

# Understanding the Floodplain World



*To Protect and Enhance Kentucky's Environment*

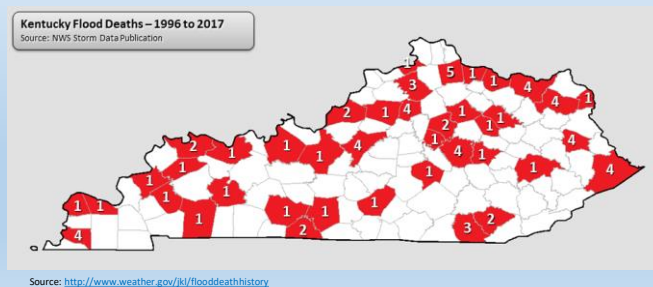
## Outline

- Why Do We Care?
- What is National Flood Insurance Program
- Federal, State, and Local Roles
- Other Stakeholders
- Mitigation Funding



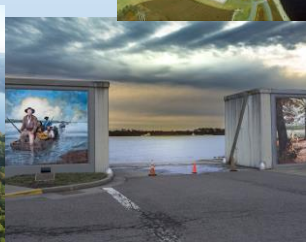
## Why do we care about floodplains?

- Floodplains are inherently dangerous areas
  - Areas that are most likely to flood (High Risk)
- KY has had 78 flood deaths from 1996 – 2017
- KY has 1% of the U.S. population but accounts for 4% of U.S. flood deaths in that timeframe



## Pre-NFIP

- Historical floodplain management was focused on “Controlling” the flood water
  - Dams
  - Levees/Floodwall
  - Reservoirs
  - Channel Modifications

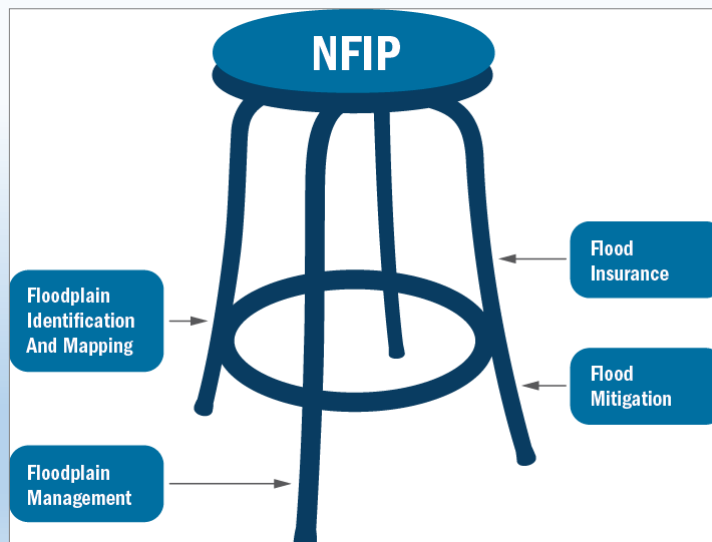


# The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

- A voluntary program based on a mutual agreement between the federal government and the local community.
- In exchange for **adopting & enforcing** a Floodplain Management ordinance, federally-backed flood insurance is made available to property owners throughout the community
- Goal: Reduce future flood damages
  - The NFIP aims to accomplish this goal by:
    - 1) Identifying flood risks (i.e. flood maps)
    - 2) Regulating floodplain development
    - 3) Providing insurance in participating communities
    - 4) Mitigate existing flood risk



## The NFIP Cont.



# Federal, State, and Local Roles



## Federal Agency Roles

- **USACE** (US Army Corps of Engineers)
  - “Nation’s Engineers”
    - Flood Risk Management
    - Regulatory
    - Planning
- **FEMA** (Federal Emergency Management Agency)
  - “Nation’s Responders”
    - Response
    - Recovery
    - Mitigation
    - Planning
- **EPA** (Environmental Protection Agency)
  - “Nation’s Regulators”
    - Clean Water Act
    - Drinking Water Act
- **USGS** (US Geologic Survey)
  - “Nation’s scientists”
    - Stream gauges
    - Data
    - Mapping
- **NWS** (National Weather Service)
  - “Nation’s weathermen”
    - Flood forecasts
    - Weather events
- **HUD** (Housing and Urban Development)
  - “Nation’s housing department”
    - Housing
    - Infrastructure



## State Agency Roles

- **KYEM** (Kentucky Emergency Management)
  - “State FEMA analog”
    - Response
    - Recovery
    - Mitigation
    - Planning
- **DLG** (Department for Local Government)
  - “State HUD analog”
    - Housing
    - Infrastructure
    - Planning
    - Funding
- **DOW** (Division of Water)
  - “State EPA analog with FEMA crossovers”
    - Regulatory
    - Planning
      - Infrastructure
      - Environmental
    - Natural hazards management
      - Flood
      - Drought



## State programs

- Largely, state programs support federal and local programs
- States provide additional technical and administrative support
- Main state partners for flood risk management
  - Kentucky Division of Water (KDOW)
  - Kentucky Emergency Management (KYEM)
  - Kentucky Dept. for Local Government (DLG)



## Local Responsibilities

- Final authority to regulate floodplains is under the local jurisdiction. They are enforcing their own local regulations, not FEMA's.
  - This gives the local community the ability to adopt more stringent requirements in their floodplains.
  - Reduces community risk as a whole
- All participating communities have a local floodplain coordinator
  - Assists community members in identifying if they are in a floodplain or not, helps with floodplain permitting at the State & Local levels, conducts enforcement actions, etc.
- To find local coordinators, Google Search: "Local Floodplain Coordinator Kentucky"



## Other Stakeholders



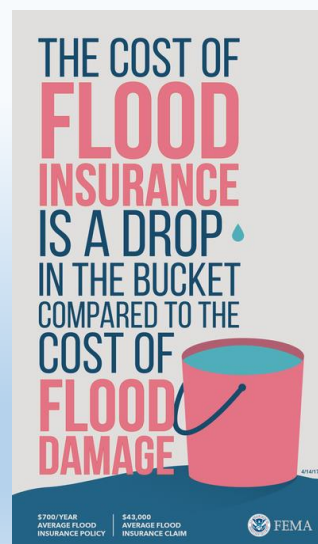
## Lenders and the NFIP

- Lenders are required by law to ensure property owners to have flood insurance with a federally backed mortgage
- Can require flood insurance at any time, regardless of flood zone
- Homeowner can request a Letter of Map Change (LOMC) to have property removed from floodplain
  - Lender may still require flood insurance even with a LOMC



## Insurance Agents and the NFIP

- Agents will use the flood maps and basic information about the structure to rate a policy
  - Agents tend to be conservative
- If an Elevation Certificate is available it is always preferable
  - Shows structures exact elevation in relation to BFE
  - Best available data
- An improperly located or constructed home will effect the policyholders insurance premiums



## Private Citizens

- Flood Insurance makes them whole. They are not reliant only on federal disaster assistance
  - Hurricane Harvey - Harris County, Texas (Houston)
    - NFIP claim: \$113,000
    - IA Grant: \$4,200
- Insurance available to everyone in an NFIP participating community, regardless of their flood zone
  - Preferred Risk Policies
  - Homeowners policies DO NOT cover flooding



## Community Rating System (CRS)

- Voluntary program
- Recognizes community activities above and beyond the minimum requirements of the NFIP
- CRS is a points based system
  - Activities earn Points
  - 500 points = +1 CRS Class
  - 1 CRS Class = 5% reduction in flood insurance premiums
- Christina Groves
  - Kentucky CRS Specialist  
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CRS Class	Premium Discount
10	0%
9	5%
8	10%
7	15%
6	20%
5	25%
4	30%
3	35%
2	40%
1	45%





# Mitigation Funding



## Mitigation Funding

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
  - Post-Disaster Grant
  - Help communities implement hazard mitigation measures following a disaster declaration.
  - KY is an Enhanced state: 20% of disaster funds allocated for HMGP. Funding levels vary by disaster(s).
  - Typical Project Cost Breakdown:
    - FEMA funds 75%
    - Kentucky funds 12%
    - Locals responsible for 13%\*\*



\*\*Department for Local Government (DLG) may be able to fund up to 75% of local share



## Mitigation Funding Cont.

- **Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)**
  - **NEW** Pre-Disaster Grant
  - Supporting communities through capability- and capacity-building, encouraging & enabling innovation, promoting partnerships, and enabling large projects.
  - More info available at [fema.gov/bric](https://fema.gov/bric)
- **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)**
  - Pre-Disaster Grant
  - Provides funding to local communities for projects and planning that reduces or eliminates long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the NFIP.
- These Grants are open annually and are Nationwide competitive. \$410 Million was available in 2019.



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## Mitigation Funding Cont.

- **Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC)**
  - Can provide up to \$30,000 to help cover the cost of mitigation actions that help reduce flood risk
  - ICC is a part of most standard flood insurance policies available under the NFIP
- **Flood Control Matching Grant Program (DLG)**
  - May be able to help meet the local cost-share match requirements associated with federal grants.
    - Contact Aaron Jones: [AaronJ.Jones@ky.gov](mailto:AaronJ.Jones@ky.gov)  
[kydlgweb.ky.gov/FederalGrants/16\\_Flood.cfm](https://kydlgweb.ky.gov/FederalGrants/16_Flood.cfm)



## Mitigation Funding Cont.

- EPA Grants
  - Several grants for water quality infrastructure projects, including stormwater and green infrastructure  
[epa.gov/green-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-funding-opportunities](https://epa.gov/green-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-funding-opportunities)
- Small Business Association (SBA)
  - Offers low interest disaster loans to businesses, private non-profits, homeowners, and renters  
[sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance](https://sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance)
- HUD 203(K) Loan Program
  - Traditional lending requires Loan-to-Value ratios that may prohibit financing of mitigation activities.
  - Typical activities are structural alterations and reconstruction



## Contact Info

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# Questions

