

FEMA Awards \$1.5 Million to Jefferson County

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CHICAGO – The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) announced today that Jefferson County, Wisc., has been awarded \$1,530,596 in Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) funds for the acquisition and demolition of 12 flood prone properties in the county. Removing these homes from the Rock River and Lake Koshkonong floodplains will help reduce the community's flood vulnerability. Upon completion of the project, the lots will be preserved as open space by the Jefferson County Parks Department.

"The Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs enable communities to implement critical mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate the risk of loss of life and property," said Kevin M. Sligh, acting regional administrator, FEMA Region 5. "This project will eliminate future structural losses in Jefferson County by permanently removing these homes from the floodplain, greatly reducing the financial impact on individuals and the community."

"Floods have the potential to cause widespread losses for communities, putting lives and property at risk every time the water rises," said Dr. Darrell L. Williams, Wisconsin Emergency Management Administrator. "We are grateful to FEMA for helping to fund this important work to safeguard the residents of Jefferson County."

PDM provides grants to state and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures. This year marks the end of the PDM program, which will be replaced by the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC). To learn more about BRIC or FEMA's other Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, visit www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation.

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