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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Dubuque Awarded \$31.5 Million in Disaster Resiliency Funds**

DUBUQUE, Iowa – The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has awarded the City of Dubuque \$31.5 million to assist Bee Branch Watershed homeowners in repairing and “flood-proofing” their homes and for stormwater infrastructure improvements.

The City of Dubuque partnered with the State of Iowa to apply for federal funds through the final phase of the National Disaster Resilience Competition (NDRC). This nearly \$1 billion competition invited communities that have experienced natural disasters in 2011, 2012, or 2013 to compete for funds to help them rebuild and increase their resilience to future disasters.

“Dubuque is extremely grateful to receive such significant support for our resiliency and flood mitigation efforts,” said Dubuque Mayor Roy D. Buol. “We are proud to partner with the State of Iowa and we appreciate HUD’s acknowledgment of our comprehensive, collaborative approach to risk management and water quality. This competition is a great example of the federal government supporting the efforts of local and state governments to address flooding issues.”

HUD awarded \$96.9 million in National Disaster Resilience Competition funds to Iowa through the competition. Of the 40 applicants invited to the final round of the competition, Iowa’s application was one of 13 to be awarded funding. Dubuque was part of the Iowa Economic Development Authority’s application, which outlined the “Iowa Watershed Approach” (IWA), a watershed-scale program based on a holistic approach recognizing that: 1) heavy precipitation and flooding events are increasing in frequency; 2) upstream activities impact downstream communities; 3) upstream and downstream communities need to voluntarily work together; 4) when possible, flooding should be addressed at its source, using science-based, reasonable, cost-effective practices; 5) improving community resilience to floods requires risk mitigation and community-directed initiatives and planning; and 6) program strategies must also respect,

protect, and sustain Iowa's valuable agricultural economy, which provides food, fuel, and fiber for the world and sustains family incomes for many Iowans.

The Iowa Watershed Approach has six specific goals: 1) reduce flood risk; 2) improve water quality; 3) increase resilience; 4) engage stakeholders through collaboration and outreach/education; 5) improve quality of life and health, especially for vulnerable populations; and 6) develop a program that is scalable and replicable throughout the Midwest and the United States.

Dubuque's portion of the application highlighted the need to address remaining impacts from the flooding experienced in downtown Dubuque and continuing vulnerabilities to future flooding. The grant funds will help with home maintenance and renovations to decrease environmental health and safety issues from flooding such as dampness and mold growth, electrical hazards, and structural issues. A comprehensive "Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program" was outlined to help Dubuque residents meet unmet structural needs and empower individuals to be part of the creation of more resilient housing through onsite stormwater management principles and sustainable, healthy homes behaviors.

More specifically, Dubuque's portion of the application detailed the following components:

- **Single & Multi-Unit, Rental and Owner-Occupied Residential Rehabilitations:** The proposed program includes \$8.4 million for the rehabilitation of 320 housing units, including owner-occupied homes, single-unit rentals, and small, multi-family residential units, all within the targeted Bee Branch Watershed areas. The program's rehabilitation projects are expected to generate significant work for local contractors and vendors. The City's contribution to this component of the project will be \$800,000 in already budgeted Lead and Healthy Homes Program funds.
- **Bee Branch Railroad Culvert Infrastructure Improvements:** The proposed improvements total \$9 million and involve the installation of six 8-foot diameter culverts to convey stormwater from the Upper Bee Branch Creek (currently under construction) through Canadian Pacific railroad right-of-way to the Lower Bee Branch Creek. The total cost for this component of the Bee Branch Project is estimated at \$18 million, with the remaining funds already in the City budget.
- **West Locust Street Storm Sewer Improvements:** These improvements total \$2.6 million and will increase the capacity of the West Locust Street corridor stormwater management system by constructing a storm sewer from 17th Street toward Rosedale Avenue.

- **Kaufmann Avenue Storm Sewer Improvements:** These improvements total \$11.5 million and will increase capacity of the stormwater management system in this area (from Central Avenue to Kane Street) by constructing a storm sewer with 80 stormwater drains.

The City of Dubuque's contribution toward the three infrastructure projects is \$21.6 million in the form of already budgeted Bee Branch Watershed Flood Mitigation Project improvements. The City's other contribution to the program is a \$100,000 Microloan Program, which will utilize Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for strategic microeconomic lending to businesses in the targeted neighborhood.

The NDRC funds are scheduled to be disbursed to recipient communities in March 2016 and the City intends to implement the plans over the next several years. The program will include the addition of up to five grant-funded staff for the 2-4 year lifetime of the grant. City staff will develop plans for community outreach related to the Bee Branch Healthy Homes Resiliency Program to identify eligible properties.

City staff from the City Manager's Office, Housing and Community Development, Engineering Department, Office of Sustainability, Planning Services Department, and Health Services Department worked on the grant application, with assistance from the East Central Intergovernmental Association.

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To view HUD's Jan. 21, 2016, funding announcement, visit:

[http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2016/HUDNo\\_16-006](http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-006)

For additional background on the National Disaster Resiliency Competition, visit:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/cdbg-dr/resilient-recovery/>

For background on Dubuque's Bee Branch Creek Watershed Flood Mitigation Project, visit:

[www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch](http://www.cityofdubuque.org/beebranch)