

Factor 5: Long-Term Commitment

State of Illinois

ILExhibitGCommitment.pdf

Regardless of the HUD funding award outcome, the State of Illinois and the Regional Partnership commit to a number of local, regional, and state activities to ensure long-lasting changes to increase resilience in Illinois. The activities described below will be implemented within one year of the announcement of Phase 2 results and occur in communities within and outside of the identified most impacted and distressed areas. Additional activities included in Factor 3b will also be undertaken, but may require additional time.

To continue to reduce risk and improve community resiliency, the state is committed to:

1. Continuing to develop and support a **State of Illinois Resiliency Team** as described in the Factor 4 Outreach Section under Leadership and Strategy.
2. The **purchase and demolition of repetitive flood loss properties** statewide through the state's [Flood Hazard Mitigation Program](#) including the ongoing purchase and demolition of 164 properties in the target areas of Alexander County, City of Des Plaines (Cook County) and DuPage County in partnership with these communities to carry out the goals of their hazard mitigation plans. Each purchase and demolition improves the long term resiliency of the partnering community for the next event and creates the opportunity for multiple benefits including community garden sites, parks and reduced disaster response needs. The state's Flood Hazard Mitigation Program is currently directly assisting 8 communities statewide and has committed \$10.8 million dollars to these resilient actions, which has leveraged over \$30 million dollars from federal and local partners for the buyout of an additional 241 at-risk structures. The state is committed to continuing the Flood Hazard Mitigation Program. Currently 23 properties have been purchased and demolished (the baseline) in these active projects. Success of this commitment will be measured by the number of at-risk structures removed each year in collaboration with other communities and agencies in Illinois, with a goal to directly remove at

least 25 structures each year, and leverage the removal of at least 75 additional structures through federal and local partnerships.

3. The State of Illinois is committed to continued [regulation of higher standards](#) in Illinois floodplains, floodways and Public Waters through the NFIP, Dam Safety and State Floodplain Management Regulatory Programs. The higher than national standards implemented in Illinois include no allowable stage increases in known flood damage reaches, 0.1 foot floodways that include the preservation of 90% of the floodplain storage, and a model floodplain management ordinance that includes a cumulative substantial improvement and substantial damage threshold, rather than a one-time event, that eventually requires that the flooded property be elevated. The State of Illinois will also continue to judiciously allocate water from Lake Michigan and carefully regulate encroachments and uses of this precious resource.

4. **Legislative Actions:** [HB3240](#) – Amends the State’s Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act (615ILCS 5/26a) to provide the Illinois Department of Natural Resources greater enforcement authority to issue orders requiring all necessary remedial actions to correct violations of the Act and to impose greater civil penalties toward restitution, restoration and/or remediation of illegal water resources activities. [HB3525](#) – **Illinois Home and Business Flood Protection and Loan Fund** proposed as an amendment to the Department of Natural Resources Act. This amendment would allow the State to provide low-interest loans to municipalities and other local governments to finance public mitigation projects and/or provide financial assistance to distressed homeowners and businesses to provide relief from damage created by urban flooding.

5. **Clean Water State Revolving Fund:** This year the Illinois EPA is expected to finalize regulations that will make low-interest financing available through its Clean Water State

Revolving Fund (CWSRF) for the first time ever for urban stormwater, green infrastructure, water efficiency and projects intended to make water infrastructure more resilient. *Metric:* Number of project applications to the CWSRF for green infrastructure and urban stormwater activities. *Baseline:* Currently, no CWSRF financing can be used toward green infrastructure and urban stormwater projects.

6. The State of Illinois is also drafting a **model stormwater ordinance** that employs successful stormwater management best practices and practical low cost approaches.

Recommended components of this new ordinance will be completed in June 2015, with a goal to complete the model ordinance within one year, and encourage its adoption in all communities without a sufficient storm water ordinance.

7. **State Structural Risk Assessment:** To advance resilient mitigation actions in flood prone Illinois communities, the State of Illinois is committed to expanding the implementation of a GIS database of flood hazard risk for every structure located within or near a designated floodplain to: prioritize federal, state and local mitigation assistance to advance mitigation within these communities; estimate event related flood damages (based on flood forecasts) to determine anticipated emergency response needs to vulnerable populations; estimate event related flood damages recovery needs of vulnerable populations (based on post flood high water mark elevations); update community hazard plans, and evaluate the benefit/cost economics of potential structural flood risk reduction activities including acquisition and demolition of repetitive loss structures.

The IDNR, Office of Water Resources has completed several structural flood damage assessments of structures and is currently partnered with the City of Rockford to assess and prioritize flood risk mitigation measures for all flood prone structures along all tributaries into

and through the City. Success will be measured in number of structures assessed and prioritized for mitigation action with a goal to complete the assessment of all 1000 structures in Rockford by September 2016 and implement at least 10 appropriate mitigation actions in the most distressed portions of this watershed in 2016/17. Success will also be measured by the number of communities assessed and added to the State database each year with a goal to complete this resilience action in the noted target areas within the next 2 years and the remainder of the state over the next 10 years.

PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS:

NE Regional Partnership: CMAP's role in developing a range of local plans, including comprehensive plans, zoning ordinance updates, capital improvement plans, and watershed plans, provide a natural platform for ensuring that local plans are updated according to latest climate and flooding information and aligned with regional resiliency goals. *Metric:* The Partnership will measure regional outcomes by the number and total cost of initiated local plans that incorporate climate considerations and the total population/total land area covered by such plans. *Baseline:* No plans directly consider climate change.

North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG): The Illinois Valley Resiliency Alliance of 18 active communities from four (4) counties was created on Feb. 12, 2014 and meets quarterly to continue their efforts. The focus of the alliance is four fold: 1) have at least one staff member become a Certified Floodplain Manager, 2) join the CRS, 3) adopt and enforce higher regulatory standards, and 4) join and interact with other agencies such as IAFSM or ASFPM to promote floodplain management and resiliency education. It is the expectation of the Alliance to have a Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) working with all 18 communities within 2 years. *Baseline:* Currently there are 5 CFM's in the alliance.

Tri County / City of Washington: The City of Washington has engaged with a local civil engineering firm to analyze the flow and depth of water in the tributary crossing through the Washington Estates tornado damaged subdivision. The project would provide for enhanced conveyance of water in the tributary and reduce flood damages to approximately 200 households and reduce local inundation to 75 acres of land. *Baseline:* Currently 0 properties and 0 acres of land have benefited from this project.