



Caddo Parish to vote on Community Lighthouse Pilot Program

[Madison Edwards](#) May 15, 2023 [Comments](#)

SHREVEPORT, La. - An ordinance to fund two solar-powered disaster relief hubs will be voted on at the Caddo Parish Commission in early June.

The Commission met Monday and decided to send the discussion back to committee to gather more information on the costs and whether federal or state funding will be able to match the local contribution.

Supporters of the program say that through ARPA funds, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Infrastructure bill, Caddo could contribute \$250,000 and receive up to \$4 million in matched funds. The two projects are projected to cost \$3 million dollars.

The Morningstar Baptist Church and Highland Center in Shreveport would house the disaster hubs. The idea is to create a self sustaining energy "micro-grid" that the facilities can use to distribute power if inclement weather causes power outages. Members of the community who have medical devices like CPAP machines would be able to have a safe shelter to ensure they have the energy required to power those machines. Some might need a place to charge their phones to call loved ones.

Highland Center Executive Director Madison Poche is concerned with a leading cause of death during natural disasters: power failure. If these preventative measures can be taken, Caddo Parish will be leading the nation in this model of disaster relief.

"We know that the way we respond to natural disasters will be changing in the next decade," Poche said, "There's going to be funding available, so we want to make sure that Caddo Parish is apart of the conversation with these new, incredible resources. We can take these preventative measures to ensure that neighbors get what they need during these special circumstances."

The funding would help with overhead costs of the facilities, allowing the Highland Center to spend more on community projects.

If the program is approved, construction could be completed and services could be provided as early as this winter.