



FEMA

Low Interest Loans From Citizens National Bank

Tucker and Randolph Counties, WV - Tucker and Randolph Counties stretch for more than 75 miles along the northern fringe of the Allegheny Mountains in eastern West Virginia. In 1990, they had a combined population of just over 35,000 in this predominantly rural area with most settlements restricted to narrow river valleys. Thus, the primary concern in this area is flooding. Since 1967, both counties have received Presidential disaster declarations as a consequence of flooding five times.

In 1996, several events resulted in a total of \$65 million in disaster aid to the communities. Tucker and Randolph counties are pilot Project Impact communities. Citizens National Bank, with offices in Tucker and Randolph Counties, West Virginia, became a project partner in 1997. The bank president became familiar with the complexity of State, County and local regulations in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) through Project Impact Steering Committee meetings.

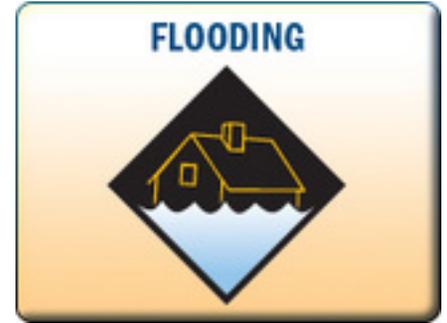
Realizing that an inordinate amount of time was necessary to coordinate all the home buyout activities, further placing the homeowners at risk, the bank took the initiative to offer low interest bridge loans to individuals participating in the acquisition project under HMGP. The loans enabled local residents to move out of the flood area before the HMGP- and State-funded acquisition projects could be completed. Additionally, Citizens National Bank set aside \$1 million in low interest loans for flood prevention and mitigation. The bank also teamed with the Elkins Builders Supply and the Randolph County Vocational Technical Center to provide building supplies and education on retrofitting flood prone structures.

As of February 1999, the low-interest loans, totaling \$248,296, enabled six homeowners to move out of harm's way while awaiting the final deed transaction from the State to the City. In neighborhoods that have been repeatedly damaged by floods, loan officers are going door-to-door to explain their loan program. As a part of their presentation, they discuss some retrofit techniques promoted by Elkins Builders Supply. The Randolph County Vocational Technical Center has incorporated these retrofit methods into the curriculum and developed 3-D models for display in the Elkins Builders Supply.

Standard Homeowner's insurance policies do not cover flood damage. The National Flood Insurance Program makes Federally backed flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in participating communities.



Multiple Counties,
West Virginia



Quick Facts

Sector:

Public

Cost:

\$1,000,000.00 (Estimated)

Primary Activity/Project:

Acquisition/Buyouts

Primary Funding:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)