



For Immediate Release

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Game-Changing \$2.5 Million HUD Investment Awarded to EBRPHA as Baton Rouge's Ardendale Community Undergoes Major Transformation

BATON ROUGE, LA - President Biden, along with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Acting Secretary Adrienne Todman, recently announced a significant \$2.5 million grant awarded to the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority (EBRPHA) and the BR Choice Neighborhood Transformation Plan. The supplemental grant adds to the previous \$29.5 million Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant received in 2018 bringing the total HUD investment to \$32 million.

The \$2.5 million grant is part of an effort to revitalize three neighborhoods in North Baton Rouge, covering 200 acres between Florida Blvd. and Greenwell Springs Road. EBRPHA will use the funding to develop high-quality mixed-income housing opportunities and support services for families, aligning with their goal of providing access and opportunity for family success.

This grant will ensure the completion of all four phases of the Cypress at Ardendale community, which will comprise 434 homes over the next few years. Construction is already underway for Phase I and slated to close within the next three months.

According to EBRPHA CEO J. Wesley Daniels, Jr., the development is expected to transform this historically disinvested area and attract over \$330 million in investments. "The Ardendale master plan emulates traditional neighborhood developments across America," Daniels said. "Ardendale encompasses mixed-use and mixed-income housing as its core strategy with intensive 'cradle to career' life-changing resources." he added.

Additionally, the new community will introduce an innovative "Educational Spine" to connect the surrounding neighborhoods with key education and employment centers in Baton Rouge, creating new opportunities for families. This MOVEBR project aptly named "Ardenwood-Lobdell Connector Road" initiative, driven by the City of Baton Rouge, will fund the construction of a half-mile access road to connect Cypress at Ardendale to the west side of Ardendale, linking families to major workforce and education centers on Lobdell Boulevard.

This "Educational Spine" will connect families to important workforce and education centers on Lobdell Boulevard, including Baton Rouge Community College's McKay Automotive Technology Center and a collision repair training center. The location is also the site of the EBR School System's vibrant Career High School and provides access to year-round advancement and training opportunities. This connection serves as the "Educational Spine" for the Cypress at Ardendale community, offering them the necessary resources to thrive.

BREC will also design and create recreational paths and utilize wetlands walkways within the community.

According to Daniels, the new connector road and the agricultural program are key elements of the Ardendale master plan, aiming to combat poverty through education.

Phase I of Cypress at Ardendale is expected to open in 2025, followed by Phase II in 2026 and Phases III and IV soon after.

"It all begins with a dream for innovation, determination, and vision. The stakeholders of this great city are accomplishing in this new transformed community a New Urban vision based on advancing education, health and wellness, and economic opportunities," said Daniels.

For more information, visit EBRPHA.org and partnersoutheast.com.

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For over 80 years, the East Baton Rouge Parish Housing Authority has served the needs of families by providing affordable housing opportunities. The EBRPHA ACCESS strategy impacts more than 14,000 residents across the Capital Region. Learn more about EBRPHA at ebrpha.org or by calling 225-923-8100.