Louisiana is rich in culture, history, natural resources, and has a proud sense of community. But not everyone in the state has the tools and resources they need to achieve their dreams. In earlier times, Louisiana made public investments that supported everyone by building roads, hospitals, universities, and by providing a basic safety net for those of us who fell on hard times. But in recent years, those investments have withered.

It’s time for a new vision for Louisiana — one that invests in its people and builds a stronger future for all its residents. By prioritizing our communities, workers, children and families, Louisiana can create a more inclusive economy that betters the lives of all Louisianans. Simply put: We, the people of Louisiana, are our state’s best investment.

About Invest in Louisiana

**Invest in Louisiana** is a campaign that places the people of Louisiana at the center of public policy, empowering individuals through a statewide network of community partners to imagine and build a future of shared prosperity. Louisiana Budget Project is a nonprofit organization working alongside partner organizations across Louisiana in support of a proactive policy agenda that lifts up all Louisianans.
Invest in Workers

Ensure that Louisiana’s workers get their fair share of the state’s prosperity.

Louisiana’s workers power the state’s economy, but a federal minimum wage that hasn’t been updated since 2009 and state laws that prevent cities from setting a minimum wage of their own leave many families struggling to make ends meet, even when they’re working full time. And without paid family and medical leave policies to protect workers when they take time off to care for themselves or their loved ones, an individual’s illness can quickly become a family’s crisis. Louisiana’s lawmakers should invest in the state’s workers with laws that ensure that people working full time can provide for themselves and their families, and that protect workers’ rights to organize for their interests.

Invest in Communities

Protect the well-being of all Louisianans and eliminate the barriers that keep too many of us from opportunity.

Louisiana needs strong communities, and that means investing in programs that take down the barriers that make it harder for many of us to succeed. Regardless of how much money we have in the bank, we all deserve access to the basic necessities of life:

• Nutritious food
• Quality medical care—including mental health care and substance abuse treatment programs
• Safe neighborhoods
• Fair lending options that don’t prey on us when we are vulnerable

Invest in Children

Provide all our children with the education and services they need for a bright and fulfilling future.

Too many children in Louisiana grow up in poverty and too many attend schools with outdated textbooks, crumbling facilities, and underpaid teachers and support staff. Louisiana should invest in its children by fully funding its public schools, paying hardworking teachers and support staff at competitive rates, and rewarding teachers for investing in the advanced degrees that develop their classroom skills. But education alone is not enough to help children born into poverty in our state. To build a strong state for the future, Louisiana needs to invest now in solutions that help both children and their parents, lifting them out of poverty and into good jobs and providing access for all to high-quality, affordable early care and education programs so that parents can go to work while their children are young.
End discrimination and inequities in our state so that we all prosper together.

Louisiana’s enduring legacy of racial discrimination and unequal opportunity leaves many people of color facing substantial barriers to opportunity. And the state’s upside-down tax system forces the poorest people in the state to pay more of their income in taxes than the wealthiest. Persistent inequality holds our state back. Louisiana needs to ensure fair representation in government for all its residents, continue the work of criminal justice reform, mandate equity in the workplace, and invest in a tax overhaul that asks those who can best afford it to pay their fair share in taxes.

These investments in the people of Louisiana will make our state stronger, fairer, and more competitive. But no investment is possible without funding. If we want a state that improves with every generation, we must create a tax system that provides the revenue we need to support all the state’s residents, so we all can share in prosperity together.
Invest in Communities

Protect the well-being of all Louisianans and eliminate the barriers that keep too many of us from opportunity.

- Protect safety net programs that ensure food security, affordable housing, and access to quality health care, including mental health and substance abuse, for vulnerable Louisianans.
- Promote economic security by increasing access to financial education and protecting consumers from predatory lenders.

Invest in Equity

End discrimination and inequities in our state so that we all prosper together.

- Sustain and expand criminal justice reforms to reduce the number of incarcerated adults and youth and support recidivism-reduction and re-entry programs for former offenders.
- Secure our democracy by enacting fair districts, easing access to the ballot box, and eliminating barriers to participation.
- Safeguard basic human and civil rights by supporting policies that promote non-discrimination and equity for all people and families.

Invest in Workers

Ensure that Louisiana’s workers get their fair share of the state’s prosperity.

- Boost wages through state and local policies that support working families’ economic security and well-being, including raising the minimum wage, expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit, and ending state pre-emption of local labor policies.
- Improve working conditions by enacting fair scheduling policies and by guaranteeing every worker can earn paid family and medical leave and paid sick time.
- Focus economic development strategies to produce more home-grown entrepreneurs and provide incentives to employers to offer jobs and skill-building opportunities to people with barriers to employment.

Invest in Children

Provide all of our children with the education and services they need for a bright and fulfilling future.

- Invest in early childhood education so parents can return to work and contribute to household earnings, and to ensure that all of Louisiana’s children are ready for school.
- Ensure adequate and equitable funding for K-12 schools and higher education that prepares students for 21st century jobs and removes barriers that prevent hardworking students from attending college because of their families’ limited resources.

Ensure the state’s tax system raises adequate revenue for the state to provide high-quality services to its residents and reduces inequality by ending costly tax exemptions and increasing Louisiana’s working tax credits.