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# Press Release

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## **FEMA AWARDS \$248,000 MITIGATION GRANT TO WARREN TOWNSHIP** *Five Connerville flood-prone homes to be purchased through voluntary program*

Chicago, IL —The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) released nearly \$248,250 in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency for a voluntary project to purchase five homes in Warren Township, Jefferson County, Ohio. Through a partnership of federal, state and local governments and homeowners, the properties will be purchased at pre-flood fair market value and demolished.

The five residential properties proposed for this project are located in the community of Connerville and experience repetitive flooding from Short Creek. When torrential rains occur, Short Creek is inundated with water and overflows onto the properties being acquired. The mitigation program is designed to alleviate the burden that repetitive flooding places on homeowners.

The homes will be demolished and the remaining land restored to the natural floodplain with open space preservation in perpetuity. In future flooding will occur without damage to structures. This project will protect the health, safety and welfare of Jefferson County residents. Additionally, it will reduce future flood insurance claims and thereby reduce the financial obligation of federal, state and local governments.

The FEMA grant represents 75-percent of the \$331,000 cost of the acquisition project. There is a required match source of 25-percent. The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) is providing an additional \$49,650 funding and Jefferson County will provide \$33,100 matching funds. Mitigation projects are administered by the Ohio EMA.

The Ohio EMA coordinates the state's response and recovery from the State of Ohio Emergency Operations Center. One of the primary focuses of the agency is to ensure that Ohio citizens are prepared for all hazards with the capability to respond to and recover from an emergency or disaster and to lead mitigation efforts against the effects of future disasters.

FEMA prepares the nation for all hazards and manages federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates mitigation activities, trains first responders, works with state and local emergency managers, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration. FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security on March 1, 2003.

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