

# Louisiana Recovery & Rebuilding Conference

November 10-12, 2005

## Preliminary Report

November 10, 2005  
New Orleans, LA

More than 600 participants gathered on November 10 to begin an innovative, interactive, statewide design and planning meeting—the Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference. The goal of this three day forum is to give the people of Louisiana an opportunity to voice their opinions and values regarding recovery and rebuilding after hurricanes Katrina and Rita. During the meeting, participants heard from national and local experts and were asked to develop principles intended to help Louisiana take the first steps towards creating a “better, safer, and stronger” region in the areas impacted by Katrina and Rita. Governor Blanco, the Louisiana Recovery Authority, The American Institute of Architects, the American Planning Association, the American Society of Civil Engineers, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation were the primary sponsors of the meeting.

The second page reports on draft recovery and rebuilding principles that participants authored and prioritized.

### Who is Attending the Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference?

The following shows the demographic characteristics of participants who are actually attending the Louisiana Recovery and Rebuilding Conference.

#### Gender

Female	38%
Male	62%

#### Age

Under 30	8%
31-44	25%
35-59	51%
60 and better	16%

#### Race

African-American	16.2%
Caucasian	79.5%
Asian/Pacific Islander	0.3%
Native American	0.7%
Hispanic/Latino	2%
Other	0.3%

#### Household Income

Less than \$30,000	6%
\$30,000-80,000	28%
Over \$80,000	65%

#### Years Lived in Louisiana

Less than 1	3%
1-5 years	5%
6-10 years	7%
11-20 years	6%
More than 20 years	68%
Do not live in Louisiana	11%

#### How Long Has Your Family Lived in Louisiana?

Less than 1 generation	13%
2 generations	8%
3 or more generations	57%
Family not from Louisiana	22%

#### Where Do/Did You Live in Louisiana?

Orleans Parish	43.4%
Jefferson Parish	9.6%
St. Tammany Parish	6.7%
St. Bernard or Plaquemines River parishes	2.6%
Baton Rouge/Florida parish region	13.7%
Southwest Louisiana	3.2%
Acadania and Southeastern parishes	4.7%
Central or Northern parishes	1.2%
Do not live in Louisiana	12.2%

#### How Were You Directly Impacted by Hurricane Katrina or Rita?

(participants were asked to select all choices that applied; as a result total is greater than 100%)

Home sustained minor damage	44%
Home sustained major damage	27%
Lost home permanently	7%
Lost job or business	14%
Became underemployed	19%
Displaced to location in LA	35%
Displaced to location outside LA	31%
Death of family member or close friend	19%
Fortunately, not directly impacted	20%

#### Primary Role in Rebuilding Process

Leader in civic, community, church or faith based org.	17%
Architect, planner, or other design professional	34%
Educator or school admin.	7%
Public official or gov. employee	15%
Corporate/Business rep.	18%
Healthcare professional	3%
Committed citizen	6%

### **Initial Infrastructure Principles**

(prepared and prioritized by conference participants)

1. Rebuild a reliable and safe regional levee system to a Category 5 protection level
2. Restore coastal wetlands concurrent with levee restoration project (Category 5)
3. Provide affordable, insurable and sustainable housing
4. Develop and improve a regional transportation system that includes inter-city rail, is affordable and accessible, and can be used for evacuation
5. Rebuild infrastructure to higher standards of equity, durability and performance using established state-wide building codes that are appropriate to climate and terrain and that promote energy efficiency, historic preservation and disaster resistance
6. Respect and maintain the architecture, cultural heritage, human-scale design and personality of traditional Louisiana neighborhoods in rebuilding efforts
7. Implement a decision-making process that is transparent and inclusive at the regional and community level
8. Ensure the performance of critical communications, transportation, and energy infrastructure systems during disasters and recovery
9. Based on input from all key stakeholders, create a series of comprehensive and integrated regional land use plans that will effectively guide all recovery and reconstruction efforts
10. Establish centralized levee board and ensure transparency of all operations
11. Apply the fundamental principles of sustainable development in all building efforts
12. Create a comprehensive plan for management of hazardous waste and environmental contamination that ensures environmentally responsible future development

### **Initial Economic Development Principles**

(prepared and prioritized by conference participants)

1. Redesign public & trade education systems to meet the needs of traditional and emerging needs
2. Provide an essential foundation for economic growth through good quality housing, transportation, utilities, and other similar elements
3. Recovery should be an engine for the local economies, with contracts for local firms and suppliers and jobs and training for local workers
4. Accountability, transparency, integrity, equity and efficient government processes must be part of all economic development efforts
5. Diversify the economy and focus on the industries that pay livable wages and have viable career paths: nurture traditional industries and industries of innovation
6. Employ innovative funding strategies, including federal and state tax incentives and tax credits for home owners and business
7. Prioritize funding and relief for local and family-owned businesses; incubate and grow local businesses, esp. small businesses
8. Economic development must include ALL Louisiana residents
9. Recognize the economic benefits of protecting and restoring our cultural and architectural legacy
10. Market the region's recovery including positioning Louisiana as a leader in best practices in disaster recovery
11. Encourage sustainable businesses including those working with the waste/debris stream and renewable energy sources
12. Create a single comprehensive economic development plan
13. Explore all opportunities for public-private partnerships
14. Include the non-profit sector in economic recovery efforts



Please Note: This preliminary report does not include the results from the final polling questions. Complete results from "Tough Choices in Healthcare" will be available immediately following the meeting at the Dirigo Health web site:  
[www.DirigoHealth.maine.gov](http://www.DirigoHealth.maine.gov).