

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Louisiana Housing Corporation has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order(s) 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under Housing and Homeless Stability Development – Community Block Grant Development and HOME funding. The proposed project location is 400 N Rampart Street in New Orleans, Orleans Parish, Louisiana. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 percent flood approach. The proposed project consists of the renovation and addition of a new third floor to accommodate 15 residential units of the St Jude Community Center. The proposed renovation of the St. Jude building includes demolition of the existing walls and interior space which will be reconfigured to include offices, restrooms, commercial kitchen, electrical and areas for medical support services including exam rooms, dentistry space, and pharmacy. The roof will be reconfigured to accommodate a full third floor addition that will include 15 units of permanent supportive rental housing. Each unit will be 165 square feet and will include a bed, dresser, and full bathroom. The entire 0.18-acre parcel is located in the FFRMS. The entire project site is developed with the existing structure with no natural areas or habitats. Properties surrounding the proposed project site are also likely located in a FFRMS floodplain.

The Louisiana Housing Corporation has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain:

1. Locate the activity outside of the FFRMS floodplain. Selecting a property outside of the FFRMS floodplain would not sufficiently meet the goal of the proposed project. Relocation of the facility to outside of the floodplain is not feasible as the majority of the surrounding area is likely also located in a FFRMS floodplain.
2. Finding alternative methods to accomplish the goals. As designed, the proposed residential units will be constructed on the third floor of the fire St Jude structure. Non-residential occupants on the first and third floors can be relocated and transported in the event of flooding. In addition, the proposed project site is located within a Federal levee system.
3. Impact of taking no action, would fail to meet the purpose and need of the proposed action by not constructing the proposed project. The proposed residences would not be available and access to affordable housing in the area would not improve.

The Louisiana Housing Authority has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and

request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by LHC at the following address on or before **July 30, 2025** Louisiana Housing Corporation, 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808 and 225-763-8700, Attention: Dr. Sue Chin, Ph.D., Environmental Impact Specialist 3. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00am to 5:00pm at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted via email at Schin@lhc.la.gov.

July 23, 2025