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## FOUNDATION FOR LOUISIANA GRANTS \$843,000 TO 22 NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT STATE

**New funding will support small businesses, affordable housing and strategies to fight poverty and blight**

**Baton Rouge, La.** – Foundation for Louisiana is pleased to announce grant awards totaling \$843,000 to 22 nonprofit organizations serving dozens of communities throughout the state. Foundation for Louisiana’s first grant cycle builds upon the work of its predecessor, the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation, by continuing to strengthen Louisiana’s nonprofit sector and supporting citizen engagement, the creation of affordable housing and economic opportunity in low-wealth communities, and small businesses.

Samuel Sanders, Executive Director of Baton Rouge’s Mid City Redevelopment Alliance, has said, “Mid City Redevelopment Alliance is so proud to be included in the inaugural round of funding from the Foundation for Louisiana. We are excited by the support we have received to assist us in strategically planning our next 20 years of celebrating the people, places and progress of the Mid City region of Baton Rouge.”

Aimee Smallwood, CEO of the Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation (LCEF), responded to the news that her organization was awarded a Foundation for Louisiana grant by saying, “The Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation is grateful to Foundation for Louisiana for funding of Economic Opportunity Fund/ Regional Development Agency Partnership project, which will provide assistance to self-employed individuals, nonprofits and businesses. We believe that the goals of this project parallels those of the Foundation for Louisiana in trying to remove institutional and structural barriers to economic well-being, increase access to opportunity, cultivate local leadership.” Foundation for Louisiana’s grant to LCEF will serve parishes and communities throughout the state.

The 22 grants support projects in 3 program areas: small business, housing, and policy & advocacy.

**Small business grants include:**

\$50,000 to Shreveport Regional Arts Council to support development of the Northwest Louisiana Arts Resource Center that will help arts-based businesses to open and achieve sustainability.

\$40,000.00 to Habitat for Humanity of Ouachita to open a Habitat ReStore in Monroe, La. The store will be located on the I-10 corridor serving Ouachita, Monroe, Ruston and

Tallulah, providing affordable building materials to homeowners, revenue to support construction of Habitat homes, and reducing landfill use.

\$50,000 to LSU Foundation to support the E.J. Ourso College of Business's Supplier Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, which will provide small, women- and minority-owned businesses in 37 rural parishes with resources and information that will enable them to compete for state contracts and increase economic resiliency in rural communities.

**Housing grants include:**

\$70,000 to Rays of Sonshine to provide permanent supportive housing for homeless moms and children in Monroe's Adkins Quarters neighborhood. This grant is complemented by a \$7500.00 advocacy grant the Foundation has made to Community of Hope in Monroe to support community engagement around blight and redevelopment in the Adkins Quarters neighborhood.

\$75,000 to Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation to support the Urban Gardens Project, providing affordable housing for low- to moderate-income families in North Baton Rouge.

\$25,000 to the Phoenix of New Orleans to help displaced families to complete repairs on their damaged homes, thus reducing blight and getting families back into safe homes.

**Policy grants include:**

\$50,000 to Loyola University's Workplace Justice Project to address employer wage theft impacting immigrant and low-wage workers by drafting and promoting a state wage lien law.

\$35,000 to Center for Community Progress to develop policy and legislative initiatives to prevent property blight and abandonment, reform land acquisition practices and address land disposition throughout the state.

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"These grants exemplify Foundation for Louisiana's mission to build resilience in the state's most vulnerable communities. They also honor the legacy of the Louisiana Disaster Recovery Foundation and the vision its founders had for addressing the long-term challenges of poverty, disinvestment and inequity in our state," said Flozell Daniels, Jr., Foundation for Louisiana President and CEO.

Over the next five years, Foundation for Louisiana seeks to increase the number of affordable housing units developed within Louisiana, increase the number of small and disadvantaged businesses obtaining public contracts, and increase the buying and saving power of the state's poorest citizens. The Foundation expects to make significant progress towards these goals with this first round of grant awards.

## **COMPLETE LIST OF GRANTS AWARDED DECEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2011**

### Center for Community Progress

To support the Louisiana State Land Reform Initiative to develop policy and legislative initiatives to prevent blight and abandonment, reform land acquisition and disposition throughout the state.

Area(s) served:

Cities of Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Shreveport, Monroe, Lafayette, Lake Charles, Alexandria, New Iberia, and Ruston.

### Community of Hope-Adkins Quarters Neighborhood Steering Committee

For outreach and engagement, organizing to address blight and redevelopment in Monroe's Adkins Quarters Neighborhood.

Area(s) served:

City of Monroe

### Dr. MW McCaleb Educational Fund, Inc.

To support the McCaleb Supportive Housing development goal of providing 43 affordable-housing units to low-income families, including 21 homes for those suffering from homelessness.

Area(s) served:

City of New Orleans

### Good Work Network

To help Good Work Network provide technical support and Assistance to borrowers of the KIVA Loan Technical Assistance Program providing loans to microenterprises in Orleans & Jefferson Parishes.

Area(s) served:

Parishes of Orleans and Jefferson

### Habitat for Humanity of Ouachita

For start-up costs to establish a Habitat ReStore in Monroe to serve Habitat affiliates in the region.

Area(s) served:

Ouachita Parish, cities of Monroe, Ruston, and Tallulah

### Jesuit Social Research Institute

To organize a faith-based citizen coalition for fair lending and to advance legislation to end predatory payday lending in Louisiana.

Area(s) served:

Cities of New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Shreveport, Monroe, Lake Charles, Houma and Thibodaux.

### Louisiana Association of Nonprofit Organizations

For the Community, Advocacy and Empowerment Project focusing on advancing the policy goals of nonprofits including affordable housing, building community wealth, expanding economic opportunity and empowering underserved communities.

Area(s) served:

Statewide

Louisiana Cultural Economy Foundation

Awarded to provide matching funds to 9 regional cultural agencies supporting local arts economies.

Area(s) served:

Orleans, Tammany, Baton Rouge, Houma, Acadiana, SE LA, Central LA, Shreveport, Bossier, and NE LA.

Louisiana Habitat for Humanity

To establish a flexible loan pool providing bridge financing to 15 Habitat affiliates and for down-payment and closing costs for new Habitat homeowners.

Area(s) served:

Statewide

Louisiana State University

To support the Supplier Diversity and Inclusion Initiative to increase access for disadvantaged businesses to contracting opportunities with LSU and the state in 37 rural parishes.

Area(s) served:

37 rural parishes

Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance (Baton Rouge)

To support the Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance strategic investment plan.

Area(s) served:

Baton Rouge

NewCorp, Inc.-Contractor Coalition

Intended for The Louisiana Contractor's Coalition Technical Assistance and Opportunity Program targeting at least 100 small, minority-owned businesses in New Orleans.

Area(s) served:

Orleans Parish

Pointe Coupee Community Housing Development Org.

Intended for the Building Organizational Capacity project to develop Pointe Coupee Parish housing/community development priorities.

Area(s) served:

Pointe Coupee Parish

Project Build A Future

For the Homebuyer Restoration Initiative assisting 30 families with homebuyer counseling services.

Area(s) served:

Lake Charles

Rays of Sonshine

To support the building of 6 new units of affordable transitional housing for homeless moms and children.

Area(s) served:

City of Monroe

Shreveport Regional Arts Council

To support the development of “Artist as Entrepreneur” training which will result in increased earning capacity among local artists, arts organizations and job training for a specified number of underserved residents of the area’s social service organizations.

Area(s) served:

City of Shreveport

Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance Foundation

To support the Small and Emerging Business Initiative to provide support for training and technical assistance to up to 150 entrepreneurs in the SW Louisiana region.

Area(s) served:

Parishes of Allen, Beauregard, Jefferson, Calcasieu, and Cameron

Terrebonne Economic Development Foundation

To provide start-up capital to minority and women-owned microenterprises in Terrebonne Parish.

Area(s) served:

Terrebonne Parish

The Center for Leadership Innovation

For a leadership development program targeting Latino nonprofit leaders in Louisiana parishes.

Area(s) served:

Statewide

The Phoenix of New Orleans

Supports the Home Stretch Project helping displaced families with gap funding to complete repairs to their damaged homes in New Orleans.

Area(s) served:

Orleans Parish

Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation

To support the Urban Gardens Project, an affordable housing development for low-to-moderate-income families in N. Baton Rouge.

Area(s) served:

N. Baton Rouge

Workplace Justice Project (Loyola University)

To draft and promote a state wage lien law in Louisiana to address problems of wage theft amongst Latino immigrant and low-wage workers.

Area(s) served:

Statewide

*The mission of the Foundation for Louisiana is to invest in people and practices that work to reduce vulnerability and build stronger, more sustainable communities statewide.*

To learn more about Foundation for Louisiana's mission, values and initiatives, visit our website at [www.foundationforlouisiana.org](http://www.foundationforlouisiana.org)

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