

## SUMMARY / ABSTRACT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

# State of Louisiana Hubs for Resilient Energy Operations (HERO)

**Applicant:** State of Louisiana

**Project Manager:** Ed O'Brien, State Office of Energy

**Title:** State of Louisiana – Hubs for Resilient Energy Operations (HERO)

The State of Louisiana will launch a strategic energy resilience initiative, Hubs for Resilient Energy Operations (HERO), to establish a foundational approach for accelerating more abundant, affordable, and reliable clean energy for greater power resilience in the face of rising extreme weather and more frequent natural disasters. HERO unites the public, private and philanthropic sectors applying a multi-stakeholder coordination framework with a common set of objectives and shared commitments to help solve energy security challenges and protect the residents of Louisiana from climate-related threats.

The HERO collaborative represents Louisiana State Energy Office, Louisiana Public Service Commission, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Center for Planning Excellence, City of New Orleans, CLECO Power, Entergy Louisiana, Entergy New Orleans, NextGen Energy Partners, Southwestern Electric Power Company, Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government, The Accelerate Group, Together Louisiana, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and Xavier University of Louisiana. The proposal has been submitted to the U.S. Department of Energy and is supported by the Office of Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards.

The State of Louisiana is proposing to initiate a comprehensive, data-driven **integrated community energy planning process**, and to deploy a modernized network of **Community Resilience Hubs** powered by distributed energy resources microgrids. The project will enhance statewide emergency response operations with the optimization and integration of the HERO Hubs with utility-owned electric grid infrastructure and back-up generation assets.

The unique multi-stakeholder collaboration has identified a subset of disadvantaged communities in the state that are most vulnerable to and least able to respond to and recover from extended outages, based on income levels, flooding risk, and building loss risk. HERO will advance decarbonization and energy justice goals by seeding community-based energy and resilience planning, and ensuring a voice for marginalized communities in energy and resilience discussions. Further, the project will make unprecedented strategic investments in grid-interactive resilience projects that will reduce the impact of long-duration outages in these disadvantaged communities.

The Louisiana initiative is fully aligned with the State of Louisiana's commitment and plans to build a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economy. The State of Louisiana Interagency Work Group, launched in 2022, was formed to share best practices, engage stakeholders, and collaborate on near-term needs and long-term strategies to coordinate energy resilience efforts and build next generation grid infrastructure. HERO advances the goals and objectives established by the State of Louisiana Interagency Work Group, including resilience, environmental, equity, affordability, and safety initiatives.

HERO will position the State of Louisiana to be a national and global leader by demonstrating the success of community-centric and carbon-free energy resilience by empowering communities to shape their envisioned future of a resilient and inclusive economy for current and future generations.