



# THE RAPIDES FOUNDATION

## Central Louisiana Hurricane Disaster Recovery Fund

### Request for Applications

#### **Application Submission Deadline:**

**Applications will be accepted until Monday, June 30, 2022; 4:00 p.m. CT.**

*Note: Approved applicants can continue to request funds through July 30, 2022, as long as funds are available.*

## **I. Introduction**

The mission of The Rapides Foundation is to improve the health status of Central Louisiana. The Rapides Foundation focuses its work in three strategic areas:

- Healthy People, to improve access to healthcare and promote healthy behaviors;
- Education, to increase the level of educational attainment and achievement as the primary path to improved economic, social and health status; and
- Healthy Communities, to improve economic opportunity and family income, and enhance civic and community opportunities for more effective leaders and organizations.

Although the Foundation's day-to-day work revolves around these three strategic areas, extraordinary events during 2020 have required the Foundation to respond to the needs of the communities we serve. This Fund is made available in response to back-to-back hurricanes, which brought catastrophic damage and flooding to Central Louisiana. Community members, nonprofits and faith-based organizations immediately responded by providing emergency and relief services to individuals and families throughout the nine-parish service area. Private insurance, local, state and federal assistance provide resources to begin the long recovery process, but after all programs and aid are exhausted there are often unmet needs that remain.

The National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) and FEMA recommend working through Long-Term Recovery Groups (LTRGs) to address these unmet needs. A Long-Term Recovery Group is a cooperative body that is made up of representatives from faith-based, nonprofit, government, business and other organizations working collaboratively within a community to assist with disaster recovery by identifying, pooling and coordinating resources. Additionally, LTRGs are supported, and work in conjunction with, local VOAD groups, local governments, case management providers and FEMA's Voluntary Agency Liaisons (VALS). A well organized group can maximize the utilization of available resources by avoiding duplicative assistance to individuals, and generating financial, materials and human resources.

Local- and state-funded disaster case management providers work with survivors to address all of their unmet needs by developing recovery plans, assisting with applications and appeals to local, state and federal programs and referring them to existing nonprofits and direct service providers. When case managers have exhausted all available options they present the cases to a LTRG's Unmet Needs Committee for consideration.

## II. Purpose for Request for Applications (RFA)

The purpose of this RFA is to provide support to local Long-Term Recovery Groups to fill the unmet needs of Central Louisiana residents caused by Hurricanes Laura and Delta. Funding amounts are based on the sum of documented and vetted unmet needs that the Long-Term Recovery Group or Unmet Needs Committee have identified as a priority but cannot collectively address. Funds are intended to fill needs that have not, or cannot, be met after all federal, state and other local relief monies are expended, and local programs and resources have been exhausted.

**\*Please see section IV for specific funding guidelines and grant terms.**

## III. Eligibility Requirements

Existing or newly formed Long-Term Recovery Groups with their own IRS tax-exempt designation may directly apply for funds. In the event that interested Long-Term Recovery Groups do not have their own IRS tax-exempt status, the Long-Term Recovery Group may designate a tax-exempt organization to act as the grant fiscal agent to receive funds. The primary applicant (fiscal agent) must meet all of the following requirements:

- Classified as a Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under the Internal Revenue Code or a government entity.
- Cannot be a private foundation under Section 509(a).
- Must be an organization within The Rapides Foundation Service Area.

In addition, Long-Term Recovery Groups must meet the following requirements and be able to provide documentation:

- An established governance and committee structure adopted by by-laws or charter including:
  - An unmet needs committee.
  - Clearly defined geographic description of the population served.
  - At least 75% of unmet needs committee members must be from the community served by the LTRG.
- A defined and documented process for considering and approval/denial of unmet needs cases, including a scale or matrix used to prioritize cases. (Please provide meeting minutes or a signed statement from an authorized representative affirming this process.)
- A commitment to include a representative from The Rapides Foundation in all unmet needs committee meetings when cases are presented and/or voted on.
- Non-incorporated groups must provide an executed Memorandum of Understanding with a fiscal agent that meets the above requirements.

## IV. Funding Guidelines and Terms

Awards are based on the sum of unmet needs that remain after case management and the LTRG have exhausted all options. Funding can only be used to provide resources to meet unmet needs caused by Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

Use of funds are intended to be directed and prioritized by the LTRG/Unmet Needs Committees. The maximum amount that can be spent from the fund to assist any individual household is \$5,000. All



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requests for funding must be linked to a case that was identified, vetted and documented by a case management provider and presented to the Unmet Needs Committee. A majority of the Unmet Needs Committee must agree to take on the case and agree on which specific unmet needs to submit for funding. Funds cannot go directly to hurricane survivors.

Allowable use of funds includes, but is not limited to:

- Building supplies
- Medical supplies
- Construction
- Contract labor
- Equipment
- Food
- Mental health counseling
- Transportation assistance to essential appointments
- LTRG convening and facilitating, \$200 limit
- Administrative costs to assist with reporting and record keeping, no more than 5% of funds requested

Funds **CANNOT** be used for:

- Needs unrelated to Hurricanes Laura and Delta disasters.
- Automobile repairs or purchases.
- Lobbying or political activities.
- Activities, projects or programs exclusively benefitting members of sectarian or religious organizations.
- Biomedical, clinical, or educational research.
- Direct support to individuals or endowments.
- Funding that supplants existing sources of support.
- Individuals, including patient assistance funds.
- Social events or similar fundraising efforts or telethons.
- Projects outside of the Foundation's service area. (Allen, Avoyelles, Catahoula, Grant, LaSalle Natchitoches, Rapides, Vernon, and Winn)
- Direct funding for medical or social services already funded through existing third-party reimbursement sources.

The LTRG must submit all the necessary information and attachments in this RFA. The Foundation will review applications and select LTRGs eligible for funding. LTRG cannot apply for funds until their application has been approved. Once approved, LTRGs can submit requests for funding to address specific unmet needs of cases reviewed and accepted by the Unmet Needs Committee. The Foundation will provide a Request for Funding form to all applicants that are approved. Approved applicants can then request funds on a monthly basis.



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## V. Timeline for Submission

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until June 30, 2022. Approved applicants can continue to request funds through July 30, 2022, as long as funds are available. New applications and funding requests will be reviewed on the 15th of each month.

## VI. Application Requirements

ALL applicants must submit the following information:

### 1. Organization Information (Completed in the online portal.)

- a. Long-Term Recovery Group information (name, address, phone number, email, etc.).
- b. Name, title, phone number and email address of the key contact person from the Long-Term Recovery Group.
- c. If the Long-Term Recovery Group is using a fiscal agent, also provide
  - i The name and address of the fiscal agent.
  - ii Name, title, phone number and email address of the key contact person at the fiscal agent organization.

### 2. Community Context

- a. What geographic area is the Long-Term Recovery Group proposing to serve? Please include all parishes and municipalities within this area.
- b. What is the population of the geographic area?

### 3. Long-Term Recovery Group Information

- a. What organizations are actively involved in the Long-Term Recovery Group?
- b. Please provide names, contact information, affiliated organization and which community they represent for all members of the Long-Term Recovery Group.
- c. What is the committee structure of the Long-Term Recovery Group?
- d. If applicable, who are the officers of the Long-Term Recovery Group?
- e. Please provide names, contact information, affiliated organization and which community they represent for all members of the Unmet Needs Committee.
- f. Please explain your process for considering and approval/denial process of unmet needs cases. Do some cases receive priority over others? How is it decided if a case receives priority?

### 4. Documentation of Partnerships

- a. Memorandum of Understanding between LTRG and fiscal agency (if applicable)
- b. Any other letters of support from LTRG organization members, parish or municipal entities, case management providers or any other community-based organizations.

### 5. Applicant organization's 501(c)(3) or government entity exemption determination letter.

### 6. Applicant organization's most current 990, annual audit or financial report.

### 7. Long-Term Recovery Group by-laws or charter.

### 8. Copy of minutes from last LTRG meeting.



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9. **Copy of meeting minutes or a signed statement from an authorized member affirming Unmet Needs Committee case review process.**

## VII. Additional Considerations

The Foundation reserves the right to:

- Request additional information from any or all applicants.
- Meet with applicants to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, the application requirements.
- Request modifications to a respondent's application prior to final award to ensure alignment of project elements with the core values, mission, and operating standards of the Foundation.
- Reject any or all applications submitted.

Approved organizations are required to submit a grant agreement (contract) and a board resolution affirming commitment by the board of directors to use the funds according to the funding guidelines and Foundation direction.

<b>For questions related to this Fund:</b> Matt LaBorde, Program Officer <a href="mailto:matt@rapidesfoundation.org">matt@rapidesfoundation.org</a> Direct: 318.767.3003	<b>For assistance with submitting the online application:</b> Courtney Keys, Programs Assistant <a href="mailto:courtney@rapidesfoundation.org">courtney@rapidesfoundation.org</a> Direct: 318.767.3013 Main lines: 318.443.3394 or toll-free 800.994.3394
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