

House the 9: Fact Sheet

A Program of the Lower 9TH Ward Homeownership Association





www.lower9thwardhomeowners.org

How's the 9?





This is the question by which the recovery of New Orleans must be judged.

Before the levees failed, New Orleans's Lower 9th Ward was a vibrant, hard-working community. Children grew up surrounded by aunts and cousins and grandparents, living in family homes passed down from generation to generation. But the Lower 9th Ward neighborhood suffered the greatest destruction during Hurricane Katrina, largely due to inadequately built levees. As the working class residents of the neighborhood have tried to come home, they have confronted a cascading series of barriers.

Profile of the Lower 9th Ward Before Hurricane Katrina (2000 Census)

-  • **Ownership Status:**
 - 59% homeowners
 - 55.6% of homes have no mortgage
-  • **Employment Status:**
 - 72.6% of households receive employment income
 - 35.8% of households receive Social Security
 - Only 8.3% of households receive public assistance
-  • **Income:**
 - Average income of all families earning less than \$200,000 is \$24,886.
-  • **Age:**
 - Nearly 2,000 elderly residents.

Profile of the Lower 9th Ward After Hurricane Katrina (2010 Census)

-  • **Population:**
 - Only 20% of pre-storm population has returned
-  • **Home Owners:**
 - Only 705 of 2,843 pre-storm homeowner households are back
-  • **Houses:**
 - More than 3,000 of 5,601 housing units lost.
 -
-  • **Age:**
 - Only 406 elderly residents.

House the 9 Program Overview & Objectives

Our Mission: To find and bring home all displaced homeowners who want to return.
Repairing or rebuilding their homes will cost an estimated \$30 million.

Our Strategy:

1. Find Funds to Rebuild Homes

Status: In large part because of our persistent advocacy, Louisiana has recently released \$110 million for grants to displaced homeowners.

2. Find Displaced Families

Status: 105 of 613 displaced families have been located so far.

3. Connect Displaced Families with Funds

Status: With our assistance, 35 families have begun process of applying for newly available grant, 70 families preparing to apply. To ensure they get the full grant they are entitled to, each family will need an advocate by their side throughout the process.

Our Need:

In order to ensure that each family has an advocate by their side, we need to raise **\$250,000**.
This will allow Lower 9th Ward families to access \$30 million in rebuilding grants.