

# Mitigation Grant Programs

## **BUILDING STRONGER AND SAFER**

*Mitigation Grant programs provide funding for eligible mitigation activities that reduce losses and protect life and property from future disaster damages. After a flood is the perfect time to encourage mitigation activities.*

### **Federal Mitigation Programs**

FEMA currently has 6 mitigation grant programs:

1. Hazards Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
2. Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
3. Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
4. Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC)
5. Severe Repetitive Flood Loss (SRL)
6. ICC (part of the flood insurance policy)

#### **1. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**

- Funds can be used state-wide
- Cost sharing ratio of 75% FEMA / 25% local funds (often provided by state)
- Community must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan
- Projects must meet environmental, historical, and benefit cost approvals.
- Applications are submitted to IEMA and approved by FEMA.

Examples of projects include:

- Elevation, acquisition, or retrofitting flood flood-prone homes or businesses
- Implementing minor flood control projects to protect critical facilities
- Constructing safe rooms inside schools or other buildings in tornado-prone areas

#### **2. Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA) –**

- Funds come from Flood Insurance program
- Very limited funds
- An FMA plan is required (This can be part of the hazard mitigation plan)
- Can only be used to purchase insured properties.

The program provides grants for both mitigation planning and projects:

\* Planning grants are used to assess flood risks and develop Flood Mitigation Plans to reduce the risks.

\* Project grants are used to elevate, acquire, demolish or relocate NFIP-insured buildings.

\* Project grants are available to NFIP-participating communities that have a Flood Mitigation Plan in place.

\* Technical Assistance grants help States and communities develop viable FMA applications and implement projects.

#### **3. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM)**

- Nationwide Competitive Program
- Requires hazard mitigation plan (prior to submittal)
- Requires FEMA approval
- Planning is an eligible project

Eligible PDM activities include:

- Elevation, acquisition, or relocation of structures
- Localized flood control projects designed specifically to protect critical facilities
- Protective measures for utilities
- Stormwater management projects

- Structural and non-structural retrofitting
- Voluntary acquisition of real property

- Demolition and rebuilding of properties to at least the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or greater if required by any local ordinance

#### 4. Repetitive Flood Claims Grant Program (RFC)

- Must be a NFIP Community
- Competitive program
- Priority is Severe Rep. Loss:
  - Four or more claims each >\$5,000 with at least two occurring in a 10 year period with totals >\$20,000
  - Two or more claims that exceed the property value.
- Eligible up to 100% Federal cost.
- Prioritized to those with greatest savings to NFIP based on benefit/cost analysis.
- Property must be insured at the time of application

#### 5. Severe Repetitive Loss Program (SRL) –

- Limited only to a group of 58 properties in Illinois
    - Four or more claims each >\$5,000 with at least two occurring in a 10 year period with totals >\$20,000
    - Two or more claims that exceed the property value
  - Letters sent to homeowners
  - Insurance rates go to actuarial rates if the property owner turns it down
  - Mitigation plan is required
  - 75 percent Federal cost share.
- Eligible SRL projects include:
- Elevation, relocation, or demolition of existing residential properties
  - Floodproofing measures for historical properties
  - Minor physical localized flood control projects

#### 6. Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) Program

- Funding is included as part of a NFIP flood insurance policy.
- Structure must be located in a floodplain
- Structure must have a flood insurance policy in effect
- The program provides up to \$30,000 in addition to flood insurance claims.
- Structure must be determined to be substantially damaged (or cumulatively damaged) by flooding beyond 50% of the value of when the damaged occurred.
- Claims process handled thru insurance company adjuster and agent

#### Eligible ICC projects include:

- Floodproofing,
- Relocation
- Elevation
- Demolition

#### State Mitigation Programs/Funds

The Office of Water Resources (OWR) has a long history of funding and completing mitigation projects. OWR mitigation programs support statewide flood damage reduction.

- OWR programs are available to any local unit of government

- OWR's Flood Hazard Mitigation Program partners with IEMA/FEMA to provide local match (25%)

### **OWR Program Guidelines**

- All properties acquired with OWR funds must be in the 100-year floodplain.
- Community must be in compliance with the NFIP
- Personal property (mobile homes) may not be acquired with OWR funds
- Relocation benefits are not an eligible expense
- Only vacant lots contiguous to the project area may be acquired
- All OWR acquisitions must have prior approval of the Illinois Attorney General
- All property must be acquired in the name of "The People of the State of Illinois, Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources." After demolition, property will be deeded back to the applicant (local jurisdiction)
- No duplication of benefits (similar to IEMA)
- All appraisals are reviewed by the IDNR review appraiser. Pre-flood fair market value paid with all normal closing costs
- Land must remain as open space in perpetuity

- Maintain acquired parcels as open space in perpetuity
- Obtain all federal, state, or local permits for the project
- Pay for any utility relocation required by the project
- Maintain eligibility in the NFIP.

### **State Priorities for Funding**

- a. NFIP participation
- b. Structures that are substantially damaged
- c. Projects that mitigate against the loss of human life will take priority over mitigating property loss.
- d. Critical facilities that a retrofit will substantially reduce the risk
- e. Repetitive loss properties with priority given to the target list
- f. Highest benefit/cost ratio
- g. Acquisitions will receive priority over elevations
- h. Minor structural projects that will relieve widespread but minor damage (inlet control valves)
- i. Projects with multiple properties to purchase or retrofit or contiguous properties
- j. Jurisdiction contributes funds for the project

### **Local responsibilities include:**

- Oversee acquisition and/or demolition of structures in accordance with intergovernmental agreement
- Pay all project cost in excess of those supported by the program

# Protect Your Home From Flood Damages

In Illinois, it is estimated that there are over 250,000 buildings located in floodplains. Floods are by far the most common natural disaster in Illinois, accounting for well over 90% of the declared disasters. Annual damages due to flooding average nearly \$300 million dollars. Unfortunately, much of this flood damage occurs on the same properties over and over again. For this reason, flood insurance coverage now pays to mitigate these properties to reduce the chances of future flooding.

## Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) Program:

- provides up to \$30,000 in addition to flood insurance claims.
- ICC can be used to floodproof, relocate, elevate, demolish (F.R.E.D.)
- structure must be located in a floodplain
- structure must have a flood insurance policy in effect
- structure must be determined to be substantially damaged (or cumulatively damaged) by flooding beyond 50% of the value of when the damaged occurred.
- bring structure into compliance with F.R.E.D



Illinois has the nation's largest inland system of rivers, lakes and streams

Raised Floor Foundation = Reduced Flood Risk



The two most common types of ICC mitigation used in Illinois are:

## Relocation:

- Relocating structures to higher ground or purchasing flood prone property is the safest way to protect against flooding and reduce the liability and cost to the community.
- Relocating initially can be expensive in the long run it can be less expensive than repetitive flood damages or high flood insurance premiums

## Elevation:

- Three methods to elevate:
  - Constructing on crawlspace,
  - Elevating on compacted fill, or
  - Elevating on piles or piers.
- Elevation method is dependent on the structure's condition, flood hazard, local floodplain regulations, and owner's financial condition.
- When elevating, it is essential for all utilities (air conditioner, water heater, furnace, etc.) to be elevated at or above the Flood Protection Elevation.



A repetitively flooded home in Rock Island County, Illinois used an ICC claim to reduce the chance of future flooding.

# Home Moving and Elevation

## Contractors

**1 Peters House  
& Building Movers**  
R.R. #1 Box 114  
Farmer City, IL 61842  
(309) 928-2532

**2. MCE Home Movers**  
1637 East 800 North Rd.  
Loda, IL 60948  
[mcemoving@yahoo.com](mailto:mcemoving@yahoo.com)  
217-379-2955 – office  
217- 519-0244 – cell

**3. Lyle Hyatt and Company  
House Movers**  
612 Green Street  
Sandwich, IL  
815-786-6591

**4. Balagna House Moving, Inc.**  
21529 E. Illinois Highway 116  
Farmington, IL 61531  
(309) 245-4486

**5. Greene County Steel**  
Eldred, IL 62027  
(618) 576-9730

**6. Louvier's Construction Inc.**  
1038 Urna Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63301  
(636) 250-3189  
\*elevation only

**7. Expert House Movers**  
7144 Pershing Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63130  
(314) 727-2722  
Or  
(800) 305-8939

