

**North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.**

**Financial Statements**

**As of and for the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.

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## Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Directors  
North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.

### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

#### ***Opinion***

We have audited the financial statements of North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. ( a nonprofit organization ), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. (a nonprofit organization) as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States (*Government Auditing Standards*). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. and to meet our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

#### ***Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern within one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.



### ***Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

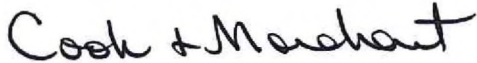
We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control related matters that we identified during the audit.

### ***Supplementary Information***

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements as a whole. The accompanying schedule of compensation, benefits, and other payments to agency head on page 17, is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with GAAS. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

### **Other Reporting Required by *Government Auditing Standards***

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated June 27, 2025, on our consideration of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Cook & Morehart  
Certified Public Accountants  
June 27, 2025



North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Statements of Financial Position  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

Assets	2024	2023
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,284,587	\$ 699,718
Accounts receivable	5,676	9,311
Grants receivable	158,441	246,457
Prepaid expenses	45,060	32,202
Unconditional promises to give	238,500	217,874
Deposit held in escrow	125,000	
Total current assets	<u>1,857,264</u>	<u>1,205,562</u>
Noncurrent assets:		
Unconditional promises to give	164,442	277,517
Operating lease right-of-use asset		28,952
Property and equipment, net	18,902	24,210
Total noncurrent assets	<u>183,344</u>	<u>330,679</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 2,040,608</u>	<u>\$ 1,536,241</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 34,171	\$ 38,534
Current portion of right-of-use operating lease liability		29,687
Deferred revenue	4,500	
Total current liabilities	<u>38,671</u>	<u>68,221</u>
Net assets:		
With donor restrictions	673,421	701,280
Without donor restrictions	1,328,516	766,740
Total net assets	<u>2,001,937</u>	<u>1,468,020</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,040,608</u>	<u>\$ 1,536,241</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2024
Revenues, gains, support and reclassifications:			
Rent and royalties	\$ 111,458	\$	\$ 111,458
Grants and contracts	485,042	53,378	538,420
Contributions of financial assets	1,863,151	97,500	1,960,651
Meetings and events	72,080		72,080
Miscellaneous	57,712		57,712
Net assets released from restrictions			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	178,737	(178,737)	
Total revenues, gains, support and reclassifications	<u>2,768,180</u>	<u>(27,859)</u>	<u>2,740,321</u>
Expenses and losses:			
Supporting services			
General and administrative	300,285		300,285
Program services			
Economic development	<u>1,906,119</u>		<u>1,906,119</u>
Total expenses	<u>2,206,404</u>		<u>2,206,404</u>
Change in net assets	561,776	(27,859)	533,917
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>766,740</u>	<u>701,280</u>	<u>1,468,020</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u><u>\$ 1,328,516</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 673,421</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 2,001,937</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Statement of Activities  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total 2023
Revenues, gains, support and reclassifications:			
Rent and royalties	\$ 110,320	\$	\$ 110,320
Grants and contracts	507,713		507,713
Contributions of financial assets	1,214,274	86,000	1,300,274
Meetings and events	69,009		69,009
Miscellaneous	28,308		28,308
Net assets released from restrictions			
Satisfaction of program restrictions	211,186	(211,186)	
Total revenues, gains, support and reclassifications	<u>2,140,810</u>	<u>(125,186)</u>	<u>2,015,624</u>
Expenses and losses:			
Supporting services			
General and administrative	278,064		278,064
Fundraising	260		260
Program services			
Economic development	<u>2,035,423</u>		<u>2,035,423</u>
Total expenses	<u>2,313,747</u>		<u>2,313,747</u>
Change in net assets	(172,937)	(125,186)	(298,123)
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>939,677</u>	<u>826,466</u>	<u>1,766,143</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 766,740</u>	<u>\$ 701,280</u>	<u>\$ 1,468,020</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.



North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Statement of Functional Expenses  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

	<u>Support Services</u> General and Administrative	<u>Program Services</u> Economic Development	<u>Totals</u> 2024
Salaries and commissions	\$ 154,520	\$ 982,863	\$ 1,137,383
Payroll taxes	7,917	50,359	58,276
Pension expense	8,476	53,916	62,392
Other employee benefits	9,064	57,666	66,730
Advertising		37,959	37,959
Liability insurance	2,992		2,992
Building rent	12,934	82,269	95,203
Office supplies	3,446		3,446
Periodicals and dues		38,116	38,116
Postage	1,055		1,055
Professional services	23,990		23,990
Photocopy and printing		3,214	3,214
Travel	2,604	16,561	19,165
Professional development	1,804	15,455	17,259
Repairs and maintenance		3,380	3,380
Computer expense		49,089	49,089
Telephone	2,107	13,401	15,508
Miscellaneous	561	13,113	13,674
Annual meeting		30,048	30,048
Site development		106,396	106,396
Website development		15,215	15,215
Business relations		151,801	151,801
Research		41,988	41,988
Education initiatives		10,171	10,171
Strategic Plan	26,144		26,144
Provision for uncollectible accounts	41,950		41,950
Advocacy		48,990	48,990
Business Development		58,845	58,845
Workforce development - FAME		20,717	20,717
Depreciation	721	4,587	5,308
Total expenses	<u>\$ 300,285</u>	<u>\$ 1,906,119</u>	<u>\$ 2,206,404</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Statement of Functional Expenses  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2023

	Support Services		Program Services	Totals
	General and Administrative	Fundraising	Economic Development	2023
Salaries and commissions	\$ 146,913	\$	\$ 1,044,610	\$ 1,191,523
Payroll taxes	8,510		60,513	69,023
Pension expense	9,967		70,866	80,833
Other employee benefits	10,263		72,973	83,236
Advertising and marketing			80,938	80,938
Liability insurance	3,383			3,383
Building rent	12,588		89,505	102,093
Office supplies	4,096			4,096
Periodicals and dues			31,718	31,718
Postage	1,026			1,026
Professional services	23,240			23,240
Photocopy and printing			2,111	2,111
Travel	2,489		17,696	20,185
Professional development	2,669		18,977	21,646
Repairs and maintenance			2,748	2,748
Computer expense			50,401	50,401
Telephone	2,442		17,364	19,806
Miscellaneous	1,488	260	16,496	18,244
Annual meeting			32,907	32,907
Other grants			5,000	5,000
Website development			2,135	2,135
Business relations			156,994	156,994
Research			54,697	54,697
Education initiatives			10,762	10,762
Strategic Plan	48,713			48,713
Advocacy			36,245	36,245
Business Development			145,408	145,408
Workforce development - FAME			12,375	12,375
Depreciation	277		1,984	2,261
Total expenses	<u>\$ 278,064</u>	<u>\$ 260</u>	<u>\$ 2,035,423</u>	<u>\$ 2,313,747</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Statements of Cash Flows  
For the Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023

Operating Activities	2024	2023
Changes in net assets	\$ 533,917	\$ (298,123)
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:		
Depreciation	5,308	2,261
Lease amortization	28,952	97,280
(Increase) decrease in operating assets:		
Accounts receivable	3,635	6,707
Grants receivable	88,016	(46,415)
Prepaid expenses	(12,858)	(866)
Unconditional promises to give	92,449	125,186
Increase (decrease) in operating liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	(4,363)	(145,520)
Repayments of right-of-use operating lease liabilities	(29,687)	(108,156)
Deferred revenue	4,500	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	<u>709,869</u>	<u>(367,646)</u>
Investing Activities		
Deposit on building purchase	(125,000)	
Payments for property and equipment		(22,889)
Net cash (used) in investing activities	<u>(125,000)</u>	<u>(22,889)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	584,869	(390,535)
Cash and cash equivalents as of beginning of year	<u>699,718</u>	<u>1,090,253</u>
Cash and cash equivalents as of end of year	<u>\$ 1,284,587</u>	<u>\$ 699,718</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements.



North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023

(1) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

A. Nature of Activities

The North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. (NLEP) is a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana and is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. The purpose of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. is to assist local government by studying problems such as public education, crime prevention, poverty, and economic development and publicize the results of its research and recommendations, and to work for the general betterment of the North Louisiana area.

B. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting.

C. Use of Estimates

Management uses estimates and assumptions in preparing financial statements. Those estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities, and reported revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

D. Basis of Presentation

The financial statement presentation follows the recommendations of the Financial Accounting Standards Board in its Statement of Financial Accounting Standards. Under those standards, the Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets:

**Net assets without donor restrictions:** Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objective of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of NLEP's management and the board of directors.

**Net assets with donor restrictions:** Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of NLEP or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, whereby the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities. NLEP has adopted a policy to classify donor restricted contributions as without donor restriction to the extent that donor restrictions are met in the year the contribution was received.

E. Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, NLEP considers all unrestricted highly liquid investments with an initial maturity of three months or less to be cash equivalents.

(Continued)



North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023  
(Continued)

F. Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are stated at the amount management expects to collect, based on balances that NLEP has an unconditional right to receive less management's estimate of amounts that may not be collectible.

No allowance for credit losses have been provided since management has determined that the expected credit loss is not material at the balance sheet date.

G. Promises to Give

Unconditional promises to give are recognized as revenues or gains in the period the promise to give is received and as assets, decreases of liabilities, or expenses depending on the form of the benefits received. Management provides for probable uncollectible amounts through establishment of an allowance, based on its assessment of recent collection history and current donor relationships. Initial amounts recognized represent the fair value expected to be collected. Conditional promises to give are recognized when the conditions on which they depend are substantially met.

H. Property and Equipment

Property and equipment are carried at cost or, if donated, at the approximate fair value at the date of donation. Depreciation is provided on the straight-line method over the estimated useful lives of the assets. NLEP has adopted a policy of capitalizing all assets with a unit value of \$2,500 or more.

I. Contributions

Contributions received are recorded as increase in net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. When restrictions expire (that is, when a stipulated time restriction ends or purpose restriction is accomplished), net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. In the absence of donor restrictions to the contrary, restrictions on contributions of property or equipment or on assets restricted to acquiring property or equipment expire when the property or equipment is placed in service.

J. Income Tax Status

The North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. However, income from certain activities not directly related to the Partnership's tax-exempt purpose is subject to taxation as unrelated business income. The Partnership had no such income during this audit period. The North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s Forms 990, *Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax*, for the years ended 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024 are subject to examination by the IRS, generally for three years after they were filed.

K. Advertising Costs

The NLEP uses advertising to promote its services among the community it serves. The costs of advertising are expensed as incurred. During 2024 and 2023, advertising costs totaled \$37,959 and \$80,938, respectively.

(Continued)



North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023  
(Continued)

L. Functional Expenses

The costs of providing certain activities of NLEP have been summarized on a functional basis in the statements of activities and in the statements of functional expense. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among programs and supported services benefited. Costs are directly charged to the functions they benefit. Facility related and supportive services expenses are allocated to each function based upon management's equitable determination.

M. Prepaid expenses

Prepaid expenses as of December 31, 2024 and 2023, is comprised primarily of annual licensing agreements and certain expenses for a 2025 event which were paid in advance.

(2) Concentrations of Credit Risk

Financial instruments that potentially subject NLEP to concentrations of credit risk consist principally of temporary cash investments, accounts receivable, grant receivables, and promises to give. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to grant receivables are limited due to these amounts being due from governmental agencies under contractual terms. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to accounts receivable and promises to give are limited due to the large number of contributors comprising the North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s contributor base and their dispersion across different industries. Concentrations of credit risk with respect to promises to give include approximately twenty percent (20%) due from one contributor.

NLEP maintains cash balances at financial institutions located in the Shreveport area. Accounts at the institutions are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) up to certain amounts. At December 31, 2024, total cash balances held at financial institutions was \$1,300,388, of which \$1,228,663 was secured by FDIC, and the remaining \$71,726, was unsecured. At December 31, 2023, total cash balances held at financial institutions was \$824,840, of which \$781,090 was secured by FDIC, and the remaining \$43,750, was unsecured.

(3) Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable of \$5,676 and \$9,311 at December 31, 2024 and 2023, respectively, is comprised of riverboat boarding fees and other miscellaneous amounts due to the North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. as of the end of the year but not received until after those dates.

(4) Grant Receivables

Various funding sources provide reimbursement of allowable costs under contracts or agreements. These balances represent amounts due from the funding sources at December 31, 2024 and 2023 but not received until after those dates.

(5) Employee Benefit Plans

NLEP participates in a 401(k) profit sharing plan whereby NLEP makes contributions to the Plan each year up to 8% of participating employee's compensation. Total expenses for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 were approximately \$64,924 and \$77,384, respectively.

(Continued)



North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023  
(Continued)

(6) Deposit Held in Escrow

During 2024, NLEP made a deposit of \$125,000 related to the anticipated purchase of a building with an estimated total purchase price of up to \$7,500,000. The closing date is expected to be in September 2025. The deposit is recorded as a non-current asset Deposit Held in Escrow in the Statement of Financial Position. Upon completion of the transaction, the deposit will be reclassified as a part of the capitalized cost of the building.

(7) Promises to Give

The North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. initiated a campaign during 2021 entitled "2022 – 2026 Capital Campaign." Promises to give are restricted to payment of costs associated with economic development projects and projects supporting the economic growth of north Louisiana. The promises to give are discounted at .06%, and are shown net of an allowance for uncollectible promises to give of \$129,700 at December 31, 2024 and \$87,750 at December 31, 2023.

Unconditional promises to give at December 31, 2024 and 2023 were as follows:

	2024	2023
Receivable in less than one year	\$ 238,500	\$ 217,874
Receivable in one to five years	165,300	278,375
Less discount on promises	<u>( 858)</u>	<u>( 858)</u>
Net unconditional promises to give	<u>\$ 402,942</u>	<u>\$ 495,391</u>

(8) Property and Equipment

Property and equipment at December 31, 2024 and 2023, with estimated depreciable life, are summarized as follows:

	Estimated Depreciable Life	2024	2023
Furniture, fixtures, equipment	3–10 years	\$ 77,600	\$ 79,330
Leasehold improvements	3–10 years	145,231	145,231
Accumulated Depreciation		<u>( 203,929)</u>	<u>( 200,351)</u>
		<u>\$ 18,902</u>	<u>\$ 24,210</u>

Depreciation expense for the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023 was \$5,308 and \$2,261 respectively.

(9) Contractual Revenue – Grants

During the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023, North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. received contractual revenue from federal, state and local grants in the amount of \$538,420 and \$507,713, respectively. The continued existence of these funds is based on annual contract renewals with various funding sources.

(Continued)

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023  
(Continued)

(10) Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses

Accounts payable and accrued expenses at December 31, 2024 and 2023, consisted of the following:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Accounts payable	\$ 18,504	\$ 23,400
Accrued leave payable	<u>15,667</u>	<u>15,134</u>
	<u>\$ 34,171</u>	<u>\$ 38,534</u>

(11) Endowment Account with Community Foundation of North Louisiana

The NLEP entered into an agreement with the Community Foundation of North Louisiana (CFNL). The agreement establishes an Agency Endowment Fund at CFNL called "Northwest Louisiana Economic Development Foundation Fund" (Fund). All property of the Fund belongs to CFNL. The fund will be used for support of the charitable purposes of the Partnership. Net income and capital appreciation of the Fund, as governed by CFNL's Spending Policy, will be paid and distributed to the Partnership at least annually, for as long as the Partnership is a Qualified Charitable Organization.

There were no transfers made to the fund during the years ended December 31, 2024 and 2023. The fair market value of the fund at December 31, 2024 and 2023, was \$336,898 and \$319,230, respectively.

(12) Right-of-Use Operating Leases

The NLEP leases certain office space under long-term, non-cancellable operating leases. The risk-free discount rate with a period comparable with that of the individual lease term was used which is 4.57%.

The right-of-use operating assets and operating lease liabilities at December 31, 2024 and 2023, are as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Lease Assets		
Operating lease right-of-use assets	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$ 28,952</u>
Lease Liabilities		
Operating lease liabilities at December 31	\$	\$ 29,687
Less current portion		( 29,687)
Operating lease liabilities	<u>\$</u>	<u>\$</u>
Total lease costs were as follows:		
Operating lease costs	<u>\$ 29,970</u>	<u>\$ 100,880</u>
Weighted-average remaining lease term – months	<u></u>	<u>17</u>
Weighted-average discount rate	<u></u>	<u>4.57%</u>

(Continued)



North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023  
(Continued)

NLEP previously leased office space under a non-cancellable operating lease that expired on May 1, 2024. Upon expiration, the lease converted to a month-to-month arrangement under the same terms. NLEP is currently in discussions to negotiate a new lease for office space. As of December 31, 2024, the NLEP does not have any long-term lease obligations.

(13) Liquidity and Availability of Financial Assets

NLEP monitors its liquidity so that it is able to meet its operating needs and other contractual commitments while maximizing the investment of its excess operating cash. NLEP has the following financial assets that could readily be made available within one year of the balance sheet to fund expenses without limitations:

Financial assets at year-end:	2024	2023
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,284,587	\$ 699,718
Accounts receivable	5,676	9,311
Grants receivable	158,441	246,457
Deposit held in escrow	125,000	
Unconditional promises to give	<u>402,942</u>	<u>495,391</u>
Total financial assets	1,976,646	1,450,877
Less amounts not available to be used within one year:		
Grants and contributions restricted for specific purposes	( 270,479)	( 205,889)
Non-current portion of promises to give	<u>( 164,442)</u>	<u>( 277,517)</u>
Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year	<u>\$ 1,541,725</u>	<u>\$ 967,471</u>

The Statement of Cash Flows identifies the sources and uses of NLEP's cash and shows positive cash provided by operations of \$709,869 for fiscal year ending December 31, 2024, and negative cash used by operations of (\$367,646) for fiscal year ending December 31, 2023.

(14) Net Assets

Net assets at December 31, 2024, and 2023, consisted of the following:

	2024	2023
Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions:		
Undesignated	\$ 1,328,516	\$ 766,740
Total net assets without donor restrictions	<u>1,328,516</u>	<u>766,740</u>
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions:		
Subject to expenditure for specified purpose -		
Unconditional promises to give	402,942	495,391
ACT work ready	80,889	80,889
Business retention and expansion program enhancement	53,377	
Site certification	<u>136,213</u>	<u>125,000</u>
Total net assets with donor restrictions	<u>673,421</u>	<u>701,280</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>\$ 2,001,937</u>	<u>\$ 1,468,020</u>

(Continued)



North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 2024 and 2023  
(Continued)

(15) Concentration

For the year ended December 31, 2024, NLEP received approximately \$1,024,233, or 52% of its total contributions of financial assets, from two donors. NLEP recognizes this concentration and considers it as part of its overall financial management.

(16) Commitment

In November 2024, NLEP entered into a purchase agreement to acquire a building with a purchase price of up to \$7,500,000, with an expected closing date by September 2025. The purchase is contingent upon funding of approximately \$6,500,000 in funds from the State of Louisiana and \$1,050,405 from the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority.

In 2025, NLEP incurred expenses totaling approximately \$232,416 in relation to this project for site investigation work.

(17) Subsequent events

Subsequent events have been evaluated through June 27, 2025, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Schedule of Compensation, Benefits and Other Payments to Agency Head  
For the Year Ended December 31, 2024

Agency Head: Justyn Dixon, President

The following payments were made from public funds:

Salary	\$	39,900
Registration fees		7,135

# COOK & MOREHART

*Certified Public Accountants*

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MEMBER  
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SOCIETY OF LOUISIANA  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting and on  
Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial  
Statements Performed in Accordance With Government Auditing Standards

Independent Auditor's Report

To the Board of Directors  
North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.

We have audited, in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, the financial statements of North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2024, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated June 27, 2025.

## **Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting**

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements, we considered North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s internal control.

A *deficiency in internal control* exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on a timely basis. A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the first paragraph of this section and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. Given these limitations, during our audit we did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses. However, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified.

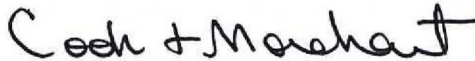


## **Report on Compliance and Other Matters**

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s financial statements are free from material misstatement, we performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have a direct and material effect on the financial statements. However, providing an opinion on compliance with those provisions was not an objective of our audit, and accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

## **Purpose of this Report**

The purpose of this report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the organization's internal control or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the organization's internal control and compliance. Accordingly, this communication is not suitable for any other purpose.



Cook & Morehart  
Certified Public Accountants  
June 27, 2025

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Summary Schedule of Audit Findings  
December 31, 2024

**Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings**

There were no findings reported for the prior year audit for the year ended December 31, 2023.

**Corrective Action Plan for Current Year Audit Findings**

There are no findings reported for the current year audit for the year ended December 31, 2024.

# COOK & MOREHART

*Certified Public Accountants*

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## Independent Accountants' Report on Applying Agreed-Upon Procedures

To the Board of Directors  
North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.  
Shreveport, Louisiana  
and the Louisiana Legislative Auditor

We have performed the procedures enumerated below on the control and compliance (C/C) areas identified in the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's (LLA's) Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures (SAUPs) for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc.'s management is responsible for those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs.

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate to meet the intended purpose of the engagement, which is to perform specified procedures on the C/C areas identified in LLA's SAUPs for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. Additionally, LLA has agreed to and acknowledged that the procedures performed are appropriate for its purposes. This report may not be suitable for any other purpose. The procedures performed may not address all the items of interest to a user of this report and may not meet the needs of all users of this report and, as such, users are responsible for determining whether the procedures performed are appropriate for their purposes.

The procedures and associated findings are as follows:

### **1) Written Policies and Procedures**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, due to no exceptions being noted in prior year.

### **2) Board or Finance Committee**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, due to no exceptions being noted in prior year.

### **3) Bank Reconciliations**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, due to no exceptions being noted in prior year.



**4) Collections (excluding electronic funds transfers)**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, due to no exceptions being noted in prior year.

**5) Non-Payroll Disbursements (excluding card purchases/payments, travel reimbursements, and petty cash purchases)**

- A. Obtain a listing of locations that process payments for the fiscal period and management's representation that the listing is complete. Randomly select 5 locations (or all locations if less than 5).
- B. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain a listing of those employees involved with non-payroll purchasing and payment functions. Obtain written policies and procedures relating to employee job duties (if the agency has no written policies and procedures, then inquire of employees about their job duties), and observe that job duties are properly segregated such that
  - i. At least two employees are involved in initiating a purchase request, approving a purchase, and placing an order or making the purchase;
  - ii. At least two employees are involved in processing and approving payments to vendors;
  - iii. The employee responsible for processing payments is prohibited from adding/modifying vendor files, unless another employee is responsible for periodically reviewing changes to vendor files;
  - iv. Either the employee/official responsible for signing checks mails the payment or gives the signed checks to an employee to mail who is not responsible for processing payments; and
  - v. Only employees/officials authorized to sign checks approve the electronic disbursement (release) of funds, whether through automated clearinghouse (ACH), electronic funds transfer (EFT), wire transfer, or some other electronic means.
- C. For each location selected under procedure #5A above, obtain the entity's non-payroll disbursement transaction population (excluding cards and travel reimbursements) and obtain management's representation that the population is complete. Randomly select 5 disbursements for each location, obtain supporting documentation for each transaction, and
  - i. Observe whether the disbursement, whether by paper or electronic means, matched the related original itemized invoice and supporting documentation indicates that deliverables included on the invoice were received by the entity, and
  - ii. Observe whether the disbursement documentation included evidence (e.g., initial/date, electronic logging) of segregation of duties tested under procedure #5B above, as applicable.
- D. Using the entity's main operating account and the month selected in Bank Reconciliations procedure #3A, randomly select 5 non-payroll-related electronic disbursements (or all electronic disbursements if less than 5) and observe that each electronic disbursement was (a) approved by only those persons authorized to disburse funds (e.g., sign checks) per the entity's policy, and (b) approved by the required number of authorized signers per the entity's policy. Note: If no electronic payments were made from the main operating account during the month selected the practitioner should select an alternative month and/or account for testing that does include electronic disbursements.

Procedures performed. Noted the following exceptions:

*Exception:* The employee responsible for processing payments is also responsible for mailing payments after signatures are obtained.

*Exception:* Four electronic payments totaling \$8,545.06 selected for testing did not contain documented approval prior to disbursement. These disbursements were for recurring payments.

**6) Credit Cards/Debit Cards/Fuel Cards/P-Cards**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, due to no exceptions being noted in prior year.

**7) Travel and Travel-Related Expense Reimbursements (excluding card transactions)**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, due to no exceptions being noted in prior year.

**8) Contracts**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, due to no exceptions being noted in prior year.

**9) Payroll and Personnel**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, due to no exceptions being noted in prior year.

**10) Ethics**

Not applicable to nonprofit organizations.

**11) Debt Service**

Not applicable to nonprofit organizations.

**12) Fraud Notice**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024, due to no exceptions being noted in prior year.

**13) Information Technology Disaster Recovery/Business Continuity**

Testing not required for this area for the fiscal period January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024.

**14) Prevention of Sexual Harassment**

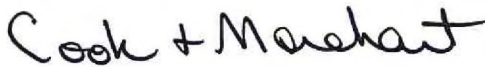
Not applicable to NLEP.



We were engaged by North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc., to perform this agreed-upon procedures engagement and conducted our engagement in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and applicable standards of *Government Auditing Standards*. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or review engagement, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

We are required to be independent of North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc., and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our agreed-upon procedures engagement.

This report is intended solely to describe the scope of testing performed on those C/C areas identified in the SAUPs, and the result of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on control or compliance. Accordingly, this report is not suitable for any other purpose. Under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:513, this report is distributed by the LLA as a public document.



Cook & Morehart  
Certified Public Accountants  
June 27, 2025





NORTH LOUISIANA ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

June 27, 2025

Cook & Morehart, CPAs  
1215 Hawn Ave  
Shreveport, LA 71107

North Louisiana Economic Partnership, Inc. submits the following response to the exceptions identified in the Statewide Agreed-Upon Procedures Report for the year ended December 31, 2024:

*Exception:* The employee responsible for processing payments is also responsible for mailing payments after signatures are obtained.

*Response:* NLEP will consider alternate controls in this area.

*Exception:* Four electronic payments totaling \$8,545.06 selected for testing did not contain documented approval prior to disbursement. These disbursements were for recurring payments.

*Response:* NLEP will ensure all EFT payments have documented approval prior to disbursement. Management reviews all EFT payments on bank statements on a monthly basis.

Sincerely,

Justyn Dixon  
President