

New Orleans Homeless Services and Strategy

By Carl Smith

A new city office focused on homeless services has given a boost to programs to help the unhoused in New Orleans.

According to a count conducted last year, the homeless population in New Orleans was just over thirteen hundred. That represented an uptick, but the city still had a rate of less than one homeless person per thousand population. In the most impacted cities, the rate is ten or even twenty times higher.

Still, when Lesli Harris joined the New Orleans City Council, she was convinced her city could do even better. "Even some of my colleagues think that people just want to be outside," she says. "There's a misconception that they are drug-addled or have some psychological problem and are refusing housing."

Harris teamed up with Jennifer Avegno, the director of the New Orleans Health Department, to create a new Office of Homeless Services and Strategy. With the help of a \$15 million grant from

HUD and other funding sources, the city has managed to clear out three encampments—and then place the individuals who'd been living in them into housing.

"We've housed one hundred twenty-seven individuals who would not have been housed had we not had these resources," says Nathaniel Fields, director of the new homeless services office. Even though the city's homeless population has increased slightly in the past year, this effort translated into a twelve percent decrease in the number of people who were without shelter at all.

Homelessness is an issue all over the country, with housing shortages exacerbating the long-standing problem. A January survey by the United States Conference of Mayors found that homelessness was the top concern of America's mayors. That month, HUD's annual estimate of the 2023 homeless population showed a twelve percent increase over the previous year.

New Orleans has had long experience in dealing with the issue. The city has community-based groups with experience and success in helping the unhoused. More than eleven thousand residents



became homeless in 2005 as a result of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina, over eight times the current unhoused population.

However, New Orleans never had a person or office with the sole responsibility of working with

Small Business Exchange • Voice of Small, Emerging, Diversity-Owned Businesses Since 1984 [Click to read more](#)

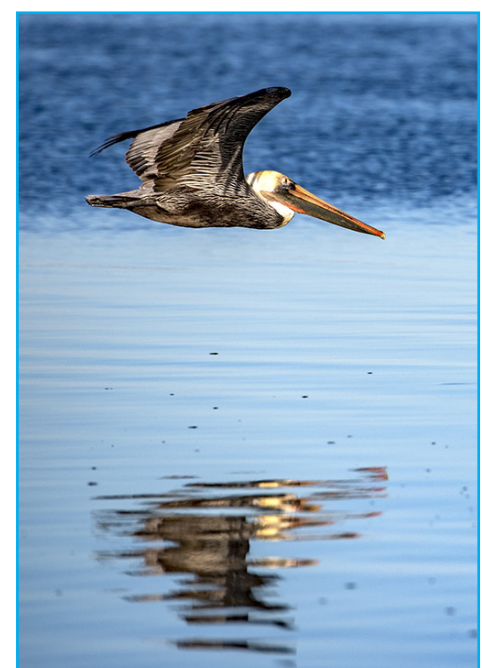
Opportunities

LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Public notices and participation activities
[Click for details](#)

Doreen's Jazz New Orleans

- Private lessons from Queen Clarinet
- Band performances at your venue
- Master classes for groups

504-908-7119
doreenja@bellsouth.net
www.doreensjazz.org



LOUISIANA BUSINESS JOURNAL
SBE OUTREACH SERVICES

With over 1.6 million businesses in our active database—the country's largest non-public diversity database—SBE sets the professional standard for diversity outreach across the nation. For more than three decades, we have served small businesses, prime contractors, and agencies—with proven results.

Advertisements
Placed in various Louisiana Business Journal digital publications every month and at www.louisianabusinessjournal.com

Fax, Email, and Postal Solicitations
Targeted mailings sent to businesses chosen according to your criteria

Live Call Center Follow-Up
Telephone follow-up calls using a script of five questions that you define

Computer Generated Reports
Complete documentation that will fit right into your proposal, along with a list of interested firms to contact

Special Services
Custom design and development of services that you need for particular situations such as small business marketing, diversity goal completion, and agency capacity building

Call for more information: 800-800-8534

1984 **40** Years 2024



LOUISIANA BUSINESS JOURNAL
PUBLIC LEGAL NOTICES

With a database of over 1.6 million businesses, SBE assists agencies with public legal notices

Advertisements
Placed in various Louisiana Business Journal digital publications every month and at www.louisianabusinessjournal.com

Special Follow-Up Services
Custom design and development of services that you need for particular situations such as small business marketing, diversity goal completion, and agency capacity building

Call for more information: 800-800-8534

1984 **40** Years 2024

Advertise in our digital
LBJ

weekly or whenever wherever you need to reach among agencies contractors diversity firms

Balthazar Electriks
WHOLESALE DISTRIBUTORS

We deliver a wide range of products and services to proudly serve construction, industrial, utility, and commercial businesses

ELECTRICAL Wire, Distribution, Wiring Devices, Installation Material	LIGHTING Bulbs, Ballasts, Exits/Emergency Lights, Installation Options	SECURITY Smoke, Carbon Monoxide and Metal Detectors, Surveillance Equipment, and Batteries	COMMUNICATIONS Fiber Optic Cable, Telecommunication Systems, and Office Equipment
--	--	--	---

Contact info: 3623 D'Hemecourt Street • New Orleans, LA 70119
504-891-5504 • 504-891-5580 • Belectriks@balthazarinc.com • www.Balthazarinc.com

LAGNIAPPE BAKEHOUSE

Lagniappe Baking is an independently owned pop-up Bakehouse by pastry chef Kaitlin Guerin. Created to make one-of-a-kind assorted Pastry Boxes that highlight the local, seasonal bounty of the Crescent City's agriculture, each box is meant to challenge your taste buds with flavor combinations and leave you with joy and anticipation for the next.

www.lagniappebaking.com

Small Business Exchange Louisiana DEI

- Advertise
- ITB to Targeted (NAICS/SIC/UNSPSC) Certified Businesses
- Telephone Follow-Up (Live)
- Agency/Organization Letters
- Computer Generated Dated and Timed Documentation
- Customized Reports Available

For more info contact
Valerie Voorhies at
vvv@sbeinc.com

SOUTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS 2024

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Program Webinar
Thursday, August 15, 2024, 9:00 am–10:00 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>
Fee: Free; registration required

Welcome to the WOSB webinar series! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions will include an overview of the self-certification process, as well as a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register for this free webinar at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/welcome-to-wosb-webinar-tickets-482397041537>

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, August 21, 2024, 9:30 am–10:30 am CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, September 12, 2024, 12:00 pm–3:00 pm CDT Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register on line at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting. Participants must ensure Microsoft Teams is functioning.

CERTIFICATION
Small Business Exchange, Inc.
is **DBE** certified by the Louisiana UCP.

