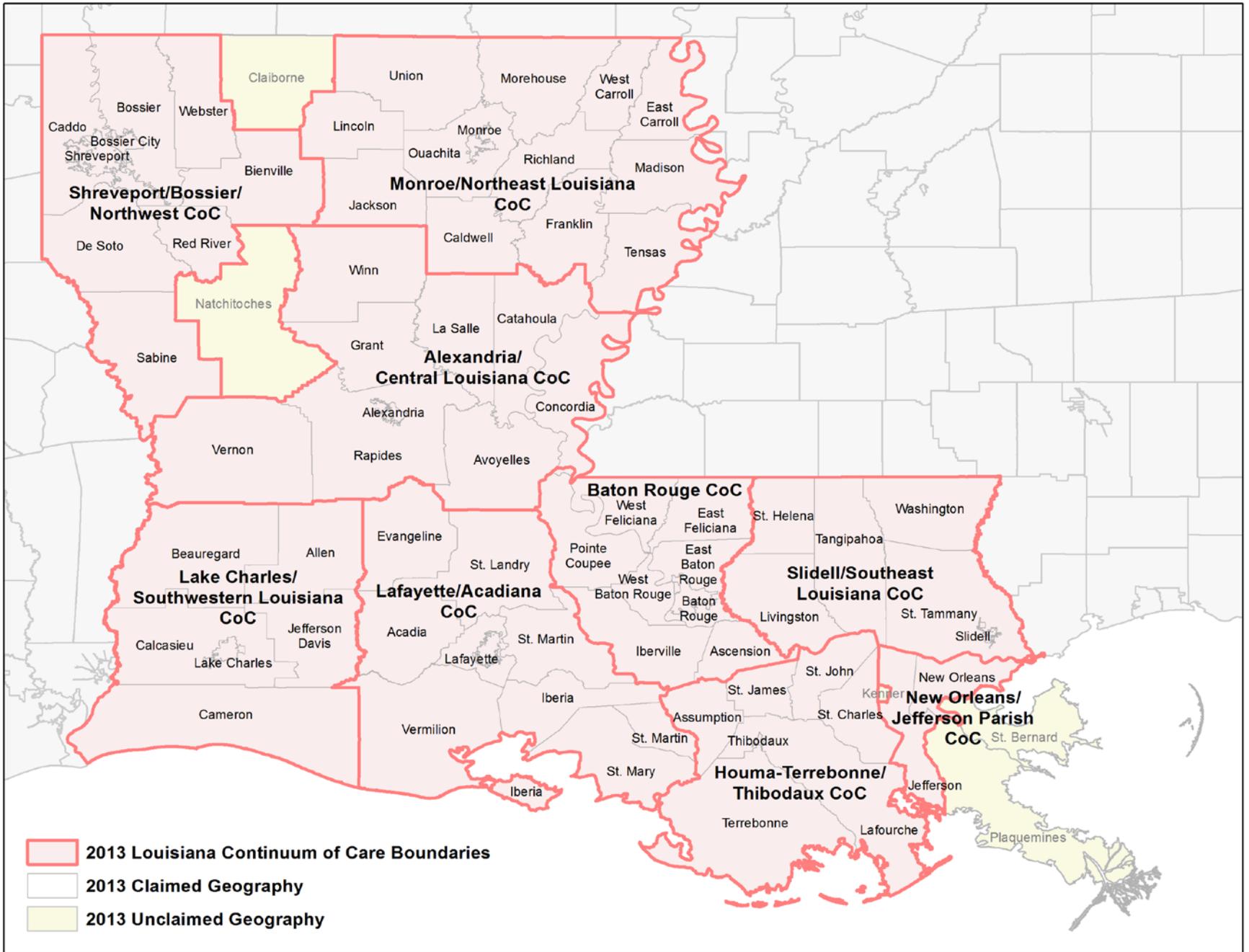
Benefits of forming a Balance of State Cont'd

- Helps rural areas comply with new HEARTH requirements that can be onerous to take on independently
 - Coordinated Assessment
 - Performance Measurement
 - HMIS



What will the Balance of State look like in Louisiana

- State will claim available geographical areas that are not included in existing Continuums of Care
- State will use Balance of State pro rata to fund programs within that geography
- Extended the option to join the Balance of State to any other CoCs interested





Launching the Louisiana of a Balance of State

- 1) BoS geography was finalized and includes Sabine, Natchitoches, St. Bernard, & Plaquemines Parishes.
- 2) Claiborne Parish was taken into the Northwest CoC
- 3) The Southwest CoC elected to join the BoS
- 4) Put forward first application for funds in the 2015 NOFA application