



## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

## BACKGROUND + MISSION

Coastal Technical Assistance Center (CTAC) is a program generated and funded through Louisiana Economic Development (LED) and the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA).

LED and CPRA identified a need to assist Louisianabased, small businesses in obtaining contracts with entities involved in the restoration and recovery efforts of coastal Louisiana. Facilitating such efforts falls to longtime partner of LED and Regional Economic Development Organization, the South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC).

CTAC's mission is organized into primary and secondary focuses.

#### **PRIMARY FOCUSES**

- To serve as a Technical Assistance Center to Louisiana businesses seeking opportunities in the Coastal Restoration and Recovery efforts of Louisiana.
- To assist businesses in obtaining contracts with prime contractors related to Coastal Restoration and Recovery efforts of Louisiana.
- To provide opportunity to Louisiana-based businesses, allowing coastal dollars to remain in Louisiana while creating jobs.
- To provide training and assistance to businesses in preparation to be contractor and project ready relative to business organization, promotion, certification, insurances, etc.

#### **SECONDARY FOCUSES**

- To help develop an increased workforce demand while qualifying needed workforce through a technical community college-based Workforce Initiative.
- In operation of the Bayou Business Emergency Operations Center and in partnership with GOHSEP and LABEOC, to serve as a command resource during coastal disasters to align local businesses with contractors and opportunities during recovery efforts.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

"In looking back over the last year in my role as the Program Coordinator for CTAC, there is a centralized theme...PROGRESS. Beginning this position during a pandemic presented challenges, but we have taken this program from an idea to an active program serving Louisiana-based small businesses interested in coastal protection and restoration work in our state. In moving forward with this new year, I will continue to work diligently to make progress with the CTAC program because this coast...our home...is very important to me." FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO DO NOT KNOW ME PERSONALLY, I was born and raised in Chauvin, Louisiana. My parents and grandparents taught me very early on to live off of the land and how to utilize the great resources available to us in south Louisiana. I loved to fish, hunt, trawl, spend time at fishing camps...well, let's just say I loved anything to do with being out on the water. Those memories are some of the best of my childhood and with that, I developed a great passion for this coast into my adulthood.

As we all know, living in south Louisiana also comes with risks. We not only live in a beautiful place surrounded by the best people, food, and culture—we also live in a place that loses so much land each year due to climate change, sea level rise, subsidence, and hurricanes. The impacts of these things can be seen visibly from week to week, month to month and year to year when simply going out to fish. In places where there were once channels, marsh islands, and land, there are now open waterways. It's scary to know that this place we call home and the land that once protected our homes is disappearing. Thus comes my passion for doing something to help.

In my role as the Program Coordinator for CTAC, not only do I get to continue to support our coast in the coastal projects that are happening in coordination with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority's master plan, I also get to assist local small businesses in obtaining work related to restoring and protecting our coast. Who better to do the work, then the people who live and work here in our state. Each of these entities play a critical role in that mission, and I look forward to continuing those partnerships in addition to building new ones that can benefit our coast. I plan to take the progress that has already been made with this program and continue to build upon that in 2022! Join me in taking a look at the PROGRESS that was made over the last year with the Coastal Technical Assistance Center.









#### LACI MELANCON

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

## COLLABORATIONS

Launching this statewide initiative has presented the opportunity to collaborate with a multitude of government and non-profits organizations. These organizations all have a common goal restore and protect Louisiana's coast. In working with these organizations, CTAC has been able to emphasize the importance of hiring and working with Louisiana-based businesses.

In 2021, CTAC has launched a monthly newsletter distributed to all partners and interested businesses. CTAC has also presented on multiple webinars with key coastal stakeholders, been featured in coastal organization reports, and attended Coastal Day at the Louisiana State Capital.

#### **MAJOR PARTNERSHIPS**















JEDCO

#### **OTHER PARTNERSHIPS**













#### PRESENTED TO

- Nicholls Coastal Center Task Force
- Coalition for Coastal Resilience
   & Economy Group for GNO, Inc.
- Coast Builders Coalition
- Coastal Louisiana Levee Consortium
- Restore or Retreat's Field Report
- Bayou Industrial Group
- Chenier Plains Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority
- USACE Industry Day
- State of the Coast Conference: Building a Workforce Pipeline for Coastal Restoration
- Small Business Development Center Business Networking & Certifications Webinar
- Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company
   Small Business Webinar
- Securing Coastal Contracts in collaboration with GNO, Inc., CPRA, and New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce
- St. John Parish Coastal and Water Management Division
- Assumption Parish Police Jury
- St. Mary Excel Board of Directors

# TIMELINE

#### JANUARY

- Continued collaboration with businesses and partners
- Participated in numerous training events offered through the state for small businesses
- Presentation to Coast Builders Coalition
- Tour of Greater Lafourche Port Commission



#### MARCH

- Implemented software to track communication and client outreach as well as client procedures
- Launched CTAC website in collaboration with White Car

#### **FEBRUARY**

- Continued collaboration with businesses and partners
- Established connection with USACE district office regarding coastal projects
- ✤ Began research and training on software to track communications and future client information
- Launched CTAC social media accounts



#### PRESENTATION

OUTREACH

DEVELOPMENT

#### F PROGRAM GROWTH



#### MAY

- Attended Coastal Day at the State Legislature
- Tour of Terrebonne Levee system with Terrebonne Consolidated Levee District
- Continued establishing process for implementation of client services



#### **APRIL**

- ✤ Hired CTAC Program Support Assistant
- Began implementation process for CTAC Client Procedures
- Presentation to Chenier Plains Coastal Restoration and Protection Authority

#### JUNE

- Presentation for USACE MVN Virtual Industry Day
- ▲ Tour of Port of Morgan City
- Presentation for State of the Coast Conference
- Presentation for Small Business Development Center Business Networking & Certifications Webinar

#### TIMELINE // Continued



LACI MELANCON, CTAC Coastal Technical Assistance Center



#### AUGUST

- Co-hosted and presented for Small Business Webinar in collaboration with LA PTAC and Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Company
- Presented with Restore or Retreat for the Bayou Industrial Group Luncheon for State of Our Coast presentation



#### JULY

- Launched CTAC Monthly Newsletter
- Launched CTAC "Become a Client Campaign"
- Reached out to approximately 1500 companies during initial campaign launch
- Featured and presented for Restore or Retreat's Field Report

#### **SEPTEMBER**

- Began collaboration with GNO, Inc. and the New Orleans Regional Black Chamber of Commerce to host coastal contracts webinar
- Worked on establishing additional businesses to contact based on needs of vendors and services requested by prime contractors
- Worked on programmatic goals specific to disaster recovery efforts for small businesses



OUTREACH





#### **OCTOBER**

- Co-hosted and presented for Securing Coastal Contracts Webinars with GNO, Inc., CPRA, and NORBCC
- Attended Hurricane Ida Disaster Relief events to assist bayou communities
- Established partnership with Louisiana Workforce Commission for coastal workforce developmental support

#### DECEMBER

- ▲ Worked with Fletcher Community College to offer non-credit course for minority businesses interested in doing coastal work
- Continued working with existing clients
- Continued working on vendor list for prime contractors
- \* Set programmatic goals for upcoming annual year
  - Develop Client Portal
  - Host Coastal Procurement Event
  - Establish Advisory Committee



#### **NOVEMBER**

- ✤ Hired new Program Support Assistant
- Attended ground-breaking ceremony for Houma Navigational Canal Lock Complex



## OUTREACH

In July of 2021, CTAC launched the *Become A Client* campaign on its website, allowing Louisiana-based businesses to digitally signup for services. These entities, interested in participating in work to restore and protect Louisiana's coast, first complete a client intake form where they provide basic business information. Within the intake form, CTAC prospective clients learn what to expect from the Center and what is expected as a client. Upon review, businesses are assigned to a CTAC representative to assist them with the remainder of the process.

With this enhanced feature, **CTAC has now contacted** over 1900 businesses and 2200 individuals throughout the state of Louisiana since October of 2020.



Point of Contact	✓ Company Name	
First Name MJ,	E-mail address Company Website	
Last Name	Position/Title	6
-	V Work Phone Fax Number	
	Cell/Pager	and the second
Physical Address	Mailing Address	A A A A
Address #1	Same as Physical Address	
Address #2	Address #1	
City	Address #2	
	✓ City	
Zip Code		
		The second

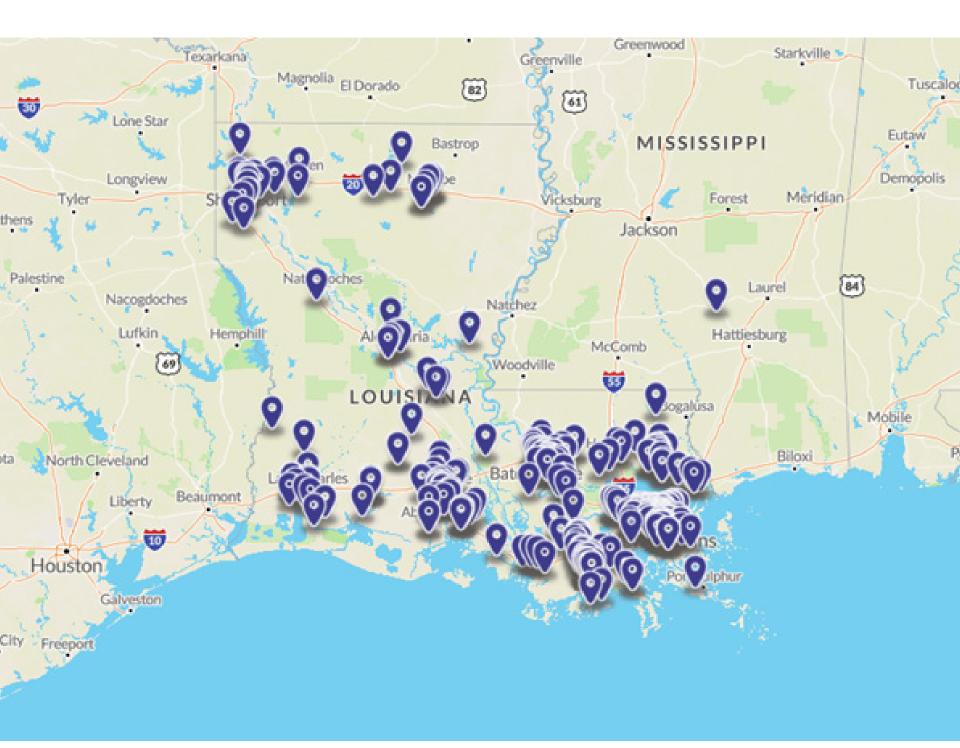
#### **OUTREACH //** Businesses Contacted in Each Parish

Acadia Parish	12
Allen Parish	1
Ascension Parish	59
Assumption Parish	9
Avoyelles Parish	19
Beauregard Parish	12
Bienville Parish	0
Bossier Parish	24
Caddo Parish	50
Calcasieu Parish	74
Caldwell Parish	1
Cameron Parish	1
Catahoula Parish	2
Claiborne Parish	0
Concordia Parish	6
De Soto Parish	3
East Baton Rouge Parish	300
East Carroll Parish	1
East Feliciana Parish	3
Evangeline Parish	4
Franklin Parish	4
Grant Parish	1
Iberia Parish	34

Iberville Parish	9
Jackson Parish	0
Jefferson Davis Parish	10
Jefferson Parish	215
La Salle Parish	2
Lafayette Parish	152
Lafourche Parish	46
Lincoln Parish	9
Livingston Parish	34
Madison Parish	3
Morehouse Parish	2
Natchitoches Parish	9
Orleans Parish	208
Ouachita Parish	53
Plaquemines Parish	26
Pointe Coupee Parish	10
Rapides Parish	52
Red River Parish	0
Richland Parish	2
Sabine Parish	3
Saint Bernard Parish	12
Saint Charles Parish	19
Saint Helena Parish	1

Saint James Parish	5
Saint John the Baptist Parish	16
Saint Landry Parish	19
Saint Martin Parish	15
Saint Mary Parish	34
Saint Tammany Parish	133
Tangipahoa Parish	33
Tensas Parish	1
Terrebonne Parish	67
Union Parish	5
Vermillion Parish	19
Vernon Parish	4
Washington Parish	8
Webster Parish	12
West Baton Rouge Parish	22
West Carroll Parish	1
West Feliciana Parish	2
Winn Parish	1
Out of State	1

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