

# WE'RE COMING TO A CITY NEAR YOU!

Since the 1980s, the State of Iowa and FEMA have had a long-standing and effective partnership that recognizes the value of state-led community assistance in reducing flood losses and disaster suffering.

Through cooperative agreements, such as the Community Assistance Program–State Support Services Element (CAP-SSSE), FEMA has provided funding to DNR’s Floodplain Management Section to help support communities in implementing the requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This funding mechanism has allowed the state to provide technical assistance to support communities in adopting, administering, and enforcing effective flood loss reduction standards for land use and development and implement statewide actions that reduce the damage and costs of flooding.

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## Objectives

FEMA’s CAP-SSSE program goals detailed below provide the framework for guiding the activities of the DNR Floodplain Management Section as we work to meet the vision of the NFIP and the goals of FEMA to further our nation in emergency management, disaster preparedness, and climate resilience.

### **Goal 1: Grow local capacity and capability to improve resiliency through floodplain management**

Engage and strengthen relationships with communities to build their capability and capacity to manage flood risk by increasing participation in the NFIP, adopting/updating their floodplain Ordinances, and maintaining or improving program compliance.

### **Goal 2: Build state floodplain management capability and promote strong state inter-agency coordination and collaboration**

Continue to expand technical expertise and capacity to better serve Iowa communities and strengthen our state’s mitigation capabilities, consolidate our resources, and advance floodplain management strategies.

### **Goal 3: Promote the benefits and drive demand for strong floodplain management development standards and insurance**

Continue to provide technical assistance and training opportunities to ensure our communities and the public understand the value (e.g., economic, environmental, social benefits) of higher regulatory flood standards and the benefits of flood insurance coverage.

## Why Does This Matter to MY COMMUNITY?

The DNR Floodplain Management Section will be working with Iowa communities to set up community outreach activities that will be tailored to fit your needs and expertise. Below are the different types of outreach activities that our staff may contact you to set up an appointment.

# COMMUNITY

- **NFIP Enrollment.** Letters will be mailed to your City Officials discussing the benefits of joining the NFIP and encouraging your community to join! For communities who have an SFHA within their City boundaries, enrollment into the NIFP guarantees the State of Iowa will provide a 10% match for FEMA disaster relief funding when a federally declared disaster has been declared in your community.
- **Community Assistance Contacts (CACs).** Our staff will conduct in-person/virtual meetings to assist communities in proactively identifying, preventing, and resolving floodplain management issues before a flood event even occurs by discussing the following topics:

- Identification of SFHAs
- Floodplain Management Regulations
- Substantial Damage and Improvement Criteria
- DNR's Permit Authority
- Issuing Floodplain Permits
- Benefits of Flood Insurance
- Training Resources
- Compliance Issues



- **Community Assistance Visits (CAVs).** The DNR Floodplain Management Section's Local Programs staff serves the dual purpose of providing technical assistance to the community and assuring that the community is adequately enforcing its floodplain management regulations. Generally, a CAV consists of a tour of the floodplain, a review of permit files, and meetings with local appointed and elected officials. If any administrative problems or potential violations are identified during a CAV, the community will be notified and given the opportunity to correct those administrative procedures and remedy the violations. FEMA or the State will work with the community to help them bring their program deficiencies back into compliance with NFIP requirements.

- **Map Adoption.** For those participating communities that receive a Letter of Final Determination (LFD), as a result of a new or updated Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) or digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM), our department will assist the local Floodplain Administrator to update the Floodplain Ordinance by the effective date to ensure the community remains in good standing in the NFIP.



- **Floodplain Ordinance Updates.** Periodic updates to federal and state rules and regulations require the language within Floodplain Ordinances to be updated. Our office will be contacting your community if your Ordinance needs updating. We will send you the correct model Ordinance, Public Notification Summary and submit finalized documents to FEMA for review and approval.

- **Floodplain Management Training and Workshops.** Floodplain Training occurs throughout the year. Please take a peek at our email blasts of Training Notices to see the dates that we will be offering the following courses:
  - Floodplain Manager’s 101 Workshop
  - Local Permitting
  - Letter of Map Changes/Amendments
  - Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement

**General Technical Assistance (GTAs).** Any questions or concerns that your community or its residents may have concerning the SFHA, federal/state rules and regulations, or permitting requirements please feel free to contact our office! **REMEMBER...**we are here to serve as your support staff!

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Works Cited

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