

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

This is to give notice that the Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC), Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58, has determined that the following proposed action using Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOME NOAH funds is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, and LHC will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 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 Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project locations are as follows: 305-313 Holly Street and 312-314 Holly Street/1500-1504 Railroad Avenue in Monroe, Louisiana. Both project locations were determined to be located in a FFRMS floodplain. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 percent flood approach. The proposed projects are as follows:

Family Homeless Shelter – 305-313 Holly Street: The project includes the construction of a family transitional residential shelter that will consist of a single-story structure to encompass approximately 13,500 square feet of interior space. The residential units will consist of 7 studio units that can support up to 3 persons and 8 one-bedroom units that can house up to 5 persons in private quarters as well as bathroom, kitchen, and common living areas. Other facility amenities will include a playroom, family/community room, education/group room, utility room, laundry services, as well as reception and office spaces.

Domestic Violence Shelter – 312-314 Holly Street and 1500-1504 Railroad Avenue: The proposed project includes the construction of an 8,500 square foot structure and will be configured with 8 studio apartments (to house 1 adult and 1 child) and 5 one-bedroom units (to house 1 adult and up to 3 children in private quarters). Certain units will be paired to accommodate larger families as needed. Other amenities would include a conference room, computer room, indoor play space, laundry facilities, and up to two offices. Exterior spaces will include a playground and pet areas enclosed by a security fence. Both lots, consisting of approximately 3.35 acres, are located in the FFEMS floodplain. At this time, the lot functions to store storm water during rain events. The lot, while vacant with commonly occurring plant species, does not provide recreational opportunities and does not support unique or critical habitat.

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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain. 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 at the following address on or before August 1, 2025: Louisiana Housing Corporation, 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, 225-763-8700, Attention: Sue Chin, Environmental Impact Specialist 3. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8am to 4:30pm at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted via email at Schin@lhc.la.gov.
July 17, 2025