

A banner with a blue background and a red silhouette of a city skyline at the bottom. The text "ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY DIRECTORY" is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters across the center.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY DIRECTORY

*City of Baton Rouge - Parish of East Baton Rouge
Planning Commission*

HORIZON

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGENCY DIRECTORY

PREPARED BY THE OFFICE OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION
ADVANCE PLANNING AND RESEARCH DIVISION

CITY OF BATON ROUGE- PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

APRIL 2010

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Baton Rouge Area Chamber

Kate MacArthur, Director of Business Intelligence
564 Laurel Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

TELEPHONE: (225) 381-7125

FAX: (225) 336-4306

EMAIL: kate@brac.org

INTERNET: <http://www.brac.org>

OVERVIEW: The Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC) is at the forefront of important economic development issues facing Louisiana's Capital Region and is responsible for the recruitment, retention, and expansion of business and industry in the nine-parish Baton Rouge region. The goal is to create wealth within the region as measured by job creation, payroll, capital investment, and public return on investment. BRAC also serves as the primary advocate and change agent for the region's business community. Additionally, BRAC provides newcomer information, economic, economic and demographic information, new business information, The Region Guide, and city maps.

Baton Rouge Business and Career Solution Center, Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Sidney Longwell, Administrative Director
4523 Plank Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70805

TELEPHONE: (225) 358-4509

FAX: (225) 358-8610

EMAIL: slongwell@brgov.com

OVERVIEW: Training and employment service for economically disadvantaged youths and adults. Provides opportunities for occupational skill training, educational upgrading, job search assistance and other supportive services for adults and in-school youth ages 14-16 as well as out-of-school youths ages 17-21. Individuals must possess barriers to employment. Additional services include Summer Youth Employment Opportunities and Dislocated Workers Employment and Training Program (for individuals who lost a job through no fault of their own).

**Big River Economic and Agricultural Development Alliance
(BREADA)**

Copper Alvarez, Executive Director
P.O. Box 3976
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

TELEPHONE: (225) 267-5060

FAX: (225) 387-6153

EMAIL: market@breada.org

INTERNET: <http://www.breada.org>

OVERVIEW: BREADA is a non-profit organization that encourages the local production and sale of food as a means of improving the local economy, creating new jobs and fostering stewardship of rural lands in Louisiana. BREADA works to build a healthy local food system, increase sustainability of small family farmers and food producers, and build community through public markets. Red Stick Farmers Market and Main Street Market are special projects of BREADA.

Capital Park Community Development Corporation

Lisa Williams, Executive Director
4000 Gus Young Avenue, Suite 204
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

TELEPHONE: (225) 343-1720

FAX: (225) 343-5528

OVERVIEW: Non-profit community development corporation formed to build homes for low- to moderate-income buyers, with a goal of boosting surrounding property values and encouraging neighbors to start community improvement projects.

Capital Region Planning Commission (CRPC)

Don W. Neisler, Executive Director
333 North 19th Street
P.O. Box 3355
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3355

TELEPHONE: (225) 383-5203

FAX: (225) 383-3804

EMAIL: dneisler@brgov.com

INTERNET: <http://www.crpc-la.org>

OVERVIEW: The Capital Region Planning Commission is the planning district office responsible for economic development planning for 11 parishes it serves in the Baton Rouge area (State Planning District 2). CRPC provides long-range planning and technical assistance to its parish and municipal governments, as well as Enterprise Zone Program assistance to businesses and individuals. Planning District 2 is comprised of Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes.

City-Parish Office of Community Development

Charles P. "Chip" Boyles II, Urban Development Director
Mukadas Alli-Balogun, "Alli" Assistant Urban Development Director
300 Louisiana Avenue, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 1471
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

TELEPHONE: (225) 389-3039

FAX: (225) 389-3939

EMAIL: cboyles@brgov.com; malli-balogun@brgov.com

INTERNET: <http://brgov.com/dept/ocd>

OVERVIEW: The Office of Community Development (OCD) is responsible for planning, administering, and evaluating various federally funded programs for the City-Parish of East Baton Rouge. These programs which include, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG), Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA), provide funds on an annual basis from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The primary objective of these programs is the development of a viable urban community including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities principally for persons of low and moderate income. OCD also receives funding annually from Louisiana Housing finance Agency (LHFA) to administer the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). The Weatherization Program is a part of the State of Louisiana and a nationwide Energy Conservation initiative. The program promotes energy conservation by making minor repairs to houses of eligible low income residents of East Baton Rouge Parish

City-Parish Planning Commission Office

Barrett R. Chaix, Coordinator, Economic/Environmental Research
1755 Florida Street, 3rd Floor
P.O. Box 1471
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

TELEPHONE: (225) 389-3144

FAX: (225) 389-5342

EMAIL: bchaix@brgov.com

INTERNET: <http://www.brgov.com/dept/planning>

OVERVIEW: Administers the City-Parish Enterprise Zone Program, a tax incentive program for new and expanding businesses located in designated areas in East Baton Rouge Parish. Administers the Baton Rouge Brownfields Program, which aims to encourage and facilitate the cleanup, redevelopment and reuse of potentially contaminated properties in the City-Parish.

Dixie Business Center

John D. Ware, Jr., Executive Director
1810 S. Range Avenue
Denham Springs, LA 70726

TELEPHONE: (225) 665-0809

FAX: (225) 665-8171

EMAIL: johnw@demco.org

INTERNET: <http://www.dixiebusinesscenter.org>

OVERVIEW: A small business incubator that offers affordable office space, shared services, and business counseling for new and expanding businesses to enable them to grow and prosper while acquiring the assets that will lead to a successful transition to the business community. Participating businesses may utilize the Center's resources to cultivate important networking and managerial skills without the difficult initial expenses that are necessary in a start-up business situation. The center can also assist businesses, locate financing and loan guarantee programs.

Dixie Electric Membership Corporation

Cheryl Malbrough, Manager, Economic Development
P.O. Box 15659
Baton Rouge, LA 70895

TELEPHONE: (225) 261-1221 Ext. 215

FAX: (225) 261-0766

EMAIL: cherylm@demco.org

INTERNET: <http://www.demco.org>

OVERVIEW: Dixie Electric Membership Corporation is a private, non-profit membership corporation that exists to serve members/customers through professionally trained employees providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity as well as other high quality products and services thereby stimulating the economic growth of the Baton Rouge area.

Downtown Development District

Davis S. Rhorer, Executive Director
227 Florida Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

TELEPHONE: (225) 389-5520

FAX: (225) 389-5523

EMAIL: DDD@brgov.com

INTERNET: <http://www.downtownbatonrouge.org>

OVERVIEW: The Downtown Development District offers several programs to encourage new businesses to locate in the downtown area. These programs include: Downtown Low Interest Loan Program; Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit; and Five-Year Property Tax Abatement on Improvement to Structures. The District is also a designated Economic Development Zone under the Louisiana Enterprise Zone Program.

Entergy

Shelly MacNary, Director
Economic Development Office
5353 Essen Lane, Suite 120
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

TELEPHONE: 1-800-542-2668, (225) 763-5060

FAX: (225) 763-5254

EMAIL: smacnary@entergy.com

INTERNET: <http://www.entergy.com/laed>

OVERVIEW: Entergy's "Teamwork Louisiana" promotes coordinated efforts by business, government and civic leaders to work together to develop Louisiana's economy. Economic development activities include recruiting, trade shows, community development and site selection. Entergy's Economic Development Group maintains a database of available industrial buildings and sites within the state of Louisiana, which will be available on Entergy's web site sometime in 1998.

Geaux Biz.com

Steven L. Windham, CEcD, EDFP, CPA Inactive Deputy Secretary
8585 Archives Avenue
P.O. Box 94125
Baton Rouge, LA 70809

TELEPHONE: (225) 925-4717

FAX: (225) 925-4410

EMAIL: steve.windham@sos.louisiana.gov

INTERNET: <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov>

OVERVIEW: Provides individuals and businesses with information on licenses, permits, and other requirements for doing business in Louisiana. They give current and potential business owners a single place to go for the necessary contacts needed to start a business. The staff will customize a checklist for your specific licensing needs, which include local and state licensing requirements, employment information, as well as quasi-governmental agencies that can assist you in starting your business.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Baton Rouge

Lynn Clark, Executive Director
4962 Florida Blvd., Suite 409
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

TELEPHONE: (225) 927-6651

FAX: (225) 927-6347

EMAIL: Lynn@habitatbr.org

INTERNET: <http://www.habitatbr.org>

OVERVIEW: Provides simple, decent housing for eligible low-income families. Volunteers donate their time and recipients participate and repay the cost of a no-interest loan. Program uses private and government funds for house building.

Louisiana Business & Technology Center

Charles D'Agostino, Executive Director
Louisiana State University,
LSU South Research Park
8000 GSRI Avenue, Building 3000 Room 222
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

TELEPHONE: (225) 578-3983

FAX: (225) 578-3975

EMAIL: Cdag@lsu.edu

INTERNET: <http://www.bus.lsu.edu/lbtc>

OVERVIEW: Provides technical and management assistance to entrepreneurs and new and expanding businesses. The incubator offers space and services to approximately 30 businesses and provides support services (secretary, answering service, conference room, etc.) along with business counseling in marketing, management, finance, engineering and various disciplines supported by the experts and faculty at LSU. The LBTC facilitates technology transfer for the State by providing technical assistance to Louisiana companies through the federal laboratories such as NASA, DOD, and DOC. This office provides assistance to Louisiana businesses seeking Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) grants. The LBTC also operated the LSU Small Business Development Center, the Louisiana Business Disaster Counseling Center, Access LSU and the Rural Entrepreneurship Training Program.

Louisiana Department of Economic Development

Stephen Moret, Director
Allison Gilmore, Assistant
Business Services
1051 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
P.O. Box 94185
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9185

TELEPHONE: (225) 342-3000
(225) 342-5388

FAX: (225) 342-6820

EMAIL: Agilmore@la.gov

INTERNET: <http://www.louisianaforward.com>

OVERVIEW: Four programs are administered.

- The Development Assistance Program coordinates technical, managerial and financial assistance for certified small and emerging businesses (SEBs) inside the state.
- The Mentor-Protegé Program brings non-small and emerging businesses into a working relationship with certified SEBs.
- The Recognition Program serves to recognize outstanding accomplishments of small and emerging businesses, public agencies, and cooperative non-small and emerging business firms.
- The Small Business Bonding Program makes all small and emerging construction contractors eligible to attend the Louisiana Contractor's Accreditation Institute for their firms to qualify for grant assistance and/or surety bond guarantee assistance.

**Louisiana Department of Economic Development
(Business Incentives Services)**

Rick Broussard, Business Development Manager
Brenda Guess, Business Development Manager
Capitol Annex Building
1051 North 3rd Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802
P. O. Box 94185
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9185

TELEPHONE: (225) 342-4315

FAX: (225) 342-0142

EMAIL: Guess@la.gov

INTERNET: <http://www.louisianaforward.com>

OVERVIEW: LEDC's mission is to serve as a catalyst for capital access for Louisiana start-up and existing businesses, enable new businesses to form and existing businesses to expand, provide for the sustained economic growth of the State and an improved quality of life for its citizens. LEDC is charged with developing and implementing innovative and creative financial assistance programs to stimulate the flow of private capital for the development and expansion and/or retention of small businesses in Louisiana.

**Louisiana Department of Labor
Baton Rouge Career and Job Center**

Penny Collins, Manager
1991 Wooddale Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

TELEPHONE: (225) 216-6954

FAX: (225) 925-1845

EMAIL: Pcollins@ladol.la.gov

INTERNET: <http://www.laworks.net>

OVERVIEW: Job information service: information on jobs available in areas listed by employers; can be used by anyone. Proficiency aptitude testing for specific openings, Targeted Job Tax Credit certification. Staffing through screening services, career assessment, typing tutorial, job search workshops, Internet access for job search, file claims for unemployment insurance.

Louisiana Public Facilities Authority

Jim Parks, President/CEO
2237 S. Acadian Thruway, Suite 650
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

TELEPHONE: (225) 923-0020

FAX: (225) 923-0021

EMAIL: Parks@lpfa.com

INTERNET: <http://www.lpfa.com>

OVERVIEW: The Louisiana Public Facilities Authority is Louisiana's statewide multi-purpose bond issuer. The LPFA is a public trust and public corporation that issues bonds and various other debts to provide low-cost financing for industrial and economic development projects, local governmental units and educational facilities. The LPFA publishes a financial resource guide with comprehensive information on financing sources.

Louisiana Small Business Development Center

Greg Spann, Director
4826 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 1
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

TELEPHONE: (225) 922-0998

FAX: (225) 922-0024

EMAIL: Grspa@yahoo.com

INTERNET: <http://www.lsbdc.org>

OVERVIEW: Offers counseling, information and managerial and technical assistance to potential and existing small business owners. Conducts workshops/seminars and an informational resource center. All services are free and confidential; most workshops are free, although some may require a small fee.

**Louisiana State University
Cooperative Extension Service**

Dwight Landreneau, Associate Vice Chancellor
LCES Administration
102 Everson Hall
Baton Rouge, LA 70894
P.O. Box 25100
Baton Rouge, LA 70894-5100

TELEPHONE: (225) 578-4141

FAX: (225) 578-4225

EMAIL: Dlandreneau@agcenter.lsu.edu

INTERNET: <http://www.agcenter.lsu.edu>

OVERVIEW: As part of the LSU Agricultural Center, the Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service provides educational programs designed and implemented to take useful and practical information to those who need it most. The Cooperative Extension Service's county agents, home economists and 4-H agents have offices in each of the state's 64 parishes.

LSBDC Technology Center at LSU

Bryan Greenwood, Director
Louisiana Business & Technology Center
LSU South Campus
8000 GSRI Avenue, Building 3000 Room 230
Baton Rouge, LA 70820

TELEPHONE: (225) 578-4842

FAX: (225) 578-3975

EMAIL: Bgreen1@lsu.edu

INTERNET: www.lsbdc.org
www.sbdc.lsu.edu

OVERVIEW: Provides training and management assistance to small businesses and entrepreneurs. Offers business planning, marketing assistance and financial packaging to small business clients.

Mid City Redevelopment Alliance

Samuel Sanders, Executive Director
Ted Devall, Urban Planner
419 N. 19th Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

TELEPHONE: (225) 346-1000

FAX: (225) 344-6171

EMAIL: Samuel.Sanders@brgeneral.org
Ted.Devall@brgeneral.org

INTERNET: <http://www.midcityredevelopment.org>

OVERVIEW: Organization's mission is to serve as a catalyst for improving and restoring Mid City Baton Rouge by encouraging residents and merchants to work together for neighborhood revitalization. Promotes home ownership as the key to the preservation of neighborhoods and has renovated existing houses and built new affordable houses in Park Hills subdivision. Projects include FIXUP! Mid City, first time homebuyer's educational seminars, and Park Hills development, Mid City on Parade (a tour of affordable homes), Home Maintenance Workshop, and Mid City Home Store (a home improvement thrift shop).

New Hope Community Development Corporation

David Robinson, President
Veronica Hilliard, Executive Director
3525 Riley Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70805

TELEPHONE: (225) 355-2070

FAX: (225) 355-2018

EMAIL: Nhopedix@bellsouth.net

OVERVIEW: Non-profit community development corporation formed to build homes for low- to moderate-income buyers, with a goal of boosting surrounding property values and encouraging neighbors to start community improvement projects.

Scotlandville Community Development Corporation

Marion Zachary, Director
P.O. Box 73308
Baton Rouge, LA 70874

TELEPHONE: (225) 355-3446

FAX: (225) 355-7273

EMAIL: Scotlandville_cdc@msn.com or Marionzac@aol.com

INTERNET: <http://www.scotlandvillecdc.org>

OVERVIEW: Non-profit community development corporation formed to build homes for low- to moderate-income buyers, with a goal of boosting surrounding property values and encouraging neighbors to start community improvement projects. Boundaries of the Scotlandville CDC are Blount Road, Plank Road, Airline Highway, and the Mississippi River.

SCORE (Counselors to America's Small Business)

Floyd L Mathews, Chairman
Louisiana Technology Park
7117 Florida Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

TELEPHONE: (225) 381-7130

FAX: (225) 381-7142

EMAIL: Scorebr@scorebr.org

INTERNET: <http://www.scorebr.org>

OVERVIEW: Provides counseling for people interested in going into business and for those in business experiencing problems. SCORE offers this service cost-free for small businesses. Conducts seminars and workshops on pre-business topics.

Source BIDCO

Brent Reed, Controller
9420 Old Hammond Highway
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

TELEPHONE: (225) 923-0232

FAX: (225) 216-2247

EMAIL: Breed@fidelitybankbr.com

INTERNET: <http://www.fidelitybankbr.com>

OVERVIEW: Business Industrial Development Corporations are limited purpose banks that make business loans but do not take deposits or lend to individual consumers. Source BIDCO uses the U.S. Department of Agriculture Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program to assist borrowers in mergers, acquisitions, working capital financing, debt refinancing, equipment financing and in providing start-up capital.

Southern University Cooperative Extension Program

Dr. Leodrey Williams, Chancellor
P.O. Box 10010
Baton Rouge, LA 70813

TELEPHONE: (225) 771-2242

FAX: (225) 771-2861

EMAIL: Leodrey_Williams@suagcenter.com

INTERNET: <http://www.suagcenter.com>

OVERVIEW: Builds partnerships and programs that help solve problems of the citizens of Louisiana who have limited social and economic resources. Community members are taught capacity building skills, financial management skills, and health and nutrition facts.

Urban Restoration Enhancement Corporation (UREC)

Emel J. Alexander, Executive Director
Joyce James, Micro Enterprise Development Director
P.O. Box 73032
Baton Rouge, LA 70874

TELEPHONE: (225) 356-8871 (Ext. 210 or 204)

FAX: (225) 357-UREC (8732)

EMAIL: Jjames@urecbr.com or Ealexander@urecbr.com

OVERVIEW: UREC is a not-for-profit, community development organization committed "Building Today's Communities for Tomorrow."

Wybirk & Associates, Inc.

Warren O. Birkett, Jr., President
Bertran Wyre, Jr., Vice President
PO Box 480
Baker LA 70704

TELEPHONE: (225) 328-6004

EMAIL: Wybirk@yahoo.com

OVERVIEW: Offers financial packaging assistance to individuals or businesses. Provides management and technical assistance to individuals or business firms in the business area.

Zion City Community Development Corporation

Linda Drewery, President
5607 Stearns Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70811

TELEPHONE: (225) 355-9992

OVERVIEW: Non-profit community development corporation formed to build homes for low- to moderate-income buyers, with a goal of boosting surrounding property values and encouraging neighbors to start community improvement projects.