

LOUISIANA DEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITIES

2024 APPLICATION (2024-2027) PLANNING CYCLE

Name of Parish or Municipality

Communities interested in becoming a Louisiana Development Ready Community (LDRC) submit this application to LED. Upon verifying the application is complete, LED will engage regional and local economic development partners to meet with the interested community. Applicants must agree to:

- 1.) Name a Steering Committee and designate a Chair to serve as primary point of contact for the entire length of planning process. The Mayor and/or Parish Administration will participate on the Steering Committee. Applicants may also designate a Project Manager to facilitate communication and organization
- 2.) Provide all requested information and obtain signatures of Steering Committee contacts
- 3.) Provide meeting space and meeting supplies (e.g. refreshments, office supplies, etc.)
- 4.) Complete the attached Community Assessment.
- 5.) Abide by all of the program's requirements and schedule:
 - a. Meet with LED, REDO, and Steering Committee to complete the Economic Development Capacity Indicators scoring and review the submitted Community Assessment. Meeting includes economic development partners (e.g. Regional Economic Development Organization, Local Economic Development Organization, Regional Planning District, Governor's Office of Rural Development representative)
 - b. Using information collected from the community assessment, basic data provided by LED, and feedback from survey, Steering Committee drafts a SWOT analysis and holds a meeting to discuss potential goals for a strategic plan. The meeting may be facilitated by LED, REDO or LEDO.
 - c. Applicant schedules public meeting to present goals and gain input. LED may facilitate public meeting.
 - d. Steering Committee will draft a three- to five-year Economic Development Strategic Plan to include goals, responsible party, cost, and timeline for implementation.
 - e. Economic Development Strategic Plan, finalized and adopted by city/parish council.
 - f. Community to be revisited annually to assess progress by appropriate economic development partner and/or LED
 - g. Option for re-designation after 5 years.

EMAIL APPLICATION TO:

Stacey Duvic
Senior Director, Community Competitiveness
Louisiana Economic Development
Stacey.duvic@la.gov
Office: 225-342-4703

LOUISIANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (LED) WILL PROVIDE:

1. A Community Briefing Book and Roadmap that describes all aspects of the process, resources and descriptions of required deliverables.
2. A dedicated team member will be assigned to your community to provide ongoing guidance throughout the process as needed in coordination with the REDO.
3. Assistance with the community assessment, LED’s Business Intelligence Team will prepare your community’s demographic and economic profile based on current data.
4. “Ready-to-go” survey tools to assist you in your community assessment of stakeholder (businesses, leaders, and residents) attitudes and options.

IDENTIFICATION OF STEERING COMMITTEE

A local Steering Committee, committed for the entire timeframe of the process, is required. The Steering/Sustainability Committee must have equal representation from both the public and private sectors and have defined roles. Please provide the following information for the people serving on the Steering/Sustainability Committee:

	NAME, ORGANIZATION, TITLE & CONTACT INFO: ADDRESS, TELEPHONE, AND EMAIL	SIGNATURE: REQUIRED TO INDICATE COMMITMENT
STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIR		
STEERING COMMITTEE PROJECT MANAGER		
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER #1 – COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING		
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER #2 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT		
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER #3 – COMMUNITY FACILITIES		
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER #4 – QUALITY OF LIFE		
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER #5 – EDUCATION & WORKFORCE		
STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER #6 – GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATIONS		
STEERING/SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE MEMBER #7 – MAYOR		

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING ATTACHED TO YOUR APPLICATION:

1. Address the topic of your community’s election cycle within the timeframe of planning.
2. Attach a copy of city/parish resolution of formal adoption of LDRC Program of Work (Appendix A)
3. The LDRC Community Assessment checklist provided in Appendix C.

Appendix A

Name of Parish or Municipality

WHEREAS, The Louisiana Development Ready Communities Program, as a strategic effort by the Regional Economic Development Organization & Louisiana Economic Development to assist all of Louisiana’s communities to become more competitive in today’s global economy, is a community assessment and strategic planning process for parishes, cities, towns, and villages; and

WHEREAS, the program’s requirement provide for involvement of individuals from both public and private sectors of the community including: elected and appointed municipal/parish officials, municipal/parish employees, community leaders and citizens; and

WHEREAS, implementation and achievement of the community’s vision, objectives and strategies, and measurement of that achievement, are the major goals of the program. LED’s objectives are: 1) to provide a comprehensive assessment of economic development practices and activities; 2) to provide resources to communities; 3) to develop more marketable communities and diversified economies through a systematic approach to community and economic development in the State of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, this council/police jury will receive a status report during the planning process and a presentation of the draft strategic plan developed by our community resulting from the Louisiana Development Ready Communities Program for consideration, to give feedback, and any further action deemed appropriate at those times.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED THAT THE (COMMUNITY NAME) council/police jury endorses and supports LED’s Louisiana Development Ready Communities Program and its work plan and authorizes the city/parish manager and employees to cooperate with and participate in the community assessment and strategic planning activities, and further, the citizens of (Community Name) are urged to support this effort.

SIGNED, This _____ day of 20_____

MAYOR/PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

CITY/PARISH CLERK

ROADMAP TO READINESS – STEPS TO ACHIEVE:

1. Organize your community's Steering Committee and submit completed application.
2. Selection through LED.
3. Steering Committee to attend kick off meeting with REDO & LEDO to review briefing book and roadmap.
 - a. Complete Community Survey
 - b. Complete Economic Development Capacity Indicators scoring
 - c. Complete local data collection & inventory
4. Develop a 3-5 Year Vision & Identify Community Goals
5. Develop a sustainable 3-5 Year Community & Economic Development Strategic Plan for Infrastructure, Education, Workforce Development, Leadership, and Marketing/Communications.
6. Complete at least one Town Hall meeting
7. Gain endorsement for your community's plan by local council.
8. Implementation
9. Revisit and update the plans on a yearly basis; adjust according to results and new information.

LDRC Community Assessment:

The LDRC Community Assessment allows the Steering Committee to analyze its community's competitiveness. Your Steering Committee must gather accurate information as it will affect the validity and credibility of your strategic plan.

The gathering of the data points should be incorporated into your community's strategic economic development plan. This assessment is an important resource that your community can use in many ways, including responding to RFPs (request for proposals) from LED, your regional organization, and responding to business inquiries.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

1. Describe the main business base in your community – retail, manufacturing, logistics, etc.
2. What business development and expansion activities, staffing and funding do you have in your community? Are they adequate or are enhancements needed to make your community more competitive?
3. What business incentives are in place to help supplement business investment?
4. Is there a zoning ordinance in place? If so, please explain for residential, commercial and industrial. Is zoning up-to-date and relevant to today's operating environment?
5. Does the city have a business permitting process in place? Please describe.

Sites and Buildings

6. Develop a list of the top quality, available and "marketable" sites, business or industrial parks, and buildings (retail, commercial and industrial) including data: location/address, size, lease or sale price, terms, access to utilities, and ownership contact information.
7. Working with your utility providers, develop a description of your community's power and telecommunications capacity and competitive positioning including cost, availability and quality.
 - Electricity and natural gas systems.
 - Telecommunications capabilities including broadband availability.
 - Sanitary sewer, solid waste management, and water systems.

NOTE: As part of your community's plan, enter all data as requested in the Louisiana Site Selection Center database. Produce a profile sheet (with all fields filled-in) for each property. Every community should strive to develop sites as this is a "product" that companies and site consultants are seeking for their projects.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

8. Describe the local government governing body.
9. Describe the major capital improvement projects that have occurred over the last several years and those planned for short and long term.
10. What is the annual community budget?
11. Describe the regular sanitation services provided by the community to include: standing water control, trash removal, recycling programs, and any other.
12. Sanitary sewer, solid waste management, and water systems:
 - Describe each system. Are there system issues? Does the city have ordinances in place that meet state and federal guidelines? Is the city in compliance with all regulations?
 - Approximately what percentage of the community is covered by each system?
13. Fire Protection
 - Describe protection system/code, class and rating, facilities, equipment, and maintenance plan.

Police/Sheriff Protection

14. Describe the police/sheriff protection in place.
15. Emergency Services - Describe the emergency services available in the community. (EMS, etc.)
16. Does the city have a business permitting process in place? Please describe.
17. Emergency Communications and Planning system and plan in place. How are emergency communications provided to the public?

Disaster Preparedness

18. Is there an emergency communications and preparedness plan in place?
 - Describe the plan in a few sentences including facilities, evacuation routes, and staff trained to assist.
 - Has the public been informed about the emergency plan and how?

QUALITY OF LIFE

19. Are there any organizations in the community focusing on beautification, preservation and appearance?
 - Provide some examples of beautification projects conducted in the community, what organization completed them, and how they were funded.
20. Describe the public parks and recreation facilities, staffing, activities, and funding for the community.
 - What kind of organized sports and recreation activities are organized in the community?
 - Does the community have a community center to host activities?
21. List the arts and cultural assets and initiatives in your community – museums, cultural centers,

historical sites, arts programs, tourist centers, etc.

22. Is there an adequate amount of housing for all market segments – executive housing, middle to low income housing, rental properties, apartments, etc.

Healthcare

23. Describe the healthcare services/facilities available in and/or around your community?
What services are missing that might be viable for your community such as medi-quick units, clinics, etc.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

k-12 Education System

24. Describe the public education system in your community in terms of quality of education, facilities, and services offered.
25. List the schools in the k-12 public school system including enrollment and teaching faculty.
26. Considering the current and future population, is the education system adequate?
Are facilities adequately equipped with:
- Library services and materials.
 - Science and Computer labs, auditoriums, theater, and assembly areas.
 - School sponsored music and art programs.
 - School sponsored sports programs.
27. Gather data related to school quality and student learning:
- Student to teacher ratio for both public and private/parochial institutions
 - Accreditation for all public and private/parochial institutions
 - Comparison of local ACT/SAT scores vs. regional and national averages
 - Average LEAP and I-LEAP scores by category and compared to regional and national averages on English, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
 - Number and % of seniors who pass the exit exam – average score?
 - Graduating seniors going to 4 year or 2-year college or institution.

Skills Training to Obtain Work

28. What training and other education programs are available to help citizens acquire job skills so they can be employable? (Workforce Investment Board, faith-based, non-profit, Sheriff's Office, on-the-job training, LA Dept. of Corrections, etc.). Describe what services these programs provide and how effective are they at helping citizens obtain skills and work.

TRANSPORTATION

29. Inventory all public transportation services.

30. Describe the community's airport and services including:

- Runways (#, dimensions, weight bearing capacity)
- Terminal building (size, staffing, hours)
- Hanger service (#, size, lease fees)
- Fuel and maintenance service (# of fixed base operators, hours of operation)
- Charter service (availability and costs)
- Commercial airline services (carriers, fly-to locations)
- Zoning around airport (commercial, industrial, residential?)
- Expansion capabilities (how much land could possibly be available)
- Describe available freight services (provider and services)

31. Describe available railroad services (mainline, branch line, or short line length and provider)

32. Describe active port facilities (location, water depth, facilities)

NOTE: If the community does not have an airport, railroad, or port, please describe the capacities of the nearest within a 60-90-minute drive-time.