



For Immediate Release

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Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality powers community development in Homer with \$50,000 Brownfield Program Grant



Homer, LA - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) was pleased to award Main Street Homer a \$50,000 Brownfields Planning Activities Program Grant to provide technical assistance for the redevelopment of historic buildings in Downtown Homer, Louisiana.

Over the past decade, the Town of Homer has begun a massive rehabilitation and revitalization effort for its historic downtown. So far, over 31% of previously vacant buildings are now occupied, and that number will continue to grow thanks to investments from grants like the Brownfields Planning Activities Program.

"Empowering communities like Homer to revitalize their historic spaces and convert environmentally contaminated sites into economic engines is at the heart of the Brownfield Program," Said Secretary Aurelia S. Giacometto. Congratulations to Main Street Homer and their vision to transform their community."

Main Street Homer Executive Director Jimmy Hand said, "Main Street Homer is extremely grateful to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and DEQ Secretary Aurelia Giacometto, VRP Coordinator Rebecca Otte, VRP Technical Liaison Jennifer Schatzle, and Project Manager Ashlyn Holmes, for providing the opportunity and guidance to receive and implement a \$50,000 Brownfield Planning Activities Technical Assistance Grant. The grant provided funding to hire the consulting firm Place+Main to provide analytical data to help property owners in Homer remediate, market, and sell 21 vacant historic properties. Vacant building percentages in Homer have dropped from over 50% to under 30% in the last few years, and this grant will help us continue to lower that rate, creating additional building space infrastructure, and attract new businesses into downtown Homer. The partnership with the LDEQ will allow MSH continue our mission of revitalizing Homer through economic development, historic and cultural preservation, and advancement of the arts."

The US EPA's Brownfields Planning Activities Program aims to provide technical assistance to communities, states, and tribes to help them assess, clean up, and reuse contaminated properties, also known as brownfield sites. LDEQ is the state administrator of that program and allows organizations such as Main Street Homer to apply for these grants and revitalize dilapidated sites.

All eligible organizations are encouraged to apply for LDEQ-administered grants. For more information on Brownfield programs, such as the technical assistance grant, please visit the LDEQ [website](#).

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