

Historic, Cultural, and Other Resources

Many historic buildings, cultural centers, and other facilities utilized by the general public sustained tremendous damage during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These venues provided economic support to the parishes throughout the state and sustained community cohesiveness. As a result, some of these projects were deemed “top priorities” by Louisiana.

The Superdome, located in New Orleans, sustained great damage from both Hurricane Katrina and as a result of sheltering evacuees for seven days. Repairing this facility became a benchmark for the recovery in the area. With FEMA’s assistance, the Superdome was football ready by September 25, 2006. This facility contributes approximately \$2 billion a year to the state and local economy. To date, a total of \$130 million has been provided to Louisiana for repairs.

Some other notable repair and restoration projects being funded by FEMA include New Orleans Museum of Art, The Mahalia Jackson Theater of Performing Arts, The Old U.S. Mint, Jackson Barracks, Fort Jackson in Plaquemines Parish, East St. Tammany Events Center, Vermilion Parish Libraries and the Washington Parish YMCA, Jefferson Parish’s Pontiff and Terrytown Gymnasiums, Lake Charles Civic Center in Calcasieu Parish, Cameron Parish’s Holly Beach and the Sugar Cane Festival Building in Iberia Parish.

To date, FEMA has obligated (paid to the state) \$166 million of the \$184 million total for which the state is eligible. Louisiana has disbursed \$124 million to its applicants.