

Northeast Louisiana Long Term Recovery Group *Community Framework for Long Term Recovery*

FAQ

From National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD) Long Term Recovery Guide and NELA LTRG organizational documents and meeting minutes.

What is a Long Term Recovery?

Recovery is the period following a disaster and the community's early response to that disaster, whereby things return to a new normal. A Long Term Recovery is the transition occurs between the presence of national organizations and the local community.

What happens during Long Term Recovery?

- Implementation begins for disaster case management and recovery initiatives administered by the local community.
- Construction activities to include repairing, rebuilding and/or relocation of homes proceeds during this phase.
- Resumption of the routines of daily life characterizes this phase.

What is a Long Term Recovery Group?

A long term recovery group (LTRG) is a cooperative body that is made up of representatives from faith-based, non-profit, government, business and other organizations working within a community to assist individuals and families as they recover from disaster. No matter how a group is structured or what it calls itself— unmet needs committee, interfaith, organization, coalition, roundtable, partnership, coordinating council, etc.—the goal is the same: to unite recovery resources with community needs in order to ensure that even the most vulnerable in the community recover from disaster.

How long has NELA Long Term Recovery Group been in existence?

The group was formed in April 2016 to serve the 12 Northeast Louisiana parishes.

How does that NELA LTRG define its mission, purpose, and goal?

Mission Statement: The mission of the Northeast Louisiana Long Term Recovery Group is to provide recovery services to individuals and families in Northeast Louisiana affected by the 2016 flood. Services will be provided regardless of individual's race, color, gender, disability or religious preference.

Purpose: To provide collaboration and coordination for community organizations after national organizations have completed their emergency/crisis assistance; to address community needs not covered by FEMA, insurance, similar sources of help; to focus on the community's most vulnerable residents through the recovery process to achieve a new normal. (Most vulnerable is

defined as those isolated, elderly, non-English speaking, lack insurance and/or financial or other resources to address need; estimated 10% to 15% of those impacted.)

Goal: The goal of the Northeast Louisiana Long Term Recovery Group is to help address unmet disaster needs until resources are exhausted.

Who is part of the NELA LTRG?

Membership of NELA Long Term Recovery Group:

- FEMA Voluntary Liaison Angele Rogers
- United Way NELA/211 (*providing coordination and meeting site as well as community referrals; serves as fiscal agent*)
- Disaster Case Management Organizations *Easter Seals of LA, ICNA (Islamic Circle of North America) Relief USA, St. Vincent dePaul, and Volunteers of America (subcontracted services to St. Vincent DePaul)*
- Community Nonprofit and Faith-based Organizations *1st West, ACSDR, American Red Cross, ARCO, Children's Coalition, Easter Seals LA, Elisha Ministries, Extra Mile, FBNELA, Habitat for Humanity, , Home Builders Assn, HOME Coalition CoC, LA Spirit, LDH-OPH, Mt. Zion B. C., NAACP, Rays of Sonshine – Zone, SWRGC, ULM School of Construction, United Methodist Church, Waking Up, Inc., White's Ferry Road Relief*
- State and Local Govts *Caldwell Parish 911, Caldwell Parish Sheriff's Office and Office of Emergency Preparedness/Homeland Security, LA Office of Emergency Preparedness/Homeland Security, LA DHH Office of Public Health, LA Rep. Katrina Jackson's Office, City of Monroe/Mayor's Office, NELA Delta Health Services Agency/LA Spirit, Ouachita Parish Police Jury*

Organizational Structure:

Steering Committee (Larry Head, Chair; Pat Moore, OPPJ, Vice Chair; Sarah Johnson, HOME Coalition, Secretary; Jan Wawrzyniak, UWNELA/211, Treasurer; Janet Durden, UWNELA, Fiscal Agent)

Committees:

- Disaster Case Management – outreach to survivors, screening, intake for case mgt, referrals, monitoring of recovery process
- Donations Management – collection, managing, storing, and distributed donated materials; maintains 5,000 sq ft warehouse and inventory of donated materials; oversees distribution
- Emotional and Spiritual Care – outreach and provision of counseling for survivors
- Fundraising – plans and carries out fundraising for unmet needs
- Housing – liaison between displaced survivors and temporary housing resources including FEMA, Red Cross Shelters, homeless services; track status of homeless population and public housing
- Construction Management – coordinates rehab/rebuild of damaged properties
- Public Affairs/Information – provide status reports, info about resources related to Long Term Recovery

- Unmet Needs Roundtable – hear requests for assistance for unmet needs
- Volunteer Management – oversee management of volunteers

What does the NELA LTRG do?

A LTR typically does these things:

- Convene stakeholders to share information concerning the disaster and plans for recovery. Identify disaster-related unmet needs and coordinate resources to assist in recovery. Mentor and/or provide ongoing training throughout the recovery process.
- Provide financial and other resources that will be needed in the recovery.

The NELA LTRG does all of this, through its bimonthly meetings, usually at the offices of the United Way of Northeast Louisiana, 1201 Hudson Lane, Monroe. During meetings, committees report progress on their various tasks to date, work between committees is coordinated, community needs identified by the committees are discussed and responses identified or subcommittees formed to further explore options. For example, the need for mold remediation was identified early as an urgent and unmet need for many. The LTRG researched available resources to deploy to help residents address mold. There are at present no federal or state resources for this purpose. However, residents can do their own mold remediation using specific steps and supplies. Training is being coordinated to inform residents how to treat and prevent mold. Supplies for this purpose are available through disaster case managers or by calling 211. Future plans are to coordinate and train teams of volunteers to assist residents in mold remediation.

How many persons does the NELA LTRG expect to assist?

In the 12 Northeast Louisiana Parishes, there were 17,276 FEMA Registrations -- of those, 10,501 in Ouachita. Of those, 9,724 households were referred to the four Disaster Case Management Agencies serving our area. A LTRG typically focuses on the most vulnerable of those impacted, which national experience with disasters of all types estimate at 10% to 15% of those impacted. The estimated 10% to 15% of the 17,276 FEMA registrations would be 1,728 to 2591 households.

What Disaster Case Management Agencies are serving our area?

FEMA-funded through State of LA: 9,724 Cases referred to

- Easter Seals of LA: six NELA case managers
- ICNA (Islamic Circle of North America) Relief USA: 7 NELA case managers
- St. Vincent de Paul: 7 case NELA managers

Privately funded:

- United Methodist Committee On Relief – 1 case manager, 25 cases referred

It is likely only 16% of the referred cases will be heard by a case manager.

FEMA uses a formula to determine the total number of households that can be managed by disaster case managers per disaster incident. The formula is set for the entire disaster incident

DR-4263 which includes NELa, NWLa, and portions of Central and South LA. The formula allows for a total of 1,575 households for the entire disaster area by all DCM agencies contracted with for DR 4263. This includes at least 2 other DCM agencies not serving our area. they have to ferret out of the large number assigned, the most vulnerable with no ability to recover on their own to case manage. Others may not ever be served by FEMA funded disaster case managers.

What funds are available for the NELA LTRG to access to help with unmet needs?

Local funds were raised for flood relief by the United Way of NELA totaling \$346,271. At present, \$153,695 has been used and \$192,576 remains. To date, the average amount needed by unmet need cases presented to date is \$554. Using that average as a benchmark, available funds will serve 347 more cases, far short of the projected total number.

How can I get help from the NELA LTRG?

Call United Way's 211 Resource Line for further information.

I'd like to help in flood recovery efforts? What can I do?

Funds are most urgently needed to increase the number of households that can be served with unmet needs. Donations may be sent to United Way of Northeast Louisiana. Please clearly indicate funds are for flood relief.

Items: No donations of items are being accepted at present by the LTRG due to lack of resources to house, process, and distribute them. Donations of furniture can be made to local organizations that accept such items, such as Habitat for Humanity's ReStore, Goodwill, church thrift stores, etc.

Volunteers will be needed in the future, when disaster case managers have had more time to process requests for assistance. If you are interested in volunteering, please notify United Way's 211 Resource line of your interest.

How can I follow the progress of the recovery efforts?

Information will be provided to local media periodically, and you can check for updates at the group's FaceBook page or webpage shown below. You are also welcome to attend NELA LTRG meetings. Call 211 for more information.

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NELA-Long-Term-Recovery-Group-262115604185665/

Online: <http://nelahomecoalition.org/about-the-home-coalition/nela-long-term-recovery-group/>