



LOUISIANA

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

*Safe Drinking Water Program*

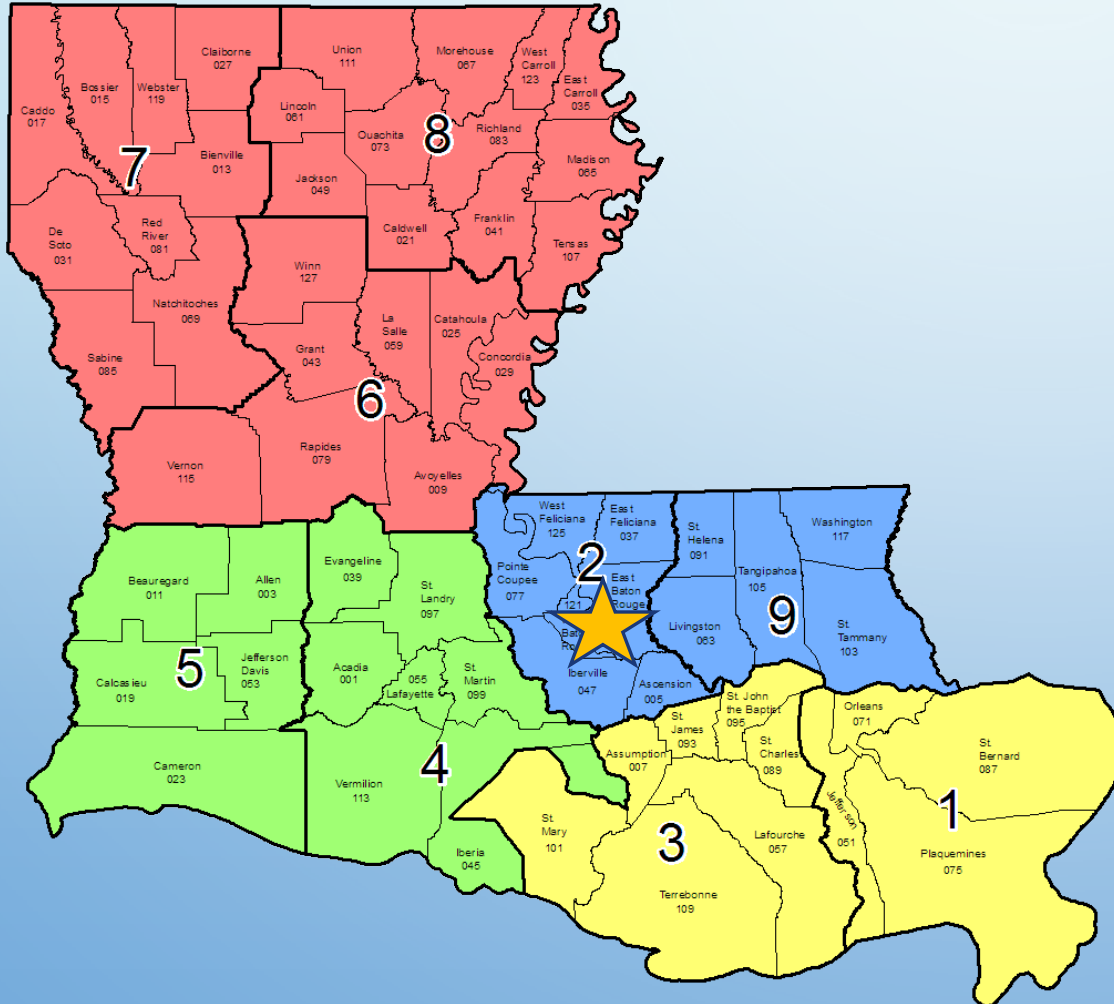
# Consolidation Initiative

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Infrastructure Engineer

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# Louisiana Department of Health Bureau of Engineering



- Safe Drinking Water
  - Total of 94 staff
    - Engineers, sanitarians, support staff
  - Emergency Response
    - Hurricanes and Winter Storms
    - COVID – Continuity of Operations
- Community Sewerage Program
- Operator Certification Program
- Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund

# Infrastructure Engineer

- The position was created in 2019 in response to a 2017 water system emergency in rural Louisiana.
- **Technical Assistance – “Free Support”**
  - Engineering – Infrastructure assessments, cost estimates, etc.
  - Operational – Troubleshooting, compliance issues, data review, etc.
  - Managerial/Administrative/Financial – Decision making, options/information
- **TMF Capacity Development – Short term and long term planning**
- **LDH appointment to the state Rural Water Infrastructure Committee (RWIC)**
- **Emergency Response – Field operations**
- **Water Sector Program – Federal ARPA**
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**



# Rural Water Systems in Louisiana

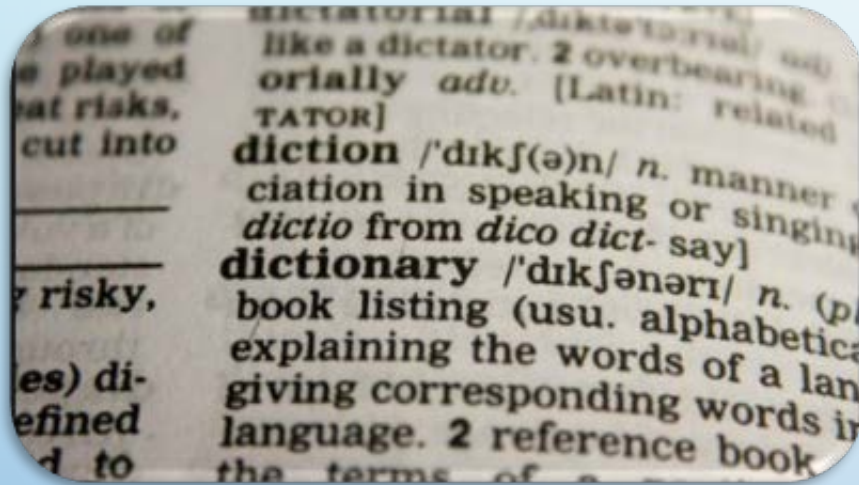
- 958 community water systems in Louisiana
- ~878 (92%) of state community systems are rural
  - 706 of these systems are less than 3,300 pop.
  - Often less resilient to natural disasters
  - More difficulty adjusting to regulatory changes
  - Struggle to fund infrastructure maintenance and replacement due to poor economies of scale and lack of staff
- 58% 50+ years old, creating potential for breakdowns and need of repair



The Corner Store – Ringgold, LA



# Important Definitions



Consolidation: *con·sol·i·da·tion* | \ *kən- ,sä-lə- 'dā-shən* \

the process of **uniting**: the quality or state of **being united**

Synonyms: combining, merger, merging, union

Partnership: *part·ner·ship* | \ *pärt-nər- ,ship* \

a relationship resembling a **legal partnership** and usually involving **close cooperation** between parties having specified and **joint rights and responsibilities**

Synonyms: alliance, collaboration, cooperation, union

Sustainable: *sus·tain·able* | \ *sə- 'stā-nə-bəl* \

of, relating to, or being a method of harvesting or **using a resource** so that the resource is **not depleted or permanently damaged**

Synonyms: defensible, defensible, justifiable, maintainable, supportable, tenable

Resilient: *re·sil·ient* | \ *ri- 'zil-yənt* \

**capable of withstanding shock** without permanent deformation or rupture or tending to recover from or **adjust easily to misfortune** or change

Synonyms: bouncy, elastic, flexible, rubberlike, rubbery, springy, stretch, stretchable, stretchy, supple, whippy

# LDH Funding Opportunities

## LDH DWRLF

- Loan Program
  - 2.45% interest rate
  - 20-30 year term
- AO Initiative
  - 30% Principle forgiveness up to \$200,000 for systems
- BIL
  - General Supplemental
    - 49% PF up to \$3,000,000
  - Emerging Contaminants
  - LSLR
    - 0% interest rate on loans

## Consolidation Initiative

- Water System under an AO merges with neighboring system
- Full consolidation – TMF
  - **100%** Loan Forgiveness
  - 2019 - \$4 million
  - 2020 - \$7 million
  - 2021 - \$5 million
  - 2022 - \$5.1 million
  - 2023 – est. \$5 million

# Funding Collaboration



- DRA – Delta Regional Authority
- LDEQ – Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
  - CWSRF – Clean Water State Revolving Fund
    - BIL
- LCDBG – Louisiana Community Development Block Grant
- LDH – Louisiana Department of Health
  - DWRLF – Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund
    - Consolidation Initiative / BIL
- USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture
- USEDA – U.S. Economic Development Administration
- WSP – Water Sector Program

# Consolidation Initiative Projects

Water System Partnership		Population	LDH	Funding
Sabine Parish Water District No. 1	Ajax-Beulah Water Association (Loan closed 8/20/20)	453 Total: 6,594	\$2,295,000	LDH, WSP
Blanchard WS	Bel-Di-Gil WS (Loan closed 12/20/20)	960 Total: 14,610	\$3,700,000	LDH, WSP
Cadeville WS	Robinson Chapel WS (Loan closed 1/20/21)	180 Total: 4,980	\$1,460,000	LDH, USDA, LCDBG
East Feliciana Rural Water	Town of Clinton (Loan closed 2/9/21)	2,541 Total: 6,003	\$2,500,000	LDH
Henderson-Nina WS, Inc.	Elm Point Estates, River Ridge LLC, TESI Atchafalaya Acres (Loan closed 4/27/22)	625 Total: 5,170	\$8,512,000	LDH, USDA, LCDBG, WSP
City of Winnfield WS	Hwy 84 West WS (Est. Dec. 2022 closing)	499 Total: 7,558	\$1,900,000	LDH
Village of Harrisonburg	Village of Enterprise (Est. Dec. 2022 closing)	570 Total: 1,520	\$3,940,000	LDH, LCDBG
Sabine WWD #1	Village of Powhatan (Est. Fall 2023 closing)	499 Total: 7,216	\$5,000,000	LDH
<b>8 Loans</b>	<b>10 Systems</b>	<b>6,327 Total: 53,651</b>	<b>\$27,307,000</b>	



# American Rescue Plan Act (APRA)



American Rescue  
Plan Act of 2021

- Louisiana – Water Sector Program
  - HB 642 – Act 410 of 2021 Regular Session
    - Created the Water Sector Fund
      - **\$300,000,000**
    - Created the Water Sector Program (WSP)
      - Water sector commission - review applications submitted pursuant to the WSP and recommend for funding to Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget (JLCB).
      - DOA, OCD and facility planning- administer program with LDEQ and LDH.
  - 2022 Regular Session
    - Allocated an additional **\$450,000,000** to the WSP.

# Water Sector Program Process

- **Oversight**
  - Water Sector Commission – 10 members: 5 Senators, 5 Representatives
- **Working Group**
  - Department of Administration – Administrative and Liaison to Commission
  - LDH – Drinking water technical review
  - LDEQ – Sewer technical review
- **Key Program Aspects**
  - 75% grant / 25% match with ability for Commission to waive match (distressed, consolidation, etc.)
  - Competitive Application – cost share, readiness, severity, consolidation, resiliency, and sustainability (TMF)

# Water Sector Program Round 1: By the Numbers

- \$300M allocated to water and sewer projects through the WSP
- 535 Total projects reviewed – 269 sewer, 266 water
  - Awarded Projects:
    - Sewer – 27 projects totaling \$94,700,000
    - Water – 60 projects totaling \$179,400,000



## Water Projects

- 266 applications reviewed totaling \$578,700,000
  - 45 projects with 40 rating for severity – 29 funded
  - 54 projects with AOs – 23 funded (~150-200 AOs statewide)
  - 27 consolidation projects – 23 funded
    - 16 of 23 projects funded developed directly from the LDH Consolidation Initiative efforts.
    - ~\$81,000,000 in consolidation applications awarded funding.
    - 31 distressed systems being merged

# Water Sector Program Round 2: Update (In progress)

- \$450M allocated to water and sewer projects through the WSP
- 233 Total projects reviewed
  - 140 sewer totaling \$406M
  - 193 water totaling \$541M

## **Water Projects**

- 193 applications reviewed totaling \$541,000,000
  - 41 projects with 35-40 rating for severity
  - 49 projects with AOs
  - 28 consolidation projects (38 systems being merged)
    - 13 applications directly related to Consolidation Initiative efforts



# ? QUESTIONS ?

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