

FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM

Mitigation Program

The program is focused on the acquisition of real property – mobile homes excluded.

The program operates independent of or providing cost share assistance with other state or federal mitigation programs.

The program selects project participation based on the project's benefit to the State of Illinois.

The program is not a grant program.

Therefore, the community must pay all expenses and request reimbursement from OWR for the expenses related directly to the project.

Background

The Illinois Office of Water Resources (OWR) has a long history of flood mitigation. Some of the first large scale buyouts in the nation were completed by OWR.

Often times when structures are flooded repetitively, the best mitigation option is acquisition. The areas where the flood prone structures were located can then be converted into community open space such as parks or natural areas where future flooding will cause far less damage. While purchasing a property can be expensive and time consuming, it has proven to be an effective way to eliminate long-term repetitive flood damages and public expenses.

Both State and Federal programs are available in certain situations to assist a community in "buying out" flood prone properties to eliminate repetitive flood damages and further public expense.

IDNR/OWR Mitigation Program Goals and Objectives:

- Provide statewide flood damage reduction.
- Support community flood mitigation plans.
- Leverage federal flood mitigation funding in Illinois.
- Improve public water access and/or management.
- Enhance or improve existing flood damage reduction measures or state operations.

Project Preferences and Priorities:

1. Includes or leverages project funding with other state or federal funds.
2. Supplements or enhances other IDNR/OWR or state projects.
3. Community is in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
4. Part of an approved floodplain mitigation plan.
5. Provides a public (not private) benefit with a benefit/cost ratio of one or greater.
6. Removes repetitive loss or substantially damaged properties.
7. Complies with all federal, state and local regulations.
8. Provides public water access or improved public water management.
9. Does not include flood proofing.
10. Site is located within a 100-year floodplain, or high flood risk area.



Mitigation Process

1. OWR Prepares Agreement & Contract for Review/Approval
2. Benefit/Cost & CERP Review
3. Final Agreement Contract
4. Title Searches & Appraisals
5. Duplication of Benefits/ Salvage Value; Offer Made
6. Attorney General Approval
7. IDNR Preps Closing Docs; Closing w/City Attorney
8. Demo/Restoration w/OWR Final Approval
9. Reimbursement, Quit Claims Deed, Title Transfer, Flood Control Report

IDNR/OWR Mitigation Program Ineligible Activities

- Reimbursement for previously completed projects
- Maintenance/Operation or repair costs
- Purchase of structure contents
- Equipment purchases
- Relocation/Temporary housing costs
- Floodproofing private properties
- Elevating private properties

IDNR/OWR Mitigation Program Local Responsibilities

- Pay for required utility relocations
- Maintain the property as public open space, otherwise it shall revert back to IDNR
- Acquire local permits for project
- Oversee structure acquisition/demolition
- Pay excess project costs

Project Selection:

Several weighted criteria are considered when reviewing potential mitigation projects. This ensures the best use of limited state funding. Project selection and approval may be based upon:

1. Funding needs - has the project been funded by other local, state or federal programs?
2. Properties which are repetitive loss structures or have been substantially damaged.
3. Project must have a positive benefit/cost ratio.
4. Projects that support a public flood control project.
5. Property acquisition of public water access or management.
6. Project must have an obvious public safety benefit.
7. Environmental impacts and clearances.

Terms of Agreement:

1. OWR will reimburse community for approved project costs
2. No pre-agreement reimbursement
3. OWR will provide technical assistance when requested
4. Project administration costs are not provided
5. Relocation or temporary housing expenses are not provided
6. Purchase is in the name of the state w/ future conveyance to the community
7. OWR is willing to participate in condemnation if necessary

Flood Mitigation Timeline (Approximate)

| Activity | Approximate Time |
|--|------------------|
| Community application preparation | 1 month |
| OWR reviews complete application | 1 month |
| Benefit /Cost & CERP Review | 2 months |
| OWR prepares agreement for local review & approval | 1 month |
| OWR sends draft contract to IDNR/legal for review | 2 months |
| Flood Control Report sent to elected officials | 2 months |
| Final Agreement Contract to locals | 2 months |
| Public Meeting | 2 months |
| Property Appraisals | 3 months |
| OWR review and approval of appraisals | 1 month |
| Title Search | 2 months |
| Attorney General Approval | 4 months |
| Procurement Business Plan and Contractual Request | 1 month |
| Closing on Properties - Reimbursement | 2 months |
| Demolition | 6 months |
| Transfer to locals and close out | 1 month |