

# **Resource Guide**

New Orleans Planning Initiative – Cornell University

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**Resource Guide**  
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A FEMA/HUD led venture

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Created by the order of the Governor

Pending:

Ninth Ward Florida Development Housing Project

Greater New Orleans Community Data Center (GNOCDC)

Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN)  
Community Organization Supporting Low Income Families

**About ACORN:**

ACORN, the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, is the nation's largest community organization of low- and moderate-income families, working together for social justice and stronger communities. Since 1970, ACORN has grown to more than 175,000 member families, organized in 850 neighborhood chapters in 75 cities across the U.S. and in cities in Canada, the Dominican Republic and Peru.

ACORN's accomplishments include successful campaigns for better housing, schools, neighborhood safety, health care, job conditions, and more.

ACORN members participate in local meetings and actively work on campaigns, elect leadership from the neighborhood level up, and pay the organization's core expenses through membership dues and grassroots fundraisers.

ACORN has constantly challenged the traditional notions of what a community organization is, and its family of organizations includes two radio stations, a voter registration network, a housing corporation, and several publications.

ACORN has been a galvanizing force in the fight to save the 9<sup>th</sup> Ward. They have consistently and vocally condemned the four-month deadline for residents of low and moderate income communities to prove the “viability” of their New Orleans neighborhoods included in Mayor Ray Nagin's rebuilding commission report, which was made public on January 11, 2006.

In December, ACORN launched the **Home Clean-out Demonstration Program** – with the goal of preserving and rebuilding thousands of homes in low-income neighborhoods.

Bring New Orleans Back (BNOB)  
Urban Planning Committee

**Action Plan for New Orleans: The New American City**

January 11, 2006

Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC – Master Planner

This report is a comprehensive action plan covering topics such as transportation, parkland development, and neighborhood revitalization. For the Lower Ninth Ward the most significant recommendations include:

- Targeting of the area for “Infill Development,” where blighted or underutilized public and private properties would be redeveloped for residential, commercial, and institutional uses through the consolidation of public and private lands (pg 46)
- The designation of the Lower Ninth as a “neighborhood planning area” in order to “determine the future of the area” through a neighborhood planning process. The report recommends that this planning process begin by February 20<sup>th</sup> 2006. This early date would necessarily exclude many of the residents of the Lower Ninth who remain displaced by flood ravaged homes. (pg 42)
- The area of the Lower 9<sup>th</sup> with the heaviest damage is singled out by the commission for acquisition with the intent of turning it into open space. (pg 31)

Under the Next Steps recommendations of the commission the BNOB calls for the immediate creation of the Crescent City Recovery Corporation (CCRC) whose powers would include the ability to:

- Receive and expend redevelopment funds
- Implement redevelopment plan
- Buy and sell property for redevelopment, including the use of eminent domain
- Issue bonds

The report of the Action Plan for New Orleans: The New American City, can be found at:  
<http://www.bringneworleansback.org/Portals/BringNewOrleansBack/Resources/Urban%20Planning%20Final%20Report.pdf>

The Brookings Institution  
Metropolitan Policy Program

**Katrina Index: Tracking Variables of Post Katrina Reconstruction**

Updated January 4, 2006

Prepared by: Bruce Katz, Matt Fellows, and Mia Mabanta

January 4, 2006 Summary

This report is an excellent source of economic and social indicator information for the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The January 2006 update found that many of these indices were moved in the wrong direction for the City of New Orleans. Among the numerous findings reported by Brookings are:

- Mortgage delinquency rates skyrocketed between the second and third quarter of the calendar year. In the state of Louisiana, for instance, nearly one out of every five prime-rate loans is now 30 or more days past due, and more than one in three sub-prime mortgage loans are now delinquent (p18-20).
- Unemployment rates continue to rise in Orleans Parish. In the metro area more than one out every six working age adults was unemployed in November, the highest rate registered since Katrina made landfall. (p6-17).
- Most schools and hospitals in Orleans Parish remain closed. Only 5% of the schools are open in Orleans Parish and only 32% of the city's hospitals are open (p40-45).
- Buying food is still difficult to do in the metro area. Only about one out of every three retail food establishments (e.g., grocery stores, restaurants, convenience stores) is open in the metropolitan area (p41).
- For the city of New Orleans there are a few positive signs, the number of open bus routes increased, the amount of traffic in the area has increased, and there have been some recent, encouraging estimates of the population.

But most of the key indicators moved in the wrong direction or not at all. The bottom line: it continues to be a very risky decision for many of the displaced households to return to the area, since all of the key necessities are in scarce supply, and it is not at all clear when or if they will be brought back online.

The complete report, Katrina Index: Tracking Variables of Post Katrina Reconstruction, can be found at:

[http://www.brookings.edu/dybdocroot/metro/pubs/200601\\_KatrinaIndex.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/dybdocroot/metro/pubs/200601_KatrinaIndex.pdf)

Rand Health  
Working Papers Series

**Neighborhood Effects and the Role of Communities in Restructuring**

October 2005

Deborah Cohen and Sanae Inagami

This brief addresses the important role of neighborhood design to the physical health of its residents. It is a general overview of planning issues related to the design importance of structures, streets, parks, and transportation options available to the public.

Among its key findings are:

- Neighborhoods with concentrated poverty are unhealthy.
- Providing diverse, desirable destinations within walkable distances from residences promotes physical health.
- Appropriate street design can bring people onto the street, increasing the likelihood that they will become acquainted and thus also increasing public safety.
- Public spaces that are well maintained and feature planned events attract people and promote community cohesion.
- Neighborhood health can be promoted by increasing the availability and visibility of healthy products and decreasing the availability and visibility of unhealthy ones such as alcohol and fast food.

The full document, *Neighborhood Effects and the Role of Communities in Restructuring*, can be found at:

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/working\\_papers/2005/RAND\\_WR310.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/2005/RAND_WR310.pdf)

## Joint Housing Solutions Center

A FEMA/HUD led venture

- Hank Williams Co-chair (Could not determine who the other chair was)
- Brad Gair – (was the FEMA coordinator for 9/11) is directing the Housing Area Command

FEMA, in partnership with HUD's Office of Faith and Community Development Partnerships, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina has established the Joint Housing Solutions Center (JHSC). The JHSC primary function is to serve as the central location for inter-agency housing coordination and planning as well as to bring together public, private and voluntary agency stakeholders to develop innovative funding partnerships to address the short and long-term housing needs of disaster victims. The JHSC is separate from, but "joined at the hip" to the Housing Area Command which serves to implement the ideas of the JHSC.

**A description of the proposed Joint Housing Solutions Center model neighborhoods plan will be e-mailed to you as attachments to this document.**

Among those working with the Joint Housing Solutions Center are:

### Federal Agencies:

- U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
- U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Housing Services
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- Veterans Benefit Administration
- USACE
- US AFCE

### State/Local

- State
- Parishes
- Municipalities
- Louisiana State University
- National Multi-housing Council
- LA Housing Financing Agency
- LA Department of Labor
- LA Recovery Authority
- LA Department of Social Services

### Private:

- American Institute for Architects
- Fannie Mae
- Home Depot Active in Disaster
- Lowe's
- National Association of Realtors

- National Association of Home Builders

Non-Profit/Faith Based

- ACORN
- Advancement Project
- American Red Cross
- Architecture for Humanity
- Church World Services
- Family Corps
- For All Kids-Rosie O'Donnell Foundation
- Habitat for Humanity
- IAC
- Katrinahousing.com [Possible incorrect address?]
- National Apartment Association
- National Association of Home Builders
- National Development Council
- New Orleans Network
- Public Architecture
- Rebuilding Together
- Salvation Army
- Second Harvest
- TCG International LLC
- The Communities Group
- United Jewish Communities
- United Way

From –

<http://www.housingfinance.com/blog/2005/12/joint-housing-solutions-center-list.html>

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/cir/test092705.cfm>

<http://www.fema.gov/news/newsrelease.fema?id=20301>

The Louisiana Recovery Authority  
Created by the order of the Governor  
Andy Kopplin – Executive Director, LRA

The Louisiana Recovery Authority was created by order of Governor Blanco on October 17, 2005 and is the planning and coordinating body that will assist in implementing the Governor's vision for the recovery of Louisiana. The authority will identify and prioritize the short- and long-term needs of the recovery and seek out and value local input as it plans and implements the recovery plans. January 21, 2006 has been designated “Louisiana Recovery Planning Day,” a day for Louisianans to provide input on rebuilding their communities. The day will be marked by open house meetings throughout Louisiana and the nation to allow people to express local needs and define a community-based vision for recovery.

The LRA 100 day plan includes the following:

- Work with our federal partners to ensure that Congress and the Corps of Engineers deliver a plan for levee reconstruction and improvement so crucial investments and rebuilding decisions can be made.
- Create and roll out a locally-driven, state-wide recovery plan to serve as the basis for prioritizing resources in the recovery period.
- Craft a plan to relocate into permanent housing all residents currently in temporary lodging.
- Restore critical governmental functions in affected parishes as needed to serve returning populations, to include judicial systems, public safety, sanitation, healthcare, and education for our children.
- Create a strategy for the establishment of permanent public institutions - such as schools, hospitals, and healthcare clinic - that, beyond restoration, achieve the highest standards of performance.
- Complete an environmental evaluation of damages caused by the hurricanes, and develop preliminary recommendations on how to proceed.
- Articulate a neighborhood design that meets the comprehensive needs of our citizens while restoring and enhancing the cultural and historic fabric of our communities.

From - <http://lra.louisiana.gov/>