

# PREPARED TO SERVE: A FAITH-BASED DISASTER PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

*Terrebonne Parish*



**BARR**  
BAYOU AREA  
REGIONAL  
RECOVERY



# PURPOSE: STRENGTHEN COORDINATION WITH FAITH-BASED GROUPS IN DISASTER PLANNING

## AGENDA

- Welcome & Overview
- Introductions
- Framing the Role of Churches in Disaster Response
- Parish-Level Volunteer & Donations Operations Overview
- Quick Break
- Breakout Activity – Defining Missions & Roles
- Mapping Activity – Coordinating Efforts
- Wrap Up & Next Steps



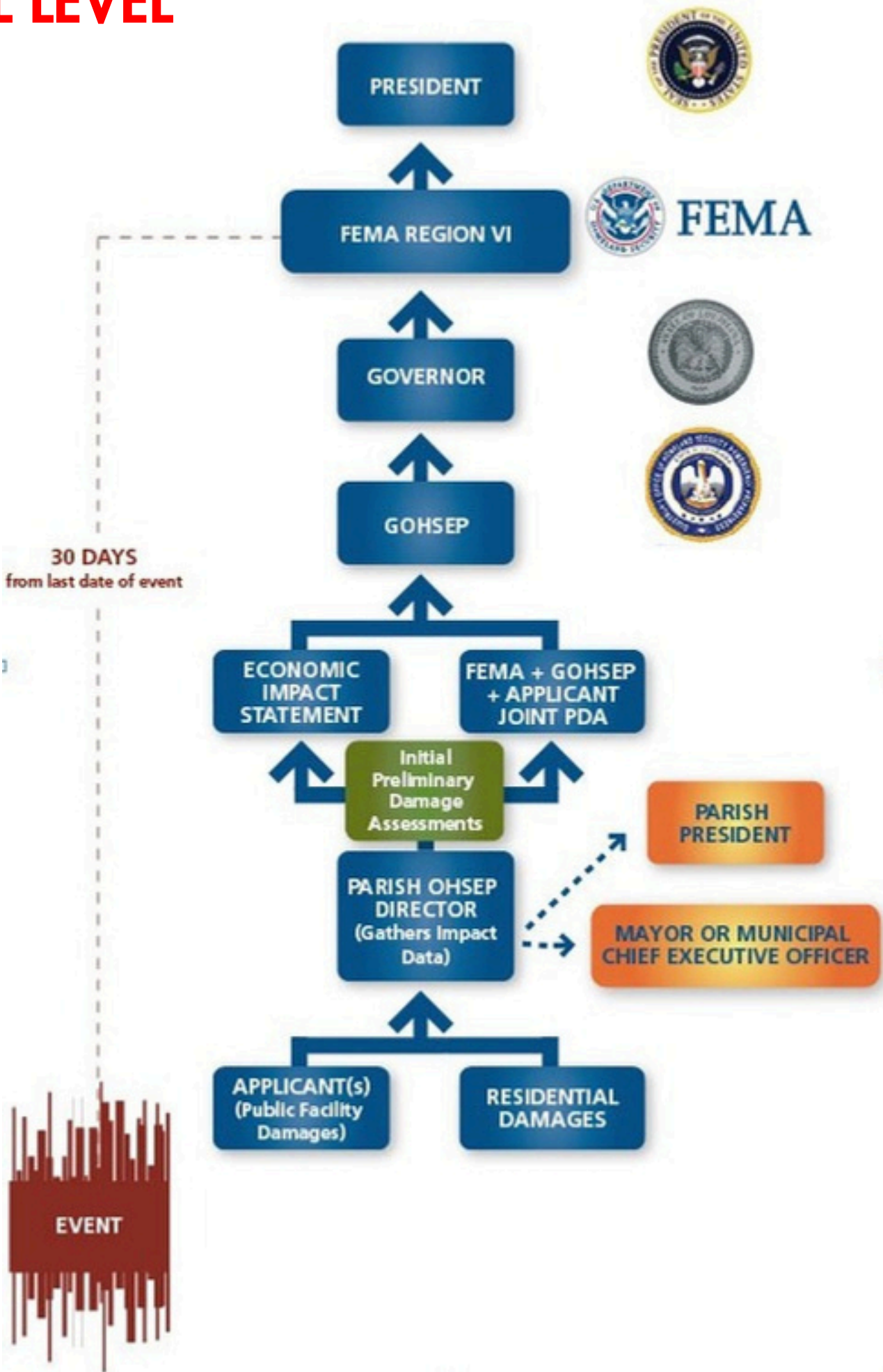


# IMPORTANT ROLE OF CHURCHES

- **All disasters begin locally**—and churches are already embedded in the neighborhoods that are first impacted.
- **Faith communities offer trusted relationships**, physical space, and willing volunteers that can be mobilized quickly in times of crisis.
- **Churches are vital partners** in working alongside emergency managers, nonprofits, and government agencies to meet diverse community needs.
- **Preparedness begins with defined roles**—churches can plan how they'll serve, such as calling volunteers, hosting nonprofit partners, offering feeding sites, or providing emotional and spiritual care.



IMPORTANT: ALL DISASTERS BEGIN AND END AT THE LOCAL LEVEL





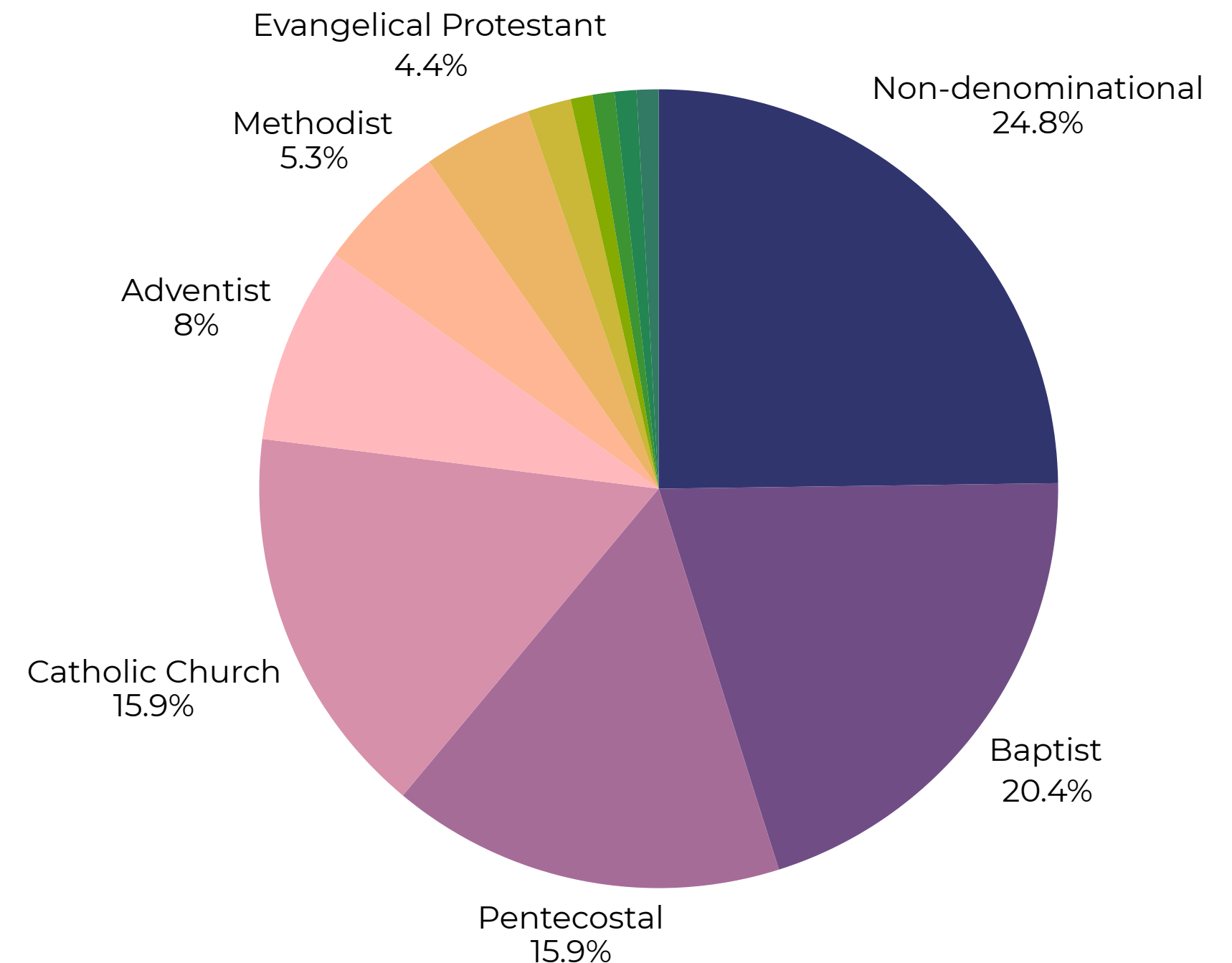


# Stronger Community, Better Response Connecting Community Organizations Dur...



# SHARING YOUR MISSION, AMPLIFIES YOUR IMPACT

- **Churches with defined roles** serve more effectively during and after disasters.
- **Sharing those roles** with your local VOAD supports emergency managers, prevents overlap, and strengthens coordination.
- **Creating a plan doesn't commit your church to respond**—it simply helps others know what you're willing and able to do.
- Emergency management and your local VOAD **will ask, not task.**







# **PARISH-LEVEL VOLUNTEER & DONATIONS OVERVIEW**

## **TOPICS:**

- **Spoke and Hub Model**
- **Resource Distribution Plan**
- **Extending the reach to communities across the parish**



### What OHSEP does:

- EOC roles and operations
- Request and communication on Volunteer & Donations Activity go through the designated seat in the EOC held by BARR

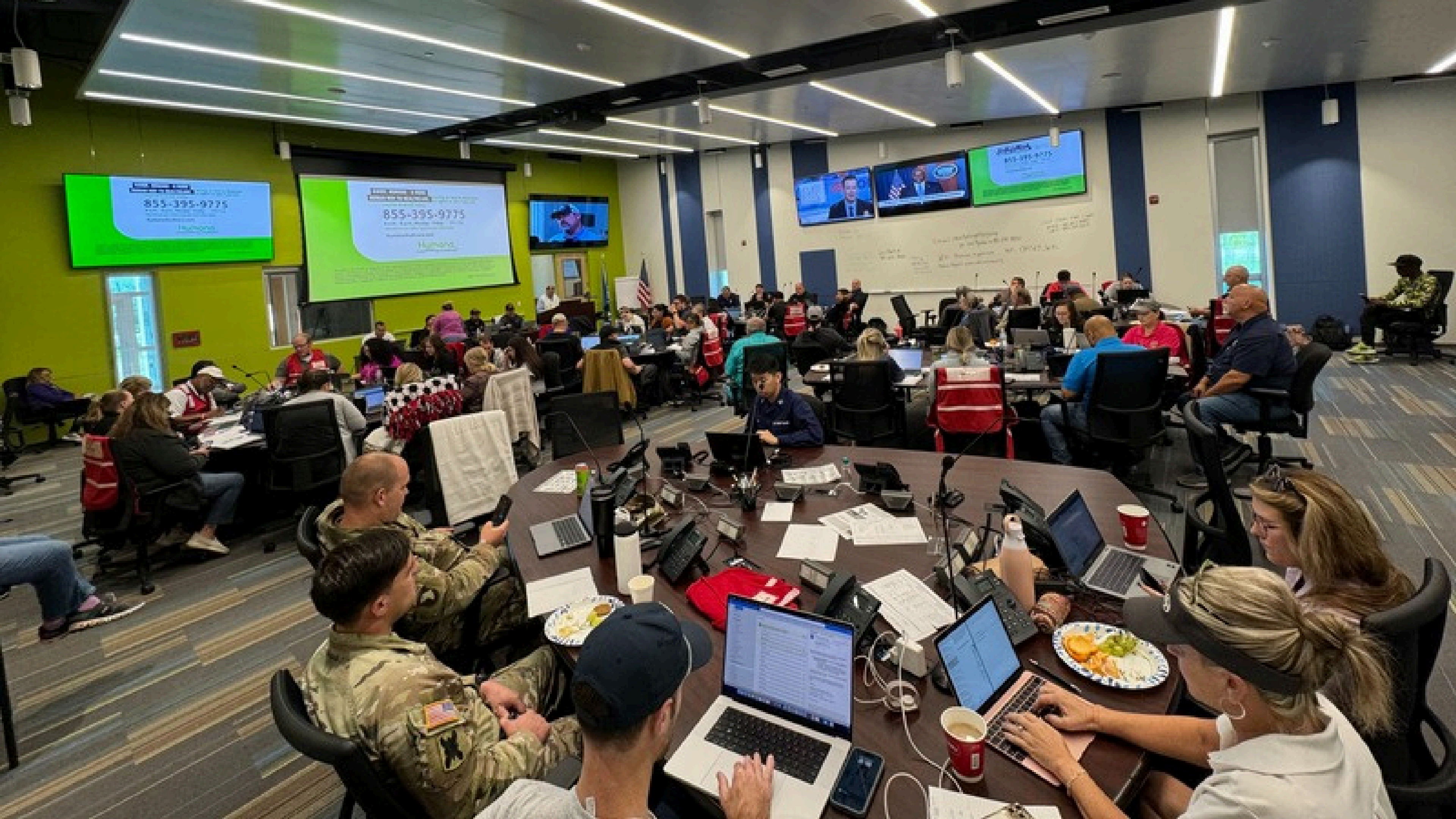
## HOW TERREBONNE COORDINATES INFORMATION AND RESOURCES WITH NON-PROFITS

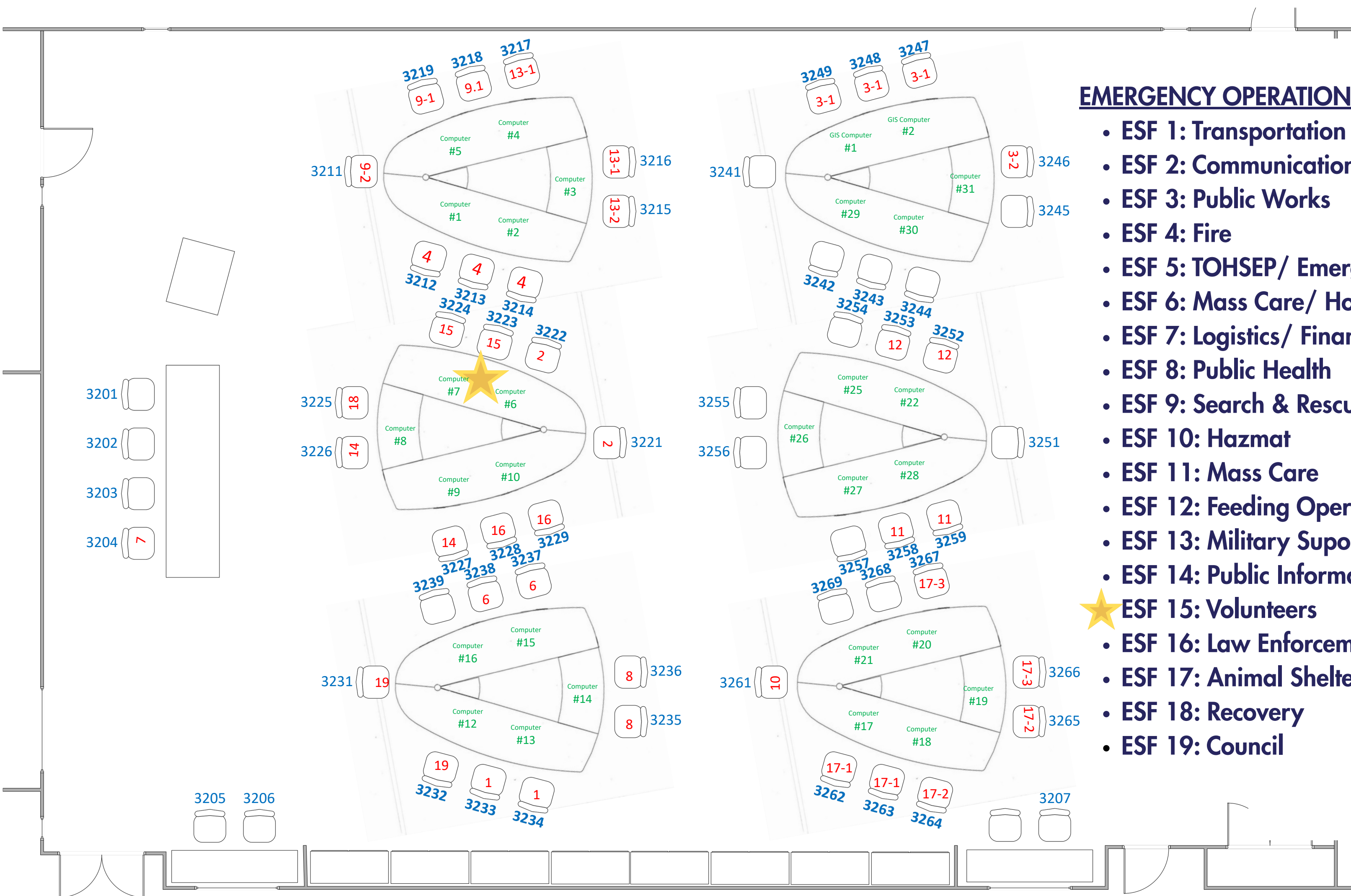


### What BARR does:

- Staff EOC seat for Volunteer & Donations Management
- Charged with reporting information on needs, gaps, and resources to the EOC
- Regional Long-Term Recovery collaboration
- Access to national and statewide networks through LAVOAD



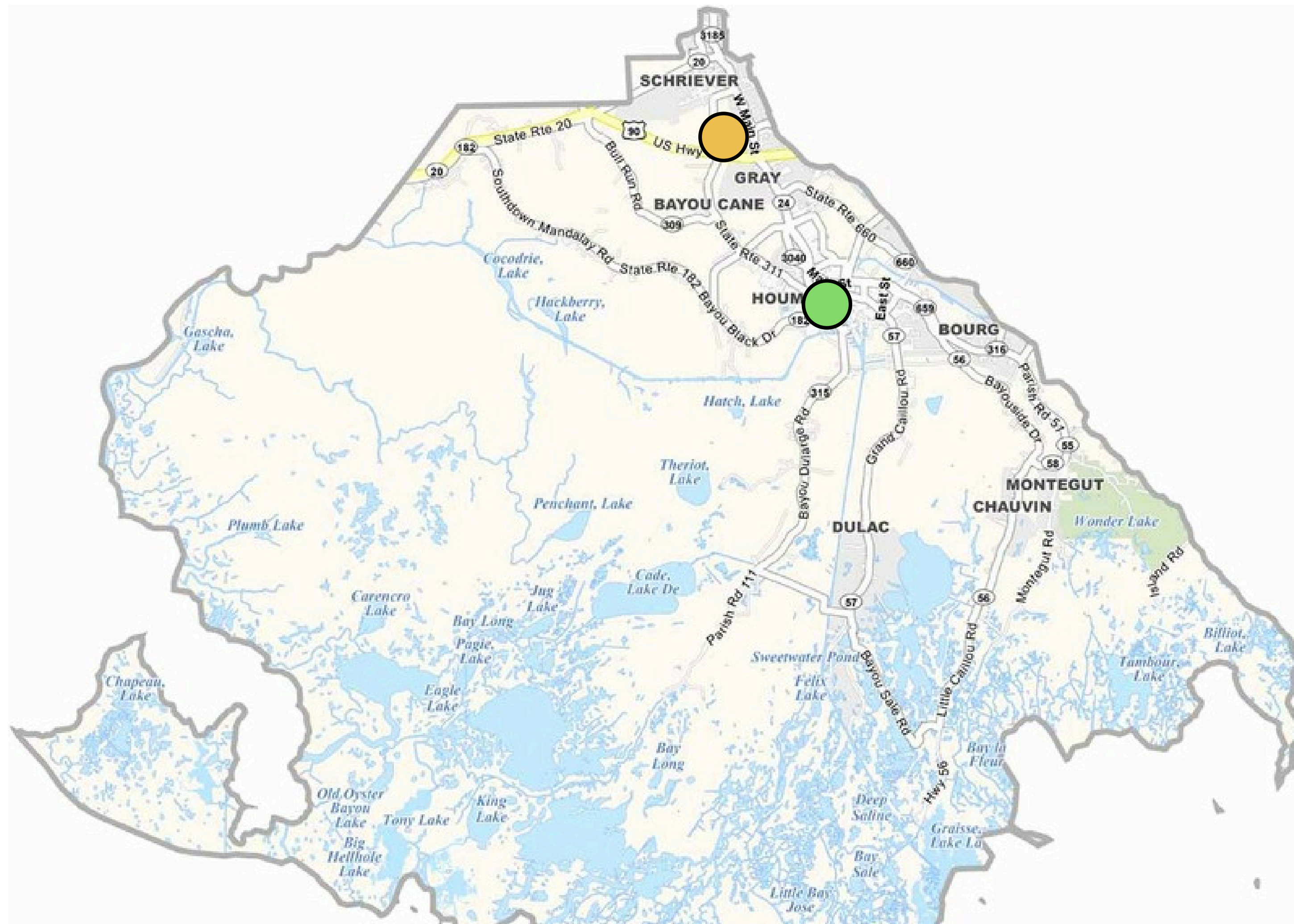




## EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER SEAT MAP

- ESF 1: Transportation
- ESF 2: Communications
- ESF 3: Public Works
- ESF 4: Fire
- ESF 5: TOHSEP/ Emergency Management
- ESF 6: Mass Care/ Housing
- ESF 7: Logistics/ Finance
- ESF 8: Public Health
- ESF 9: Search & Rescue
- ESF 10: Hazmat
- ESF 11: Mass Care
- ESF 12: Feeding Operations
- ESF 13: Military Suport
- ESF 14: Public Information Officer
- ★ ESF 15: Volunteers
- ESF 16: Law Enforcement
- ESF 17: Animal Shelter
- ESF 18: Recovery
- ESF 19: Council





## MAP: Proposed Hub

- **Green dot is approximate location of Houma Civic Center**
- **Yellow dot is approximate location of proposed Fletcher Community College Hub**
- **Zoomed in to show major roads**



HARVEST DR HARVEST DR

VALHI BLVD

HAWTHORNE DR

VALHI BLVD

CIVIC CENTER BLVD

LIBRARY DR

VALHI BLVD

CIVIC CENTER BLVD

SUGAR MILL CROCTAW DR

CIVIC CENTER BLVD

HIGHWAY 311

NAVAJO DR

MORNINGSIDE DR

BOSTON LN

CRESCENT DR

BOSTON LN

PINE AV

BARROW ST

EDISON AV

BARROW ST

HIGHWAY 311

CHEYENNE LP

CHEYENNE DR

CHEYENNE DR

CHEYENNE DR



**QUICK BREAK**





## THE ASK: HOW YOUR CHURCH CAN HELP?

- **Share information with your local VOAD** to coordinate information with emergency managers and clarify your church's role in disaster.
- **Activate your volunteers and facilities** for serving in the community or distributing essential supplies.
- **Offer spiritual and emotional care** to those in crisis.
- **Support long-term recovery** through volunteering, rebuilding, and network outreach.





# **BREAK OUT ACTIVITY: DEFINING MISSIONS & ROLES**

## **Goal: Identify capabilities**

- Information to write down
  - Key Contacts
  - Role(s) or Goal(s)
  - Facilities
  - Questions
- How the information will be used
  - For planning and future activation purposes
  - Always as an invitation to serve
  - Used by OEP and designated VOAD points of contact for coordination and collaboration

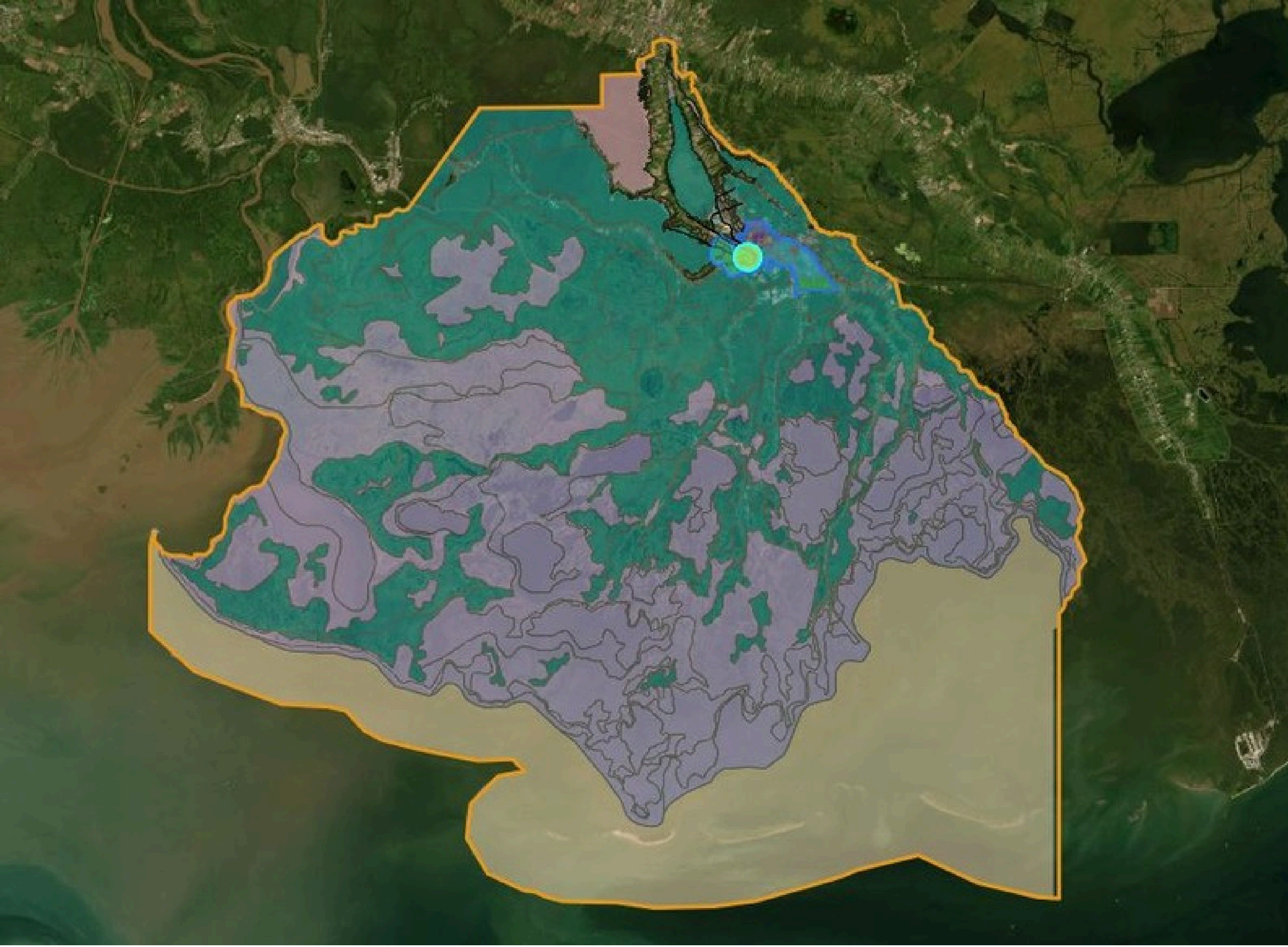




# MAPPING ACTIVITY: COORDINATING EFFORTS

## Identifying & Building Coalitions:

- Organization Name
- Primary Contact
- Location in the Parish
- Top 1-2 Disaster Role(s) or Goal(s)
- Discuss to Explore Collaboration
- Place on Designated Sheet



## MAP

- Pulled from Terrebonne Parish GIS system
- Includes prior flooding information in shaded zones
- **Green dot** is approximate location of Houma Civic Center



## MAP

- Reference for attendees located in or near neighboring Lafourche Parish



# WHAT CHURCH LEADERS CAN TAKE BACK TO THEIR ORGANIZATIONS

Plan how you can best share volunteer talents, space, supplies, or existing services

Learn how to safely provide mission driven volunteer support for disaster response and recovery

Assess your existing service missions and engage your congregation to identify service areas

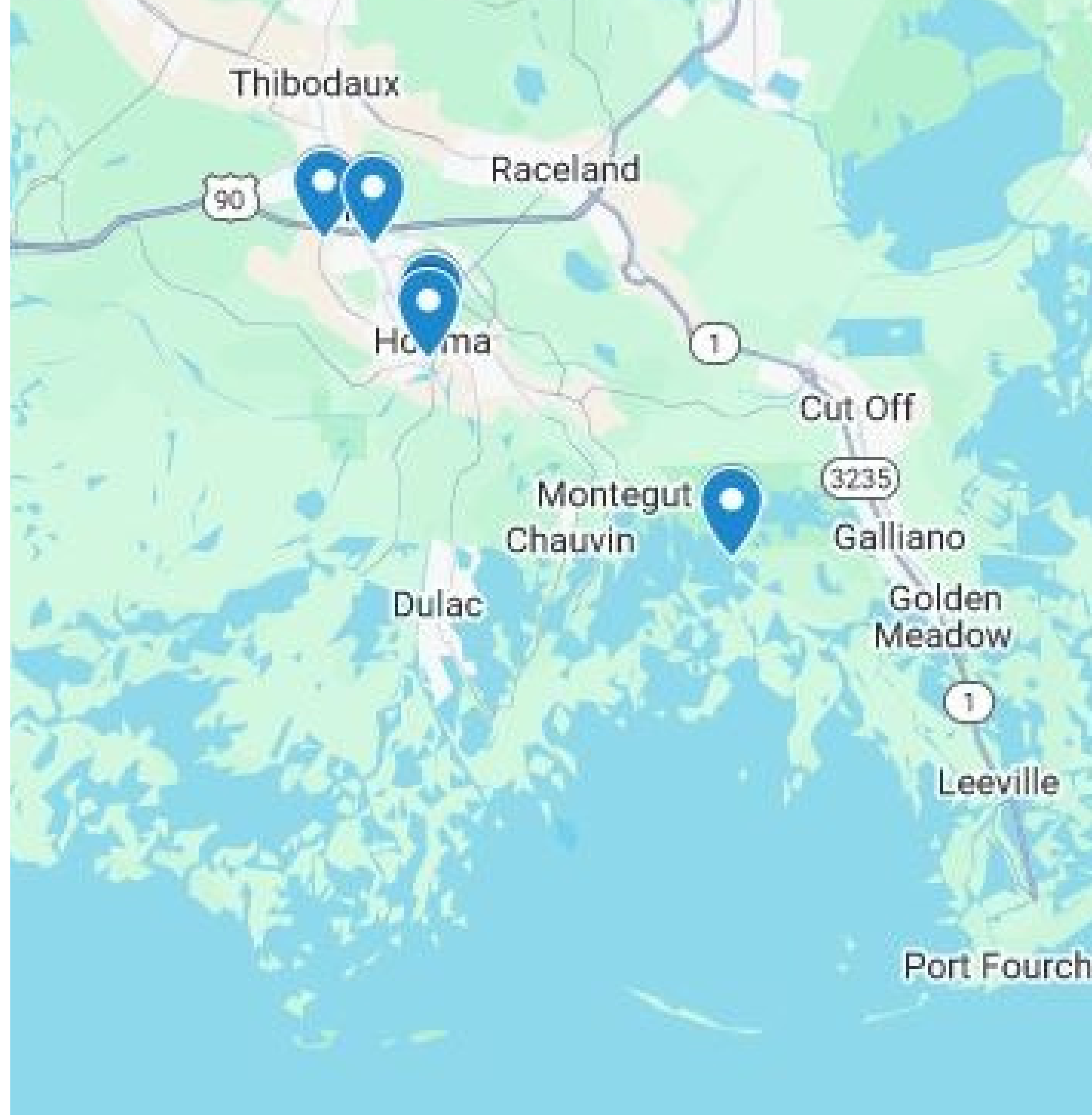
Form liaison roles with local VOAD groups to support local emergency management efforts

Continue to refine your plan by practicing and training to sustain your mission

# **WRAP UP & NEXT STEPS**

# NEXT STEPS

- **Discuss your church's mission** in disaster response with your leadership team.
- **Identify your church's strengths**—volunteers, space, supplies, spiritual care, etc.
- **Fill out the worksheets** with your church or organization to share your plan and resources with your local VOAD and OEP
- **Designate a disaster liaison** to represent your church in planning and response efforts.
- **Complete a church readiness checklist** or create a basic ministry response plan.
- **Participate in trainings or VOAD meetings** to stay connected and informed.





**This workshop is made possible through  
partnerships with Terrebonne Parish Government,  
Bayou Area Regional Recovery (BARR), Bayou  
Community Foundation and Volunteer Louisiana**



**BARR**  
BAYOU AREA  
REGIONAL  
RECOVERY

