

Central Louisiana Renewal Community

ID	Renewal Community Name	OLAS#	Population	Sq Miles	Poverty	Unemployment
40	Central Louisiana	LA0012	192,425	5,259	35%	14%

Part of Central Louisiana is a Round I Enterprise Community (EC) that has been designated a Renewal Community (RC). That part of Central Louisiana lost its EC status when it became an RC on January 1st, 2002.

The Central Louisiana Renewal Community contains parts of the parishes of Avoyelles, Beauregard, Catahoula, Concordia, Grant, LaSalle, Natchitoches, Rapides, Sabine, Vernon and Tensas.

The Central Louisiana Renewal Community's Course of Action includes the six required goals and actions, which will be outlined briefly below.

Reducing Tax Burdens

State and local governments are planning to implement the following tax burden reductions: provide tax credits to medical doctors who relocate to rural areas; eliminate the first year's fee for occupational license taxes; reduce the health unit tax; reduce the parish millage; reduce or waive the Building Permit fees and reduce the rate or rebate a portion of property taxes for new developments in the RC area.

Improving Local Services

The Central Louisiana Renewal Community will improve local services through establishing a website which connects all economic development websites in RC, expanding educational facilities, targeting Welfare-to-Work single mothers, and disseminating information to residents on the benefits of the RC.

Reducing Crime

The Central Louisiana RC recognizes there is a greater need for community awareness of its protective services and will establish increased communication between all crime-related agencies such as police departments, sheriff's offices, juvenile detention centers, drug enforcement agencies and school board offices.

Reducing Government Requirements

The goal of the Central Louisiana RC is to provide a reduced amount of paperwork for permitting, certifications, and code adherence and to allow for the consolidation of information of sources for securing housing and business grants.

Soliciting In-Kind Donations

The RC plans to educate and inform towns, police juries, school boards and residents on the benefits of making abandoned schools or other real property available for economic development or sale to low-income residents of the RC.

Involving Community Partners in Economic Development

The RC recognizes that economically disadvantaged businesses have difficulty being competitive. Therefore, the Central Louisiana RC plans to educate school districts and businesses on the benefits associated with the Workforce Commission TANF initiative and how it relates to RC residents and employers and to utilize other activities and organizations to increase jobs and improve methods of transportation.