

Ouachita Parish, Louisiana Renewal Community

ID	Renewal Community Name	OLAS#	Population	Sq Miles	Poverty	Unemployment	Low-Income Households
19	Ouachita Parish, LA	LA0017	43,276	77	50%	18%	70%

Ouachita Parish has a Round I Enterprise Community (EC) that has, in part, been designated as a Renewal Community (RC), thus Ouachita Parish lost its EC status when it received an RC designation on January 1st, 2002.

The Ouachita Parish RC commits to the following actions within its Course of Action:

Reducing Tax Burdens, including:

- Providing a 5-year property tax exemption on new or additional improvements to land, buildings, equipment, or machinery.
- Quality Jobs Program – an annual tax credit up to 5% of a business’s new payroll for a 5-year period.

Improving Local Services, including:

- Incumbent Worker Training: providing financial assistance through the Dept. of Labor to train and develop skills of existing employees for qualified business working in the RC for at least 3 years.
- The Tanner Business Center, run by the City of West Monroe, will provide on-going valuable services such as financial literacy training, classes on the responsibilities of home ownership, employment screening, placement, and follow-up assistance.
- The City of West Monroe will provide 18-hour per day transportation for seniors from the Senior Center to job and work training locations.

Reducing Crime, including:

- The Community Policing and Retail Patrol: police officers are assigned to designated zones to improve knowledge of area, people, and to establish a more visible presence at high traffic locations like businesses and schools.
- Law Enforcement Academy – this West Monroe institution attracts many law enforcement personnel to the area to help curb crime.

Reducing Government Requirements, including:

- Expedited Construction and Permitting – this is a West Monroe City task force approach to fast-tracking commercial and industrial projects.
- Brownfields Pilot Grant – this West Monroe program offers financial and technical assistance for the assessment of abandoned or underutilized sites that may suffer from the stigma of environmental problems.