

FEMA Awards \$1.7 Million to Machesney Park for Acquisitions

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CHICAGO – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA) announced today that \$1,755,345 in Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) funds has been awarded to the village of Machesney Park, Ill., for the acquisition of 17 flood-prone homes in the floodplain of the Rock River in Winnebago County.

“The Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program provides funding for mitigation activities that reduce disaster losses and protect life and property from future flooding disasters,” said Kevin M. Sligh, acting regional administrator, FEMA Region 5. “The acquisition and demolition of these properties permanently removes them from the floodplain and greatly reduces the impact on individuals and the community when future flooding occurs in Machesney Park.”

“In the past 20 years, IEMA has helped remove around 4,200 structures from flood-prone areas,” said IEMA Director Alicia Tate-Nadeau. “Proper mitigation saves communities from flood-fighting and public safety expenses while helping residents avoid the heartbreak, devastation and costs associated of repetitive flood loss.”

Winnebago County’s FEMA-approved Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan prioritizes flooding as a high-risk in the area. Machesney Park established a voluntary buyout program in 2010 and through several phases, the program has acquired and demolished properties on over 100 flood-prone parcels, deed-restricting the vacant land as open space and increasing the community’s greenspace.

FEMA’s Flood Mitigation Assistance program funds help states and localities reduce the risks associated with flooding through projects such as property acquisition, structure elevation, and flood planning. Through FMA, FEMA will pay 84 percent of the \$2,078,356 eligible project cost. The remaining funds will be provided by the village of Machesney Park. As part of the funding, FEMA is also providing \$174,582 to IEMA to assist in managing this grant. To learn more about



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FMA or FEMA's other Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, visit www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation.

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