



Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health & Human Services Element

The Horizon Plan was adopted by the Metropolitan Council in 1992 as the comprehensive land use and development plan for City of Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish. The plan includes numerous Goals, Objectives and Policies within seven different areas of emphasis, called "elements."

The Horizon Plan includes the following seven elements: Land Use; Transportation; Wastewater, Solid Waste and Drainage; Conservation and Environmental Resources; Recreation and Open Space; Housing; and Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health and Human Services. This Information Bulletin examines the Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health and Human Services Element of the Horizon Plan.

The purpose of the Horizon Plan's Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health and Human Services Element is to provide recommendations that will enhance the development of an effective housing plan through the year 2010, and which will be compatible with the area's land use patterns and other aspects of area development. The public services, public buildings, and health and human services goals and objectives, as well as the housing issues identified by the citizens and public officials, were used as the framework for developing recommendations for implementation actions.

Development of the Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health and Human Services Element involved an extensive public participation process to obtain information for the citizens, City-Parish officials, and state and federal agencies. The public participation process ensured the development of a responsive program which maintained consistency with goals and values of the community.

Two neighborhood planning meetings were held in each of the sixteen planning districts established for the Horizon Plan. These meetings provided an opportunity for citizens to state their concerns and identify issues relating to Public Services, Public Buildings, and Health and Human Services in their district, as well as parish wide. The housing issues identified at the neighborhood planning meetings provided the basis for formulating the goals, objectives and recommendations.



Goals, Objectives and Action Items

Goals are broad and general statements of desired future conditions that aid and guide the decision-making process.

Objectives are specific statements about future conditions or results that should be achieved in order to attain the Goals that have been set. Objectives are worded so that their achievement can be measured.

Action Items are specific recommendations, plans and standards that are used in making decisions about future actions and programs. Action Items become the specific guidelines for implementing the Comprehensive Plan.

The following Goals address specific issues within the Public Services issues:

- Goal PS1:* Provide efficient, effective, and coordinated services to the public.
- Goal PS2:* Ensure that there are effective and appropriate standards for public services and regularly evaluate those services to ensure a high quality of life.
- Goal PS3:* Recruit and retain the highest caliber of public service professionals.
- Goal PS4:* Promote research and innovation to ensure the quality of public service.
- Goal PS6:* Promote education, awareness, and involvement in the provision of public services.
- Goal PS7:* Ensure adequate funding for public services.
- Goal PS8:* Promote the development and maintenance of a healthy, safe, enjoyable and economically secure community.

The following Goals address specific issues within the Public Buildings issues:

Goal PB1: Develop and maintain an orderly and comprehensive planning process for siting and development of public buildings.

Goal PB2: Encourage construction of buildings which reflect architectural excellence, low maintenance, and energy conservation.

Goal PB3: Support and enhance the efficient and cost-effective development and maintenance of City-Parish building and facilities.

Goal PB6: Provide coordination of construction, development, and use of City-Parish buildings and facilities with construction, development, and use of state and federal buildings.

The following Goals address specific issues within the Health and Human Services issues:

Goal HH1: Enable persons to have healthy and satisfying lives in a comfortable and safe natural environment.

Goal HH2: Enable all persons to have their basic needs met.

Goal HH3: Promote coordination of existing services, comprehensive planning for short term and long term needs, and innovative research into new programs and methods.

Goal HH4: Foster the development and enhancement of artistic and cultural endeavors.

Goal HH5: Promote adequate funding for health and human services programs.

Action Items

Action Items serve as strategies for implementation of the comprehensive plan. They are assigned to various City-Parish Lead Agencies that use them as a method for addressing the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Horizon Plan.

There are 84 Action Items within the Public Services Element. To give an illustration, an example from each category is listed below along with all of the Action Items within each category and the Lead Agencies responsible for them.

Public Services

- Fourty three Action Items
- Lead Agencies: Planning Commission, Office of the Mayor-President, Quality and Employee Development, Department, Baton Rouge Police Department, Department of Human Resources, Quality and Employee Development Department, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Baton Rouge Fire Department, Department of Public Works, Emergency Medical Services, Division of Human Development and Services, and Department of Social Services.

- *PS2.A:* Continue to assist other public services departments in developing innovative training programs.
- *PS3.A:* Establish a salary incentive program for public services personnel to encourage participation in job related education and training as well as performance excellence.

Public Buildings

- Nineteen Action Items
- Lead Agencies: Planning Commission, Department of Public Works, Design & Planning Services Selection Board, Engineer & Surveyors Selection Board, Office of the Mayor-President, Downtown Development District.
- *PB1.G:* Encourage the construction of new public building projects in designated areas within the City-Parish to maximize utilization of existing infrastructure.
- *PB4.B:* Identify and assess public building needs within the Parish.
- *PB6.B:* Establish a task force comprised of City-Parish agencies to review tax supported City-Parish agencies such as the School Noard, BREC, and the library system as well as state and federal construction projects to ensure their compliance with local ordinances and regulations.

Health and Human Services

- Twenty two Action Items
- Lead Agencies: Department of Human Development and Services, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (ages 18-59), Office of the Mayor-President, Capitol Area United Way, East Baton Rouge Parish School System, Capital Region Planning Commission, LSU Medical Center, Health Council of Greater Baton Rouge, Baton Rouge Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Finance Department, Department of Public Work.
- *HH1.A:* Coordinate City-Parish services for the provision of health services to the elderly, infants, children and the indigent through interagency agreements with state and federal agencies and collaborative community partners pursuant to funding availability.
- *HH1.C:* Provide for funding and coordination to support Parish Health Unit to maintain adequate levels of services, to upgrade current facility, and provide satellite facilities.
- *HH2.C:* Support efforts to provide clothing and other essential items through the coordination of public and private agencies, including but not limited to the Salvation Army and St. Vincent de Paul.

For more information contact:
City-Parish Planning Commission
1755 Florida Street, Third Floor
P.O. Box 1471
Baton Rouge, LA 70821
Telephone: (225) 389-3144 Fax: (225) 389-5342
Office Hours: 8a.m.-5p.m. M-F
email: planning@brgov.com
web page: <http://www.brgov.com/dept/planning/>