Rising to the Century’s Challenges: Assessing Metropolitan Resiliency

John Travis Marshall
Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute
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Urban development amid climate change and economic shocks

Cities are leading international efforts to devise climate adaptation strategies.

Urban laws and government institutions are playing critical roles in promoting sustainable cities.

But cities face challenges in timely recognizing, transferring, and receiving/integrating effective solutions.
What do audits, maps & contracts have to do with resilience?

T: Cheryl Parent, Director of Community Planning and Development, 619 PH

FROM: Hélène N. Irion, Regional Inspector General for Audit, Gulf Coast Region, 1140A

SUBJECT: The New Orleans Redevelopment Authority, LA, Hélène N. Irion, Regional Inspector General for Audit, Gulf Coast Region, 1140A

HIGHLIGHTS

What We Audited and Why

We audited the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (Authority), a $29.7 million U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) 2 grantee. We initiated the audit as part of the HUD Office of Inspector General’s (OIG) annual audit plan to evaluate programs funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

Our objective was to determine whether the Authority’s use of the NSP 2 funding, including the propriety of its ongoing activities, obligations, reported costs, and expenditures, were in accordance with Federal regulations.

What We Found

The Authority did not always use its NSP 2 funds in accordance with Federal regulations. This condition occurred because the Authority (1) did not have adequate controls and policies and procedures, (2) did not follow its own policies and procedures, and (3) was not always aware of its responsibilities as a NOI grantee under NSP 2. As a result, the Authority could not provide reasonable assurance that it had adequately fulfilled the requirements of the agreement with HUD and the Authority and one of its construction contractors.

Problem Properties in Broadmoor Tract 103

Report Status
- Fully Constructed
- Demolished
- Partially Constructed
- Pre-Renovations Vacant Lot
- Unruled

STATE OF LOUISIANA
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – DISASTER RECOVERY UNIT

COOPERATIVE ENDORSEMENT AGREEMENT
IMPLEMENTING GRANTS MADE UNDER THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT DISASTER RECOVERY PROGRAM
THROUGH THE
LOUISIANA LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

This Cooperative Endorsement Agreement (“Agreement”), dated effective this 17th day of September, 2009 (the “Effective Date”) is entered into by and between the NEW ORLEANS REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY “Grantee,” represented herein by, Richard Montell, its duly authorized Executive Director, and the STATE OF LOUISIANA, DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION, OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, represented herein by Angela Davis, Commissioner of the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration, and Paul Rainwater, Executive Director of the Office of Community Development (“the ODD”). Grantee and the ODD may sometimes hereinafter be collectively referred to as the “Parties.”

WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 14(a) of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana provides, “For a public purpose, the State and its political subdivisions or political corporations may engage in cooperative endeavors with each other, with the United States or its agencies, or with any public or private association, corporation, or individual;” and

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the United States Congress, through Public Laws 109-148 and 109-234 appropriated funds to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) Community Development Block Grant (“CDBG”) Program for use through the State of Louisiana for disaster recovery; and

WHEREAS, the ODD, on behalf of the State of Louisiana, administers the State’s CDBG disaster recovery program (the “CDBG Disaster Recovery Program”), which is subject to the Federal statutes and regulations governing CDBG grants, as modified by exceptions and waivers previously granted and which may hereinafter be granted by HUD; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana’s First Action Plan (Katrina/Rita) submitted to and approved by HUD provided using $94 million of the CDBG disaster recovery allocation within the Infrastructure Program for the purpose of providing funding for local infrastructure projects in the most heavily impacted areas of the state.
## The City Resilience Index (CRI) Assessment Framework

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<td><strong>Housing and Community Development</strong></td>
<td>Local Government Legal Landscape: Institutions</td>
<td>Ability to implement Federal Community Development Block Grant Programs</td>
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<td>Ability to pursue redevelopment objectives with Federal, State, and Private Entities</td>
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<td>Existence and capacity of Land Banks and Vacant Property Management Entities.</td>
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<td>Local Government Legal Landscape: Laws and Policies</td>
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<td>Core Capacity</td>
<td>Existing Challenge</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Infrastructure development</td>
<td>inadequate parks, roads, stormwater, sanitary sewer</td>
<td>• user fees, impact fee and special taxing financing district ordinances</td>
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<td>2. Resettlement</td>
<td>threat of future population loss, flooding, wildfires, sea level rise, etc.</td>
<td>• master/ comprehensive planning requirements; building setbacks and buffer zone laws; redevelopment safeguards; land bank authority</td>
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<td>3. Affordable housing strategies</td>
<td>affordable housing preservation; affordable housing development; rehab or replacement of aging or vulnerable low and moderate income housing stock</td>
<td>• housing trust fund; ad valorem tax abatements; density bonuses; master/ comprehensive planning requirements</td>
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