

Bayou Community
Foundation



COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE
CENTER
AT THE WATER INSTITUTE



STRATEGIES FOR INCREASED RESILIENCE IN SOUTH LAFOURCHE AND SOUTH TERREBONNE

*Community-Identified Actions to Address Needs and
Capacity in Historically Overlooked Regions of the Bayou*

Cover: Annual Blessing of the Fleet in Golden Meadow, LA. Generations gather along the bayou, celebrating faith, honoring their heritage, and blessing the livelihoods that sustain families across South Lafourche and South Terrebonne. Photo Credit: Sebastian Willis, Southern Raised Aerial Imaging

PARTNERS

Bayou Community Foundation



Bayou Community Foundation envisions a vibrant and diverse Lafourche, Terrebonne and Grand Isle, Louisiana community where all can thrive, and we work each day to strengthen this community through philanthropic leadership. As a public charity, Bayou Community Foundation actively addresses critical needs in Lafourche, Terrebonne and Grand Isle; inspires generosity and grows charitable resources to make a lasting impact; and leads, convenes and collaborates with donors, partners and nonprofits to enrich our community.

Learn more at www.BayouCF.org.

Community Resilience Center at The Water Institute



A community center is a place where people go for resources, opportunities, and connecting with others. The Community Resilience Center at The Water Institute (the Center) serves in this role for Gulf Coast communities on topics related to community-led resilience. The Center works with communities to move beyond the assessment and study of risk towards the exploration, co-development, and implementation of community-focused strategies to increase resilience at every level: individual, household, neighborhood, city, state, and even nationally.

Learn more at www.thewaterinstitute.org/crc.

CONTENTS

Partners	1
Bayou Community Foundation.....	1
Community Resilience Center at The Water Institute.....	1
Contents	2
Introduction	3
Background	6
Anchor the Bayou Program - Overview.....	6
A Comprehensive View of Resilience.....	7
Understanding Community Perspectives to Identify Needs and Solutions	8
Community Needs Assessment.....	8
The Starting Point: Understanding What is Already Known.....	9
Integrating Local Knowledge.....	10
ANCHOR Needs Assessment: Identified Priorities.....	11
Community Assets: A Strong Starting Point	13
Strategic Actions to Increase Resilience in South Lafourche and South Terrebonne ..	14
A. Affordable and Safe Housing.....	14
B. Education and Career Pathways.....	17
C. Spaces and Programming for Youth and Families.....	18
D. Mental Health and Healthcare Services.....	23
E. Disaster and Hazards Preparedness.....	26
F. Community Priority: Community Connection and Access.....	27
Path for Implementation	31
References	32
Appendix 1.	33
ANCHOR the Bayou Needs Assessment Methodology.....	33

INTRODUCTION

Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes are in the Bayou Region, a unique and precious coastal region of southeast Louisiana that is often called “America’s Working Coast.” Here, commercial fishermen harvest seafood that feeds Americans everywhere and workers in our offshore oil and gas industry proudly fuel our nation. Our passion for local culture, landscape and ways of life is celebrated in good times and often carry us through the tough times. The long-term resilience of our people and our communities, however, requires a deeper understanding of the challenges we face and the collaborative solutions that can help us build a stronger, more resilient future.

Louisiana is one of the most disaster-prone states in the nation (NOAA NCEI, 2020). On the front lines of coastal land loss, the Bayou Region experiences the impacts of hurricanes, tropical storms and other coastal flooding events most severely. At the same time, many residents here face social and economic barriers that make it harder to withstand these changes and move forward after an extreme event.

The southern communities of Lafourche and Terrebonne were selected for ANCHOR the Bayou due to their high levels of environmental, economic, and social vulnerability which impacts the ability to recover from more frequent disasters. These rural bayou communities rank in the CDC’s top 10% nationally for environmental and socioeconomic vulnerability and have experienced ongoing population decline driven by flooding, land loss, and repeated hurricanes, including Category 4 Hurricane Ida in 2021. More than half of households are located in FEMA flood zones, and residents face persistent challenges related to poverty, low median incomes, limited access to transportation, broadband, healthcare, and workforce opportunities. Geographic isolation, aging infrastructure, and limited service delivery further constrain resilience and historically marginalized populations are disproportionately impacted by these conditions. Together, these factors make South Lafourche and South Terrebonne priority areas for targeted, community-driven resilience-building through ANCHOR the Bayou.

This strategic plan is designed as a resource for any organization, agency, nonprofit, funder, or community leader committed to strengthening resilience in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche. It is intended to guide action, inform decision-making, and support collaboration across sectors. This document can be leveraged to support funding opportunities, strengthen grant proposals, inform new program development, and align existing initiatives. Ultimately, it serves as both a roadmap and a call to action—equipping partners with the insights and evidence needed to invest in solutions that reflect the strengths, needs, and long-term vision of the Bayou Region.

Through conversations, focus groups, and surveys, Bayou Community Foundation and the Community Resilience Center at The Water Institute partnered with community members, non-profits, and local leaders to identify shared priorities. This process underscored the importance of connecting existing efforts across South Lafourche and South Terrebonne, enabling communities to work together toward stronger, more coordinated resilience outcomes.



There is already powerful work underway that shows the capacity and commitment of the community. A few examples of efforts led by Bayou Community Foundation and its partners include:

- The Rebuild the Bayou Housing Recovery Program is helping families return home by repairing and rebuilding homes to fortified standard, supporting long-term housing stability, strengthening the local economy, and reducing future risk.
- BayouHelp.org serves as an essential support system by connecting residents with local services and helping them navigate nonprofit resources.
- The Bayou Region Food Bank Directory is improving access to healthy food options by linking residents to local food banks and other food providers.



These efforts reflect what is possible when communities lead, while also reminding us that many residents still need more support to thrive.

Port Fourchon is at the center of America's Working Coast, fueling our nation's energy, supporting livelihoods and economies, and strengthening the resilience of Louisiana's bayou communities. Photo credit: Port Fourchon



ANCHOR THE BAYOU

The Bayou Community Foundation's grassroots initiative to listen, learn, and take action on challenges and opportunities facing residents in South Lafourche and South Terrebonne. The Community Resilience Center at The Water Institute (Center) is a partner in this work.



Marsh Landscape on Bayou Lafourche. Photo Credit: ID 138909175 | Waterscape Louisiana © Shane Adams | Dreamstime.com

BACKGROUND

Program Overview

In Spring of 2025, Bayou Community Foundation and its partner, the Community Resilience Center at The Water Institute, launched a multi-phase initiative to support long-term community resilience in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche (see Figure 1). This work is focused on bringing people together for meaningful, ongoing collaboration for assessment, capacity building, and action around local priorities and solutions. This approach to increasing locally-led social resilience efforts is based on existing models (for example, the Resilient East Biloxi effort).

ANCHOR the Bayou builds upon existing efforts by Bayou Community Foundation and other local community leaders. Input from this work directly shaped this document and the recommendations within. We have identified actionable strategies to strengthen local resilience and address identified needs.



Figure 1. ANCHOR the Bayou’s multi-phase, community-led approach to strategic resilience planning.

A Comprehensive View of Resilience

Resilience is the ongoing process to reduce vulnerability (See Figure 2), which is the intersection of exposure, sensitivity, and capacity to adapt to hazards (Glick et al., 2011; Thomas et al., 2019). Building resilience involves finding ways to reduce our exposure and sensitivity and increasing our capacity to respond to them.

There are many infrastructure efforts already underway across the region, such as levee improvements and coastal restoration activities that are focused on reducing exposure to physical hazards. At the same time, addressing social challenges like poverty, housing instability, healthcare access, and food insecurity is often left out of traditional resilience planning. These are issues, however, on which our local communities demonstrate deep expertise and commitment. Nonprofit, philanthropic, and government organizations in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche are already working to strengthen social services and improve quality of life. These efforts often operate in silos and spaces separate from resilience conversations even though this work plays a critical role in reducing vulnerability.

The priorities and recommended actions in this document support a more holistic vision of resilience that brings these intersecting issues together. This includes applying a Social Determinants of Health lens (see Figure 3) to help describe the social, economic, and environmental factors that shape health, functioning, and overall quality of life – strong influences over sensitivity and adaptive capacity.

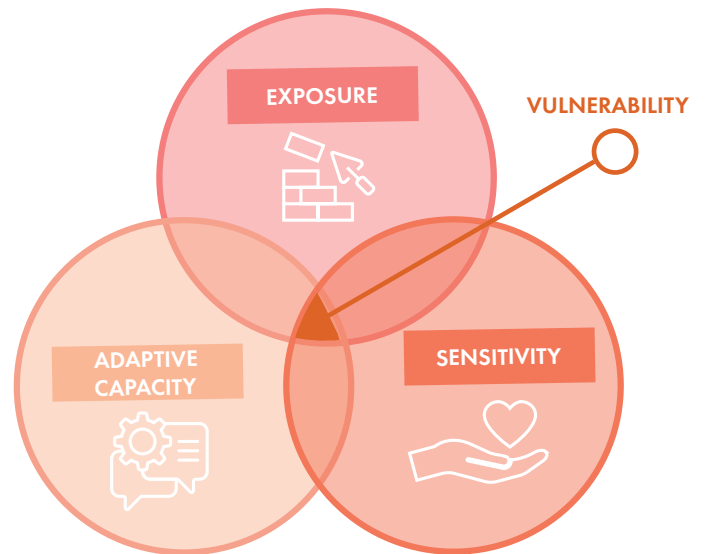


Figure 2. An outline of the three components that comprise the Climate Vulnerability framework (Glick et al., 2011; Thomas et al., 2018).



Figure 3. An outline of the five components that comprise the Social Determinants of Health framework (Center for Disease Control and Prevention.)

UNDERSTANDING COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES TO IDENTIFY NEEDS AND SOLUTIONS

Community Needs Assessment

This document represents the outputs from the strategic planning phase, where community input has been compiled to develop a shared set of priorities and actions. In 2026, the project will move into the community leadership and action phase with actions geared toward carrying these strategies forward.



STRATEGIC PLANNING



COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND ACTION



CARRYING THESE STRATEGIES FORWARD

Left: Community members discuss strategies for resilience at an ANCHOR the Bayou focus group meeting in Fall 2025. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation

Right: Donors and partners participate in the Bayou Community Foundation's Annual Bus Tour of Nonprofits, highlighting local programs that support communities across the bayou region. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation

Bottom: Rebuild the Bayou supports disaster recovery and long-term resilience by connecting residents with resources and coordinating rebuilding efforts. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation

The Starting Point: Understanding What is Already Known

The first phase of ANCHOR the Bayou’s Needs Assessment was intentionally informed by the Bayou Community Foundation’s 2023 Community Needs Assessment, which served as the foundation and starting point for this work. The 2023 assessment identified critical challenges across behavioral health, housing, food access, and disaster recovery—providing a clear snapshot of community priorities following Hurricane Ida and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building on this foundation, the 2023 findings were utilized to shape our approach, refine our research questions, and deepen exploration into the issues previously identified, specifically for South Lafourche and South Terrebonne. Many of the questions, ideas, and potential solutions raised in 2023 became the basis for further inquiry during ANCHOR the Bayou’s assessment.

We also re-engaged many of the partners, community leaders, and service providers who contributed to the 2023 assessment. Their continued participation ensured that the process remained consistent with community voice, rooted in local expertise, and aligned with ongoing initiatives.

Finally, the 2023 assessment provided a benchmark that allowed us to compare past findings with current community-identified needs. This comparison helped illuminate changes over time—highlighting progress in some areas and continuing or emerging challenges in others.

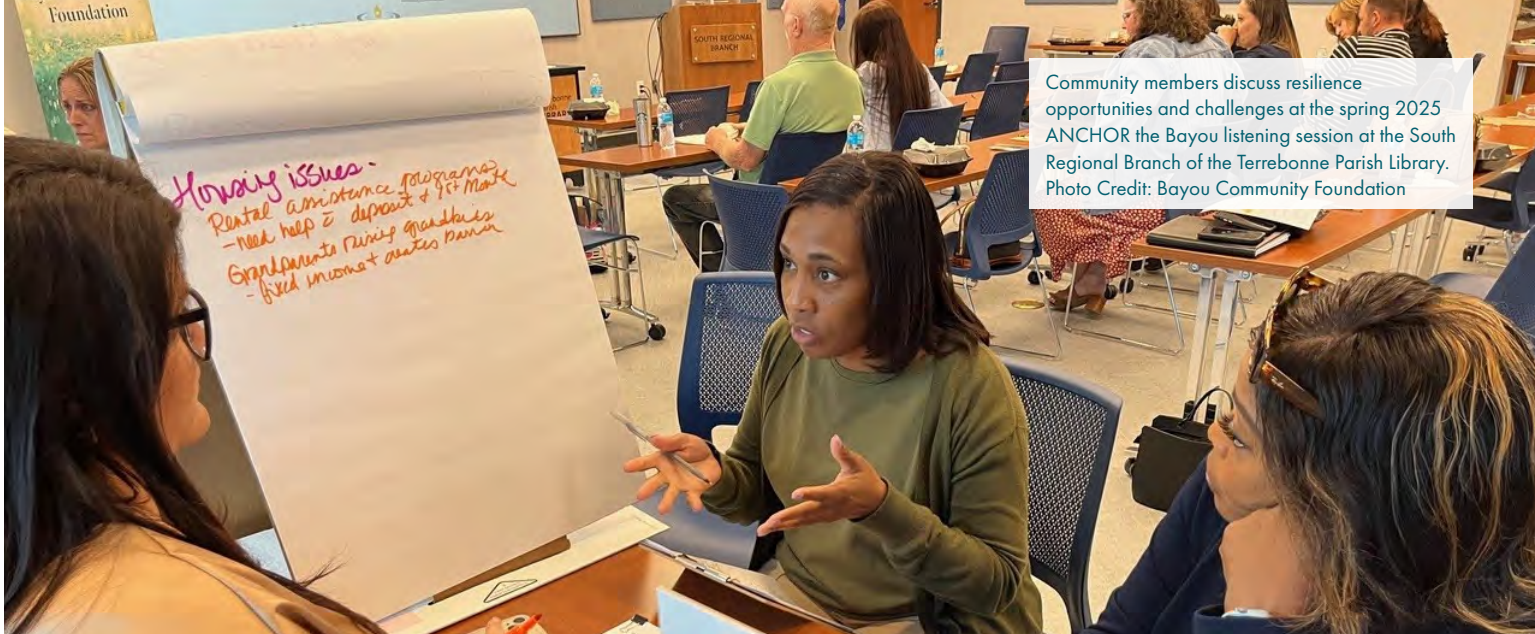
Together, these elements ensured that ANCHOR the Bayou’s Needs Assessment was built upon an established, community-driven foundation to move toward more holistic and actionable strategies for increasing resilience.



ANCHOR program manager Elizabeth Daigle leads a focus group discussion about resilience solutions at the Fall 2025 ANCHOR the Bayou Focus Group at the South Regional Branch of the Terrebonne Parish Library. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation

Community member shared perspectives on local challenges and opportunities during a spring 2025 ANCHOR the Bayou listening session in Terrebonne Parish at the Hope Extreme Community Church. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation





Integrating Local Knowledge

The ANCHOR needs assessment used a three-part approach to better understand what matters most to communities in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche. It began with community listening sessions in Spring 2025, where over eighty residents and partners across both Parishes shared their lived experiences and described community strengths and challenges. Those conversations then shaped the development of a community survey, distributed in both digital and print formats through local organizations to make it accessible across both parishes. The survey produced 189 valid responses and highlighted shared and parish-specific needs such as transportation, workforce development, housing, rising insurance costs, support for youth and families, and access to mental health and substance use resources. Finally, follow-up focus groups created space for deeper discussion with a subset of community members who participated in the earlier phases of the needs assessment. Conversations at these focus groups moved beyond identifying problems to exploring priorities and community-driven solutions. Together, these three components provided a grounded, community-informed picture of local needs, gaps, and opportunities that directly informed this plan. For additional detail on the methods used in the ANCHOR needs assessment, please see Appendix 1.

ANCHOR NEEDS ASSESSMENT TIMELINE

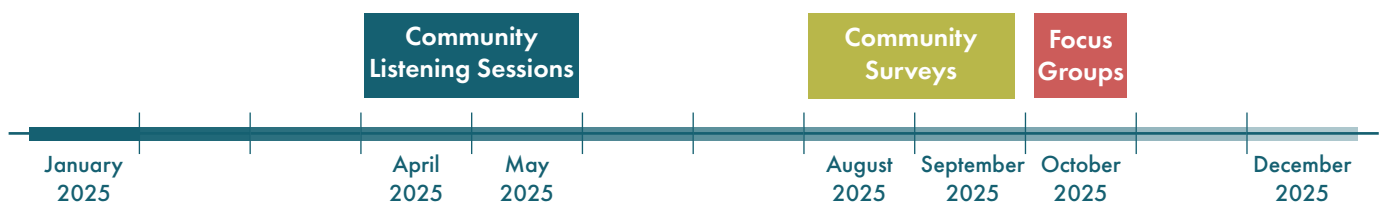


Figure 4. Timeline showing each phase of the 2025 ANCHOR needs assessment.

ANCHOR the Bayou Needs Assessment: Identified Priorities

The 2025 ANCHOR needs assessment used listening sessions, a community survey with 189 participants, and follow-up focus groups to understand priorities in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche. Together, these efforts provided a community-informed view of local needs and opportunities that directly shaped this plan.

Affordable and Safe Housing



Affordable and safe housing plays a critical role in community wellbeing. When survey respondents were asked to identify the most critical housing challenges facing their community, 66% cited housing insurance and 37% identified housing recovery. Concerns about insurance costs, rent and home prices, and the availability of safe housing options also came through strongly in the listening sessions and focus group conversations in both South Terrebonne and South Lafourche.

Education-to-Career Pathways



When education aligns with local workforce opportunities, individuals are better positioned to pursue long-term economic security. 28% of survey respondents identified workforce training and job placement as the most helpful economic and job stability strategy. These insights reflect the importance of strengthening and extending connections between education, training, and employment opportunities within the community.

Spaces and Programming for Youth and Families



Almost half (47%) of survey respondents shared that they considered strong family ties and networks to be a key strength of their community, and 55% identified “Creating safe spaces for youth and families” as the most helpful strategy to build resilience in their neighborhood. Access to safe spaces and quality programs helps young people stay active, build skills, and connect with others in their community. These responses highlight the ongoing need to expand and strengthen community spaces and programs so that all young people and families can benefit from safe places to learn, play, and connect.

Mental Health and Healthcare Services



Access to mental health and healthcare services is critical to individual wellbeing and overall community health. Survey respondents identified several challenges related to accessing care. The top four healthcare and behavioral health challenges were access to mental health care, access to substance use treatment, lack of health insurance, and food insecurity. These findings underscore the need for accessible and responsive services that meet community needs.

Disaster and Hazard Preparedness




Disaster and hazards preparedness helps communities reduce risk and recover more effectively when emergencies occur. Survey respondents most often reported rising insurance costs, damage to infrastructure, climate-related stress, increased utility costs, and housing loss as top hazard impacts. These responses point to opportunities to strengthen preparedness efforts to support community resilience.

Community Connection and Access



Reliable transportation and dependable internet service are essential to community connection and access. Compared to Louisiana overall, Lafourche Parish has lower computer access and a much higher share of adults 65+ without a household computer, while Terrebonne Parish closely mirrors the state average for computer access, but has a slightly higher share of older adults without a computer (ACS, 2024).

Frequently reported connection and access challenges among survey respondents were infrastructure issues and limited access to transportation. These barriers are especially consequential in the southern parts of Terrebonne and Lafourche because many essential services and resources are located just a few miles north or in neighboring parishes, making distance and limited transit options significant barriers to access.



“My ultimate dream is a wraparound resource center—one place where people can access food, mental health care, housing, and government support under one roof. Each day a space is dedicated to real needs: food distribution, mental health care, Medicaid assistance, housing support, etc. No wrong door. Someone can walk in, ask for help, and receive it right there.”

- ANCHOR Program Manager, Elizabeth Daigle, at Lafourche Parish Focus Group

“Ultimately, when you improve the conditions that families live in, you improve mental health, [giving residents] a sense of pride in the community that they live in...”

- ANCHOR Focus Group Participant in Terrebonne Parish

Community Assets: A Strong Starting Point

During the initial listening sessions, community members, local nonprofit representatives, and community leaders shared examples of both community assets and challenges. This input was used to develop a list of community strengths that informed the ANCHOR survey. Survey respondents were then asked to identify the greatest strengths of the community where they live or work.

The top three strengths named in the survey were:

- Active faith-based organizations and churches
- Strong family ties and networks, and
- Cultural events, festivals, or traditions.

Many survey respondents also selected community places as strengths, including local libraries, parks, green spaces, and outdoor recreation areas. In the ANCHOR focus groups, participants highlighted specific organizations and individuals who serve as key assets in resilience-related work. These assets included community organizations, schools, local government, and trusted local healthcare providers as well as faith groups, senior centers, and the Inter-Tribal Council of Louisiana.

Together, these responses show that residents not only understand the challenges they face, but also recognize the people, places, and systems that already help their communities stay strong.

As you read on, you will learn more about the community resilience strategies identified through these conversations. These strategies reflect the approaches highlighted by community members through this effort and offer a foundation for continued collaboration and future efforts to address the broader priorities identified. At times, specific partners or resources are highlighted as examples of existing work in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche. These examples were chosen for their relevance to community priorities, but they do not represent a complete list of the many dedicated service providers, community members, and elected officials working to support this region. For a more comprehensive directory of local service providers and resources, visit www.BayouHelp.org.



Respondents to the ANCHOR the Bayou community needs assessment identified local leaders of community organizations and institutions as essential assets driving resilience across southern Lafourche and Terrebonne. Credit: Bayou Community Foundation

PRIORITY

A. Affordable and Safe Housing

BCF's innovative Bayou Bungalow reflects the vision of safe, affordable housing, providing older adults with resilient, energy-efficient homes built to withstand storms. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation



Overview of Priority



According to input from South Terrebonne and South Lafourche residents, affordable, safe housing is essential for long-term resilience. This echoes BCF's prior 2023 needs assessment, which identified housing availability, affordability, and recovery as a key focus area in 2023.

Housing challenges include a shortage of affordable homes, difficulty accessing home repair programs, unclear insurance policies and processes, and limits on rental affordability. Heirship, the informal transfer of property to family without a will or clear legal paperwork, and related title issues also create barriers to disaster recovery. These challenges show the need for more expansive housing options, support for navigating complex programs, and stronger education and assistance for renters and homeowners.

A.1 Affordability for Homeowners

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) considers a household cost-burdened when they spend more than 30% of their income on rent, mortgage payments, and other housing costs. Across the country, rising home prices and borrowing costs are making it harder for people to buy their first home (Farha et al., 2025). Families in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche are experiencing these same pressures, often with fewer resources to absorb them.

Focus group participants identified support for first time homebuyers as a key strategy to address affordability. This set of actions focuses on making housing more financially attainable for residents across income levels, especially first-time homebuyers and households overburdened by rising costs. These actions reflect community concerns about affordability as both a daily challenge and a long-term barrier to stability and disaster recovery.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

A.1.1	Connect first-time homebuyers with existing resources, including homeowner education and support with down payment and closing costs.	Scale: Household
-------	---	------------------

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

A.1.2	Collaborate with parishes to strengthen parish housing strategies focused on affordability and resilience.	Scale: Parish
-------	--	---------------

A.2 Access to Housing Support Programs

These programming actions aim to make housing support easier to access and navigate by reducing common barriers. They include programs that help residents with home repairs and the administrative steps required to secure assistance. The goal is to provide clear guidance, remove obstacles for renters and first-time home buyers, and improve coordination among housing organizations.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

A.2.1	Coordinate housing efforts among nonprofits, faith organizations, government, and other housing programs so that services like home repairs, recovery assistance, and housing navigation are better aligned and easier to access.	Scale: Parish
A.2.2	Expand renter and homeowner rights education and financial literacy initiatives to equip residents with improved understanding of housing protections, financial decision-making, and long-term affordability.	Scale: Parish
A.2.3	Provide title transfer assistance for low-income residents living on inherited property to address heirship barriers to state and federal disaster assistance.	Scale: Household
A.2.4	Coordination with existing shelter providers and resources for people experiencing homelessness to better connect people with supportive services, including transportation, so individuals experiencing homelessness can more easily reach and benefit from the care and resources available.	Scale: Parish

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling work and partnerships up over 3-5 years

A.2.5	Expand access to home repair and rehabilitation assistance offered through government and nonprofit organizations.	Scale: Neighborhood, Household
-------	--	--------------------------------

A.3 Support for Renters

Renters often face unique challenges with housing costs and are also at a higher risk of housing instability following a disaster (Elliott et al., 2025). The actions below aim to link renters with resources and landlords to provide affordable housing and better protections.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

A.3.1	Promote landlord participation in governmental assistance programs to expand access to affordable rental housing.	Scale: Parish
A.3.2	Clarify HUD rent limits and help connect residents to available units.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood, Household
A.3.3	Provide support for upfront costs (deposit, first and last month's rent) to assist renters in securing homes.	Scale: Parish, Household

A.4 Insurance

Insurance is a critical portion of resilience; however, as disasters become more frequent, prices are increasing, making insurance less affordable, and in some areas becoming unavailable all together. The actions identified below help residents navigate, manage, and afford insurance. They focus on giving clear information, offering better support for claims, and pursuing policies and strategies that increase insurance affordability.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

A.4.1	Provide public education on insurance basics and offer insurance navigation workshops.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood, Household
A.4.2	Develop and distribute guidance to help residents review insurance policies.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood, Household
A.4.3	Offer case management support for navigating insurance claims.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood, Household

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling work and partnerships up over 3-5 years

A.4.5	Advocate for recognition of local levees and other local and regional risk reduction measures in calculating insurance premiums.	Scale: Parish
A.4.6	Advocate for expanded funding and participation in state-wide programs that support Fortified reroofing	Scale: Parish,
A.4.7	Encourage adoption of more resilient building codes (e.g., Fortified roofs, freeboard) to further reduce risk and insurance costs.	Scale: Parish

PRIORITY

B. Education-to-Career Pathways



Fletcher Technical Community College connects education to opportunity, helping Bayou residents build stable careers and a more resilient future. Photo Credit: Fletcher Technical College

Overview of Priority



Residents of South Terrebonne and South Lafourche are seeking stable, reliable local employment that allows them to remain in their communities. This supports resilience by reducing sensitivity to hazards and increasing adaptive capacity. Residents with consistent income are better able to maintain stable housing, recover from disruptions, and remain rooted in their communities.

There are a range of needs identified related to career readiness. Some are more direct, such as a need for enhanced access to training programs, career advice, and help with financial aid. Additionally, there are challenges such as adequate and affordable transportation and childcare that make it more difficult for residents in South Lafourche and South Terrebonne to participate in education and job programs, and to access employment. Schools, job programs, and employers can build upon existing partnerships and programming to ensure that education leads to stable career opportunities for residents at all stages of their careers.

B.1 Career Programming

These career programming strategies aim to connect learning with employment through hands-on skills, job readiness, and training programs.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

B.1.1	Strengthen guidance counseling capacity around budgeting, trades, financial aid (including FAFSA), scholarships and planning for next steps after high school.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood, Household
B.1.2	Offer financial literacy workshops that strengthen money management skills and credit-building, which can also support pathways to homeownership.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood, Household

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

B.1.3	Expand employer-informed workforce training pipelines with local employers, education providers, and workforce partners to align programs with local needs, real job opportunities, and priority industries, while expanding partnerships with existing workforce initiatives.	Scale: Parish
B.1.4	Strengthen non-traditional student pathways by expanding flexible and accessible education and training options. These may include evening and weekend learning, short-term credentials, and work-based learning modules.	Scale: Parish, Household
B.1.5	Pilot career exploration programs for youth.	Scale: Parish, Household, Neighborhood

Local Resource:
Learn more about local workforce training programs at Fletcher Technical Community College



By expanding access to training, career guidance, and supportive services like the Certified Line Worker Program, Fletcher Technical Community College helps remove barriers to education, empowering residents to build stable futures and stronger communities.
Photo Credit: Fletcher Technical College

B.2 Reduce Barriers to Workforce Participation and Training

This category of actions focuses on the real-life challenges that prevent residents from fully participating in education or workforce programs, especially childcare and transportation. Even strong programs are ineffective if people cannot access them. Addressing these barriers is essential to creating equitable pathways to stable employment and economic mobility.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

B.2.1	Connect potential workers and trainees to existing transportation programs, such as the service offered to all rural residents by Councils on Aging.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
-------	--	-----------------------------

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

B.2.2	Expand services and utilize available existing resources to address childcare and transportation barriers to support workers.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood, Household
-------	---	--

Local Resource:

Ready Start Terrebonne Early Learning Centers and Educational Resources

Ready Start Terrebonne helps families access early learning opportunities and child care resources that support healthy development for young children. Photo Credit: Ready Start Terrebonne



B.3 Career Guidance and Coaching

These actions focus on helping residents with career changes through guidance and coaching. They were developed in response to community feedback that one-on-one support is especially important for young adults and people changing jobs.

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

B.3.1	Provide case managers for career navigation (young adults, career transitions).	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
-------	---	-----------------------------

B.4 Economic Development

These actions aim to grow the local economy in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche and create more jobs for residents. People want both good jobs and improved spaces for families, tourism, and long-term growth. Aligning planning for economic development with hazard mitigation can also help protect coastal communities and make them stronger over time (NOAA Office for Coastal Management, 2025).

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

B.4.1	Further invest in tourism and redevelopment in South Lafourche and South Terrebonne to create activities for families and jobs for local residents.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood, Household
-------	---	--

PRIORITY

C. Spaces and Programming for Youth and Families

More than a library, the South Regional Branch of the Terrebonne Parish Library brings the community together, supporting youth development, family activities, and meaningful connections across generations. Photo Credit: Elizabeth Daigle



Overview of Priority



Residents value safe, welcoming spaces and consistent programs that bring families together. They see opportunities to build upon existing recreational areas and restore spaces that have been underused or damaged by storms. Community members are eager for more family-friendly events and early childhood programs and want to invest in coaches, mentors, and leaders who make youth programming strong.

C.1 Youth and Family Spaces

Actions in this category highlight a commitment to creating safe, welcoming spaces where youth and families can gather, play, and connect. They reflect local priorities for improving access to well-maintained areas to socialize and support a vibrant region.

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

C.1.1	Increase access to low- or no-cost safe, well-lit recreation spaces such as basketball courts and parks.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
C.1.2	Update storm-damaged and underused facilities	Scale: Parish

Local Resource: Air Base Park



ANCHOR focus group participants identified Airbase City Park in Houma as a key community asset supporting family recreation. Photo Credit: Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government (TPCG) Department of Quality of Life

C.2 Youth and Family Programming

These actions center the activities and services that bring families together and support youth development. They are tied to the community’s call for more consistent, inclusive, and accessible programming, especially outside of school hours.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

C.2.1	Expand family-friendly activities across neighborhoods and communities.	Scale: Parish, Household, Neighborhood
-------	---	--

Local Resource:
Cut Off Youth Center



Cut Off Youth Center, identified as a vital community asset in South Lafourche, provides family-friendly activities and safe spaces that bring residents together, support youth development, and strengthen community connections. Photo Credit: Elizabeth Daigle

C.2.2	Host events that increase community connection and celebrate local culture.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
-------	---	-----------------------------

Example Event:
The French Food Festival is a yearly event that brings residents together to foster community connection and celebrate local culture.



Community members gather at the Larose French Food Festival, a local tradition that brings residents together to celebrate culture, food, and community connection.

C.2.3	Partner with schools to connect families with easy-to-use resource navigation tools that link them to existing community programs.	Scale: Parish, Household
-------	--	--------------------------

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

C.2.4	Increase programming at existing recreation spaces to increase use while also providing economic and job opportunities.	Scale: Parish
-------	---	---------------

Focus Group Insight:

Providing lifeguards at public pools enhances use and safety, while also providing skill development and job opportunities for area youth.



The Larose Civic Center swimming pool provides a safe recreational space where youth and families can gather and stay active.
Photo Credit: Louisiana's Cajun Bayou Tourism.

C.2.5	Improve transportation access to family-friendly spaces and events.	Scale: Parish
C.2.6	Expand access to high-quality early childhood education in South Lafourche and South Terrebonne by strengthening systems that support families and early education providers, and utilizing existing tools to promote affordability and improve quality.	Scale: Parish, Household

Long-Term Actions: Sustaining resilience and capacity in the region for future generations.

C.2.7	Address violence and drug use by building on community strengths to improve the social conditions that shape health and long-term well-being.	Scale: Parish, Household, Neighborhood
-------	---	--

C.3 Capacity Building to Support Youth Programming

These actions support the people who lead youth programs. Coaches, mentors, and counselors help shape positive experiences for young people. When more trusted and well-prepared adults step into these roles, programs have a stronger foundation to grow.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

C.3.1	Recruit and train experienced, qualified coaches for youth sports and programming.	Scale: Parish
-------	--	---------------

PRIORITY

D. Mental Health and Health Care Services



Rebuilt in the wake of Hurricane Ida, Lady of the Sea General Hospital stands as a critical healthcare asset, expanding access to hospital services, clinics, behavioral health and pharmacies while supporting the long-term resilience of the Bayou Region. Photo Credit: Elizabeth Daigle

Overview of Priority



Residents and community partners shared strong concerns about access to both mental health care and health care services in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche. They emphasized the need for more local youth mental health support and described how mental health is closely tied to everyday needs such as stable housing, safe neighborhoods, reliable transportation, and access to food.

Mental health access has been consistently identified as a top community health priority across multiple Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA). Lady of the Sea General Hospital’s CHNAs in 2017, 2020, and 2023 all ranked mental health among the most critical unmet needs, citing ongoing challenges related to provider shortages, access to care, and community impact. Most recently, the 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment conducted by Thibodaux Regional Health System, reaffirmed mental health as the top community priority and highlighted ongoing barriers such as difficulty finding providers, transportation challenges, and limited access to consistent sources of care (Thibodaux Regional Health System, 2025). The assessment also named access to health care services as an area of opportunity, pointing to cost and availability as continued challenges for many residents. Together, these assessments demonstrate a sustained and unmet need for expanded mental health services in the region.

D.1 Mental Health

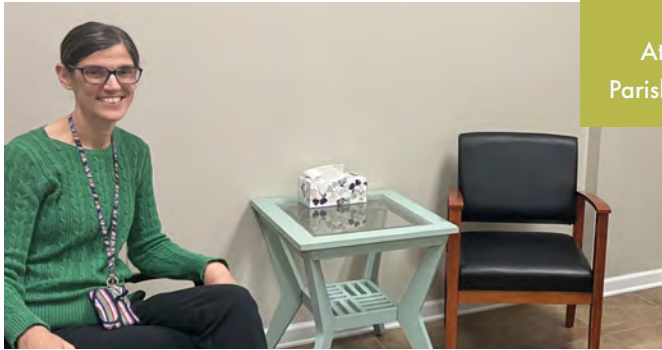
These actions expand access to behavioral health support and address the conditions that shape mental wellbeing. They reflect what community members shared about how mental health is deeply connected to everyday stability and quality of life. Storms, flooding, and other disasters can impact both physical and mental health, often in lasting ways. In the ANCHOR survey, nearly half of respondents (48.4 percent) said that they, or someone they know had experienced had emotional stress or anxiety about the impact of future hazards. Strategies to support mental health recognize and respond to these interconnected challenges.

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

D.1.1	Increase behavioral health staffing across South Terrebonne and South Lafourche.	Scale: Parish
D.1.2	Improve access to care through community-based health navigation	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years (Continued)

D.1.3	Establish a Health Navigator role to expand access to behavioral health support while addressing the broader conditions that shape mental wellbeing. This approach recognizes that mental health is deeply connected to housing stability, safety, transportation, and economic security.	Scale: Parish
D.1.4	Increase referrals to local counseling programs.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
D.1.5	Host family resource nights focused on mental health, Medicaid enrollment, financial literacy, and career pathways.	Scale: Parish



Local Resources:

At the Lafourche Parish Brief Therapy Center, a service of the Lafourche Parish Government, residents can receive eight sessions of therapy at no cost.

The Lafourche Parish Government's Brief Therapy Center, located at the South Lafourche Health Unit in Galliano, provides vital counseling and therapy for children, adults, couples and families navigate life's challenges and strengthen overall community well-being. Photo Credit: Lafourche Parish Government

Long-Term Actions: Sustaining resilience and capacity in the region for future generations.

D.1.6	Advance community-driven advocacy to improve the social conditions that support mental well-being, including stable housing and safer communities.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
D.1.7	Strengthen pathways for families to access ongoing counseling and mental health support programs.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood

D.2 Youth Mental Health

These actions focus on mental health access and support for children and youth, particularly in schools and community settings. They reflect concerns about rising mental health needs among young people and limited local resources to meet them. Children and youth are particularly vulnerable following disaster, making support and services even more critical in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche (SAMHSA, 2024).

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

D.2.1	Host school family resource nights focused on mental health, Medicaid enrollment, financial literacy, and career pathways.	Scale: Parish
-------	--	---------------

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

D.2.2	Increase the number of school-based counselors available and increase access to these services in schools.	Scale: Parish
D.2.3	Leverage recreation centers and existing group programs to provide non-clinical mental health support such as support groups.	Scale: Parish

D.3 Healthcare

These actions build on local efforts to expand access to medical care and strengthen healthcare systems. They reflect community interest in improving access to specialty services and investing in strong, long-term local facilities. In focus groups, participants in South Lafourche described changes in how often specialist doctors visit local hospitals and clinics, along with challenges related to transportation and insurance coverage that make it harder to reach and afford specialized care.

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

D.3.1	Foster more opportunities to bring specialty medical services to the region, including orthopedics and cancer care.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
-------	---	-----------------------------

Long-Term Actions: Sustaining resilience and capacity in the region for future generations.

D.3.2	Strengthen medical facilities and technology to address healthcare adequacy gaps and support regional resilience.	Scale: Parish
-------	---	---------------

D.4 Food

Actions in this category center around enhancing food access through programs and community-based efforts. They reflect the understanding that access to nutritious food is directly tied to both physical and mental health outcomes (Grajek et al., 2022).

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

D.4.1	Strengthen food access by improving coordination among existing food programs and supporting community connection through efforts such as community gardens.	Scale: Parish
-------	--	---------------

Existing efforts such as the Bayou Community Foundation Working Group on Hunger are already connecting people to the healthy food in the region.



Community partners from Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes gather at BCF's Bayou Region Working Group on Hunger to coordinate efforts and advance solutions to food insecurity across the Bayou Region. Photo credit: Bayou Community Foundation

PRIORITY

E. Disaster and Hazard Preparedness

Joseph L. Waitz Emergency Operations Center, in Terrebonne Parish, coordinates disaster response and hazard preparedness, serving as a critical hub for protecting lives, strengthening readiness, and supporting community resilience. Photo credit: Terrebonne Parish Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness



Overview of Priority



Across South Terrebonne and South Lafourche, residents consistently identified disaster and hazard preparedness as a shared priority that connects to many areas of resilience. They emphasized practical household preparedness and ongoing outreach across the parishes, with a special focus on community members who are the most vulnerable, such as elders, people with disabilities and low- to moderate-income individuals and families.

E.1 Preparedness Programming

This category focuses on preparedness programs that help residents plan and respond to disasters. It reflects feedback about the need for ongoing, visible preparedness efforts rather than one-time events.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

E.1.1	Host an annual hurricane expo to promote community preparedness.	Scale: Parish
-------	--	---------------

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

E.1.2	Develop and deploy mobile resilience centers and units across the parish.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
-------	---	-----------------------------

Local Resource:

United Houma Nation's RISING Project is establishing Satellite Community Resilience Hubs in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes

The UHN RISING team hosts an open house to invite community input on updates to the historic Daigleville School. The school will serve as a satellite resilience hub in Terrebonne parish. Photo Credit: Kacie Wright



E.2 Education

These actions focus on practical education that help people make their homes more resilient to flooding and extreme weather. They reflect the need for clear, usable information that people can apply to protect their homes and safety.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

E.2.1	Provide education on home weatherization and flood proofing.	Scale: Parish, Household
-------	--	--------------------------

PRIORITY

F. Community Connection and Access



The Bayou Dularge one-lane swing bridge represents more than passage; it reflects the challenges many residents face in accessing information, services, and opportunity across the Bayou Region. Photo credit: Bayou du Large Bridge (Terrebonne Parish, Louisiana) by cmh2315fl, CC BY-NC 2.0

Overview of Priority



Residents and partners across South Terrebonne and South Lafourche shared challenges with staying connected to information and services. They described barriers with transportation, internet access, and timely information, especially in rural areas. They emphasized that stronger community connections support other priorities like housing, healthcare, workforce development, and disaster preparedness by helping residents reach the resources they need.

Figure 5. Word cloud depicting sources of community connection and access discussed during the ANCHOR Focus Groups. Larger words indicate assets that were mentioned more often by participants.



F.1 Connecting Programming

This category of action focuses on how organizations communicate and work together to reach people across the parishes. It builds on residents’ observations that stronger outreach and partnerships can make services easier to understand and access.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

F.1.1	Strengthen communication and partnerships across organizations to reduce duplication of services and programming and improve coordination.	Scale: Parish
F.1.2	Partner with trusted messengers, including libraries, fire stations, and churches, to serve as information hubs.	Scale: Parish
F.1.3	Preserve and strengthen the sense of community in the Bayou Region by supporting locally-led gathering spaces and events that foster connection and shared identity.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

F.1.4	Develop a multi-channel outreach strategy that builds on trusted, existing networks such as churches, meal delivery, utility flyers, recreation centers, grocery stores, and festivals.	Scale: Parish
F.1.5	Enhance person-to-person outreach strategies to increase awareness and access to programs for seniors and other vulnerable individuals, with a focus on reaching those with limited access to technology.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
F.1.6	Provide ongoing technical assistance to reduce digital barriers and support residents in using online systems for services and benefits.	Scale: Parish

F.2 Communication Materials

These actions build on local efforts to improve how information reaches residents. They focus on clear messaging and accessible formats and languages.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

F.2.1	Create recognizable branding for community outreach materials.	Scale: Parish
F.2.2	Develop and distribute printed resource guides with phone contacts.	Scale: Parish
F.2.3	Leverage and expand shared community resource directories.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
F.2.4	Ensure materials are accessible in a variety of formats, including print and digital, and in multiple languages.	Scale: Parish

Local Resource:
Bayou Community Foundation, bayouhelp.org



A billboard advertising BayouHelp.org raises awareness of a regional resource designed to help residents access local nonprofit services and disaster recovery information. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation

F.3 Transportation

Transportation affects how people get to work and school, and how people access healthcare and community programs. The actions in this category address the mobility challenges residents face, recognizing that transportation plays a central role across almost every priority in this plan.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

F.3.1	Expand awareness of transportation options.	Scale: Parish
F.3.2	Integrate transportation planning with youth programming to reduce access challenges.	Scale: Parish
F.3.3	Coordinate transportation solutions for medical appointments.	Scale: Parish

Local Resource:

The Terrebonne Council on Aging and Lafourche Council on Aging provide support and transportation services that help older adults and people with disabilities in Terrebonne and Lafourche remain independent.



Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

F.3.4	Co-locate health, mental health, and community services in spaces such as libraries and recreation centers, so fewer trips are needed.	Scale: Parish
F.3.5	Improve transportation access to family-friendly spaces and events.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood

Long-Term Actions: Sustaining resilience and capacity in the Bayou Region for future generations.

F.3.6	Invest in flexible transit solutions for work, school, and medical access.	Scale: Parish
-------	--	----------------------

F.4 Wi-Fi Access and Connectivity

These actions focus on expanding internet access and digital connectivity, especially in rural areas. They were developed in response to community input that connectivity is now essential for education, healthcare, employment, and accessing services.

Near-Term Actions: Building Momentum over 1-2 years

F.4.1	Install Wi-Fi hotspots at community centers	Scale: Parish
F.4.2	Deploy mobile resource units equipped with Wi-Fi to provide reliable connectivity and access to critical information during and after disasters.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

F.4.3	Comprehensively strengthen and expand internet infrastructure and access, especially in rural areas.	Scale: Parish, Neighborhood
-------	--	------------------------------------

F.5 Digital Health Solutions

These actions focus on leveraging existing connections and partnerships in the community to expand digital access to healthcare services. They reflect the growing importance of telehealth and remote access in communities with limited local providers.

Medium-Term Actions: Scaling Work and Partnerships Up Over 3-5 Years

F.5.1	Expand availability of telehealth, including access points at libraries and community centers.	Scale: Parish
-------	--	----------------------

Path for Implementation

With this strategic plan completed, ANCHOR the Bayou now moves into the Capacity Building and Project Implementation phases of the program in 2026, transforming ideas into action.

Through ANCHOR the Bayou, a leadership cohort of community members are building skills, knowledge and community connections to nurture local resilience activities. Working with this cohort, local organizations and program partners, ANCHOR the Bayou is further focused on identifying and launching pilot projects to address priorities identified in this plan and promote long-term resilience in South Lafourche and South Terrebonne.

And implementation is not for the ANCHOR program alone. This plan is a public document, available for use by other community efforts, agencies and government entities that may wish to use the data collected by ANCHOR the Bayou to advance their own ideas and projects designed to bolster the resilience of our unique and precious coastal communities in Louisiana's Bayou Region.

BCF and CRC: Working Together for What Comes Next

In 2026, Bayou Community Foundation continues as the lead local ANCHOR the Bayou community partner with support from the Community Resilience Center and in collaboration with the new ANCHOR the Bayou Leadership Cohort.

Convened through the ANCHOR process, this cohort of local residents and community leaders are participating in training to grow their knowledge of local challenges and assets, boost their leadership and resilience skills, and build strong connections to community organizations and their neighbors. The cohort also hosts community resilience events and helps identify and implement projects that turn strategies in this plan into tangible results.

With program coordination and existing philanthropic resources from BCF and technical assistance from CRC's Catalyst Program, initial ANCHOR the Bayou pilot projects could be launched by the end of 2026. These projects will be designed to grow over time, as continued efforts are made to secure additional funding resources and partnerships for projects that further fill unmet needs and support long-term resilience of South Lafourche and South Terrebonne.

In an ongoing effort to promote resiliency beyond our Bayou Region, BCF and CRC continue to share the ANCHOR experience, process and plan with other leaders and organizations interested in building social resilience in overlooked communities through a grassroots program like our own centered on community voices.

Elizabeth Daigle, Program Manager, presents an overview of the ANCHOR the Bayou approach during a spring 2025 community listening session. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation



References

Elliott, J. H., Dyck, S., Reed, A., Alegbeleye, C. K., DeYoung, S. E., & Khan, N. A. (2025). Renter policies and rights in the context of disasters in the United States: A critical review. *International Journal of Disaster Risk Reduction*, 127, 105641. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijdr.2025.105641>

Farha, C., McCoy, J., & Rodziewicz, D. (2025). First-Time Homeownership Became Less Affordable Across Most of the United States in Recent Years. : : Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Economic Bulletin. <https://www.kansascityfed.org/research/economic-bulletin/first-time-homeownership-became-less-affordable-across-most-of-the-united-states-in-recent-years/>

Glick, P., Stein, B. A., & Edelson, N. A. (2011). Scanning the conservation horizon: A guide to climate change vulnerability assessment. National Wildlife Federation.

Grajek, M., Krupa-Kotara, K., Białek-Dratwa, A., Sobczyk, K., Grot, M., Kowalski, O., & Staśkiewicz, W. (2022). Nutrition and mental health: A review of current knowledge about the impact of diet on mental health. *Frontiers in Nutrition*, 9, 943998. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fnut.2022.943998>

NOAA NCEI. (2020). U.S. Billion-dollar Weather and Climate Disasters, 1980—Present (NCEI Accession 0209268) [Dataset]. NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information. <https://doi.org/10.25921/STKW-7W73>

NOAA Office for Coastal Management. (2025, November 20). Reducing Hazard Impacts through Plan Alignment. <https://coast.noaa.gov/digitalcoast/training/plan-alignment.html>

SAMHSA. (2024, October 10). Emotional Distress and Trauma Across At-Risk Populations [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration]. <https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health/disaster-preparedness/at-risk-populations>

Thibodaux Regional Health System. (2025). 2025 Community Health Needs Assessment. Thibodaux Regional Health System. <https://www.thibodaux.com/documents/2025-Community-Health-Needs-Assessment.pdf>

Thomas, K., Hardy, R. D., Lazrus, H., Mendez, M., Orlove, B., Rivera-Collazo, I., Roberts, J. T., Rockman, M., Warner, B. P., & Winthrop, R. (2019). Explaining differential vulnerability to climate change: A social science review. *WIREs Climate Change*, 10(2), e565. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wcc.565>

Appendix 1.

ANCHOR the Bayou Needs Assessment Methodology

Community Listening Sessions

Listening sessions were designed to create welcoming, low-barrier spaces where community members could share their experiences, priorities, and concerns in their own words. Three sessions were facilitated by ANCHOR team members in spring of 2025. Each session began with a brief overview of the ANCHOR program, followed by facilitated small-group discussions and individual worksheets that offered multiple ways for participants to share information about community assets, challenges, and potential solutions. Participant input was later synthesized to identify common themes, strengths, and opportunities. These insights informed the development of the community-wide survey that was implemented in summer of 2025.



Community member shared perspectives on local challenges and opportunities during a spring 2025 ANCHOR the Bayou listening session in Lafourche Parish. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation

Community Survey Component

To supplement the qualitative data collected during the listening sessions, the ANCHOR project team developed and implemented a comprehensive survey instrument designed to identify challenges, needs, and opportunities for holistic resilience within the region. The survey content was informed by themes emerging from the listening sessions and translated into a digital and print format to ensure accessibility. Distribution strategies were tailored to accommodate geographic and technological conditions in South Terrebonne and South Lafourche Parish.

A total of 252 surveys were initially collected, with 189 retained following quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) review. Of the 189 surveys, 68 identified with Terrebonne Parish, 116 in Lafourche Parish, 5 responded as "Other." Responses revealed both shared and parish-specific needs, such as transportation challenges, workforce development opportunities, support for youth and senior populations, housing issues, and mental health/substance use of resources.

Table 1. Demographic Characteristics: ANCHOR Community Survey (N=189); All demographic questions were optional.

RACE	n	%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	16	8%
Asian	4	2%
Black or African American	0	0%
Hispanic or Latino	3	2%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0%
White or Caucasian	87	46%
Prefer to self-describe	2	1%
No response	77	41%

Community partners and local organizations played a key role in dissemination, ensuring representation from a wide range of demographics and stakeholder groups, including local business owners, educators, and faith-based organizations.

Key needs identified in Terrebonne Parish included: community social support, workforce training, affordable housing programs, rising cost of insurance due to weather risks, and safe space for the youth and families.

Key needs identified in Lafourche Parish included: issues such as rising costs of insurance, job training and education, safe space for youth and families, and low-cost community counseling. Community members also contributed constructive feedback and proposed solutions that reflected local strengths and priorities, reinforcing themes first identified during the listening sessions and later explained in the open-ended questions embedded within the survey.

Table 2 and 3. Demographic Characteristics: ANCHOR Community Survey (N=189); All demographic questions were optional.

AGE	n	%
18-30	13	7%
31-45	28	15%
46-60	25	13%
60+ years	35	19%
No response	88	47%

GENDER	n	%
Woman	73	39%
Man	28	15%
Non-Binary	2	1%
No response	86	46%



Community members share perspectives on local challenges and opportunities during a spring 2025 ANCHOR the Bayou listening session in Terrebonne Parish. Photo Credit: Bayou Community Foundation

Focus Group Component

Following the community survey, the ANCHOR project team implemented follow-up focus groups to gather additional qualitative data from a subset of survey respondents and community members around strategies for action to address identified gaps, needs, and opportunities. This process was guided by a shared framework in which BCF co-developed the outreach strategy, reviewed facilitation materials, and led participant engagement and support logistics, while the CRC led the facilitation process, ensured coordination of resources, and managed implementation.

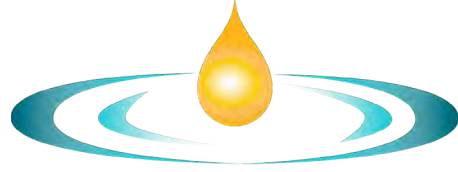
The focus groups were facilitated by Elizabeth Daigle, ANCHOR Program Manager and Kathryn Keating, Social Scientist at the Community Resilience Center, with support from project team members from both BCF and the CRC. Facilitators used a structured set of questions to ensure that all key topics were effectively covered while maintaining participant engagement and focus. They built rapport with attendees, encouraged open dialogue, and made sure every participant had an opportunity to contribute. Time was monitored closely to use the limited discussion period effectively, and facilitators employed probes and clarifying questions to deepen responses without leading participants.

The South Terrebonne Parish focus group took place at the South Terrebonne Regional Library on October 6, 2025. The format consisted of in-person group discussions using a semi-structured interview approach, with eleven participants attending this session. The ANCHOR team developed and facilitated structured yet flexible discussions that explored lived experiences, barriers, and community-driven solutions. The insights collected provided a deeper understanding of Terrebonne's specific needs and informed tailored resilience strategies.

The South Lafourche Parish focus group built on the same collaborative model but emphasized identifying community priorities related to workforce development, infrastructure resilience, and social services access. The session took place at the Cutoff Youth Center on October 7, 2025. The format consisted of in-person group discussions using a semi-structured interview approach, with nine participants attending this session.

Findings from both sessions were synthesized and integrated with the insights from the broader community survey results to produce a comprehensive summary of local perspectives, challenges, and opportunities that directly informed this document.

This page intentionally left blank.



Bayou Community Foundation

**315 Barrow Street
Houma, LA 70360**

**985-219-0046
contact@BayouCF.org**

BayouCF.org