

Grantee: State of Nebraska

Grant: B-08-DF-31-0001

July 1, 2009 thru September 30, 2009 Performance Report

Grant Number:

B-08-DF-31-0001

Obligation Date:

06/02/2009

Grantee Name:

State of Nebraska

Award Date:

05/28/2009

Grant Amount:

\$5,557,736.00

Contract End Date:**Grant Status:**

Active

Review by HUD:

Reviewed and Approved

Submitted By:

No Submitter Found

Disasters:

Declaration Number

FEMA-1770-DR-NE

Plan Description:

From May 22 to June 24, 2008 the State of Nebraska was impacted by a series of severe thunderstorms that produced high winds, hail, tornados, and heavy rain, which lead to various flooding events. NEMA, other state agencies, and FEMA worked together to determine the adverse impacts to the state. Based on the information collected, the State of Nebraska received a major disaster declaration, which enabled 61 counties to receive assistance through the Public Assistance program and 14 counties to receive assistance through the Individual Assistance program. To date, public assistance applicants have had over \$35,000,000 in projects written, which will be funded 75 percent by FEMA, 12.5 percent from the state, and 12.5 percent from the applicant. This has strained the Governors Emergency Fund as well as local resources. Damages from the storms varied greatly. There were many roads that were damaged making them impassable. Debris littered roads, parks, and private property from the tornados and high winds. Buildings were struck leaving homeowners, the Buffalo County Fair Grounds, and others with extensive damages. Homes and businesses were flooded in several cities including Cozad, Schuyler, and Platte Center. Utilities throughout the state suffered losses such as downed power lines, exposed water mains, and damaged sewer lines. To date, repairs are still being made, and several buildings and bridges are being replaced.

Recovery Needs:

Unfortunately, even with the broad reach of the disaster declaration, many individuals and local government entities were forced to bear the burden of financial shortfalls. Local entities are currently required to pay nearly \$5 Million for their share of the disaster relief. This does not include individual homeowners and business owners who were forced to rebuild and repair the damages left by the storm that were not covered by insurance or FEMA programs.

In the instance of the Village of Dannebrog, debris clogged the Oak Creek, which runs along the edge of town. However, due to public assistance program limitations, the Village will not receive additional funding to clean the creek of the debris, which causes them concern for future potential flooding issues. The Village is left with a decision: face the potential for flooding, or bear the expense of cleanup on its own.

Due to an excessive amount of rainfall, Federal Secondary Road 1695 in Gosper County experienced substantial slope erosion. Where the shoulders slid, the pavement settled and started to crack. For safety reasons, Gosper County closed this section of road to the traveling public. After evaluating the situation, the County decided to remove the existing damaged pavement and rebuild the slopes in order to make it safer for the traveling public and to keep the slides from happening again. FEMA declared the \$270,000 project ineligible for funding.

Gosper County was also denied FEMA funding for Federal Secondary Road 1550. The front slope of the road was eroded away for approximately 1700 feet west of Bridge Number C003720410, and the abutments and rip rap on Bridge Number C003720410 were washed away causing the approaches to be washed away as well. The estimated cost by FEMA is \$100,000.

Flood waters also caused damage to the dike along Wahoo Creek on the east side of the Village of Ithaca. Water

eroded in to the embankment or dike on various spots, and one spot in particular shows weaknesses that could break the dike in another flood occurrence. The cost to rebuild the affected areas is estimated at \$15,000-\$20,000.

The City of Grand Island experienced nearly double the amount of rainfall during May and June 2008. The rainfall events caused high ground water levels and flooding throughout the community, which overwhelmed the city's sewer system causing sewage to fill the lift station, pipes, and manholes resulting in sewer back ups into homes. The estimated cost of repairs/replacement is \$5,361,400.

The public sewer infrastructure system of the City of Valley also sustained considerable damage because of the heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding. Major damage took place in the Gardiner Street sewage pumping station when flood waters inundated the station, causing damage and destruction to the pumps, motors, control system, and underground pumping chamber. Temporary pumps were installed to provide relief, but in order to prevent future damages from occurring again, the damaged pumping station needs to be replaced. The existing pumping station simply cannot meet the demands that heavy rainfall and flooding events place on the sewer collection system and pump station. The estimated cost to replace the damaged pumping station is \$478,200. FEMA funding was not provided for this project.

Streets and storm sewers were also damaged by the storms in many other communities including the City of Gothenburg, the City of Loup City, the City of Ravenna, and the City of Kearney. Ponding water caused subgrade damage, and saturated conditions caused numerous problems with street surfacing. Storm water run-off from heavy rain was directed down the street causing irreversible street damage and flooding. Constant wet conditions from drainage saturated the subgrade and caused deterioration of street surfacing. Sanitary sewers backed up from heavy rains, and extra flow in the sewer from runoff was experienced during the excessive rain. These flows carried gravel, grit and silt in the sewer causing blockages and damage to the sewer main. The estimated amount of funds needed to complete the repairs is as follows:

City of Gothenburg \$750,000

City of Loup City \$34,000

City of Ravenna \$710,000

City of Kearney \$2,000,000

Funding is not only necessary for public infrastructure projects; funding is also needed for floodplain mapping and studies. Currently, FEMA has very limited funding in order to produce new floodplain maps in Nebraska. This, along with the large number of maps now in need of updating nationwide, means that floodplain mapping completed by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR) is not being converted to effective floodplain maps by FEMA. Despite the backlog of countywide maps needing attention by FEMA, NDNR continues to complete new floodplain mapping for interested counties. However, these maps are completed according to the FEMA Guidelines and Specifications for Flood Hazard Mapping Partners, but are not actually effective floodplain maps. Instead, NDNR's maps qualify as best available data for the counties to regulate floodplain development in the jurisdiction, which their local floodplain management ordinance allows. These maps are referred to as work maps. In addition to being much more precise than the current maps, new floodplain maps will be provided to the counties in digital format (called a DFIRM or Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map). The DFIRM format will allow counties with Geographic Information System capability to respond to floodplain inquiries much faster than their current paper-only floodplain maps will allow.

In March 2009, NDNR completed a reassessment of county floodplain mapping priorities. The reassessment showed that the counties with existing floodplain maps most in need of updating are (in order of ranking number): Hamilton County (#1), Adams County (#2), York County (#3), Seward County (#4), and Jefferson County (#6). All of these counties were declared disaster areas in FEMA-1770, experienced damages due to flooding, and are the counties most in need of new floodplain mapping.

The floodplain administrators for Adams County and Jefferson County were contacted, and both administrators stated they would greatly appreciate new maps for their counties. The Adams County floodplain administrator stated that the topography on which their existing floodplain map is based was accurate in the 1960s. Since then a good portion of the northern half of the county has been land-leveled to enable flood irrigation. This area is where the worst flooding occurred in Adams County last year. Therefore, the current floodplain maps are inaccurate and highly questionable for recovery work there. The Jefferson County administrator also has several issues with their existing floodplain maps, but stated that the greatest benefit to him would be to have a DFIRM instead of the existing paper maps. Jefferson County has struggled to try to rubber sheet a digital version of their county maps into a geographic information system, but a DFIRM would eliminate all of the hassles and inaccuracies this process produces.

In addition to floodplain mapping, NDNR is proposing to fund the type of flood studies which are not currently eligible for FEMA funding. Annual guidance from FEMA stipulates that any study performed must lead to an actual

project to be completed with their funds. However, many communities do not know the best alternative for reducing flood losses, and often the situation leading to their flood problems is so complex that it requires a full, professional study. NDNR proposes to create a pool of this flood study money with which it could advertise and contract directly with private engineering/consulting firms. These private companies function as the city/village engineer for communities too small to have a full-time engineer on staff. These communities have significant flood problems, but lack the necessary resources with which to address them. If accepted, the NDNR would require any approved funds to go toward communities in the declared counties that experienced direct damage due to flooding.

Overall	This Report Period	To Date
Total Projected Budget from All Sources	N/A	\$3,564,401.00
Total CDBG Program Funds Budgeted	N/A	\$3,564,401.00
Program Funds Drawdown	\$0.00	\$0.00
Obligated CDBG DR Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
Expended CDBG DR Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
Match Contributed	\$0.00	\$0.00
Program Income Received	\$0.00	\$0.00
Program Income Drawdown	\$0.00	\$0.00

Progress Toward Required Numeric Targets

Requirement	Required	To Date
Minimum Overall Benefit Percentage	\$50.00	\$0.00
Minimum Non-Federal Match	\$0.00	\$0.00
Limit on Public Services	\$833,660.40	\$0.00
Limit on Admin/Planning	\$1,111,547.20	\$0.00
Limit on State Admin	\$277,886.80	\$0.00

Progress Toward Activity Type Targets

Progress Toward National Objective Targets

Overall Progress Narrative:

On June 2, 2009 the State of Nebraska executed the Funding Approval and Grant Agreement with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. On June 1, 2009 the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) began accepting applications for the CDBG Disaster Recovery Program in the categories of Public Infrastructure and Disaster Recovery Planning. Ten applications were received, and eight applications were awarded funds. Each application was reviewed by DED staff, Nebraska Department of Natural Resources staff, and Nebraska Emergency Management staff. Award contracts will be finalized in the next reporting quarter. DED will continue to accept applications until all funds are awarded.

*Due to formatting difficulty, the following text was not added to the Recovery Needs section of this Quarterly Progress Report. It will be included in the appropriate section of the next Quarterly Progress Report.

Disaster Recovery Funds Categorical Distribution

Funding is available in three categories: Public Infrastructure, Disaster Recovery Planning, and Housing Impact Assistance.

Public Infrastructure category Disaster Recovery Funding is allocated at a range of 70-85%, which equals \$3,890,415 to \$4,724,075. Application acceptance date is June 1, 2009 and ends when all funds are awarded. If the maximum level of 85% is awarded by October 1, 2009, Housing Impact Assistance category applications will not be accepted. Maximum grant amount is \$1,000,000. Funds will be used for the restoration of infrastructure in areas covered by the major disaster declaration. Funds may be used to reimburse the 12.5% local FEMA match requirement for various eligible public facilities activities pursuant to 24 CFR 570.201(c) and 24 CFR 507.201(f)(2). Funds may not be used for activities reimbursable by, or for which funds are made available to, FEMA or the Army Corps of Engineers. Eligible Disaster Recovery Public Infrastructure projects will include most activities eligible under FEMA Public Assistance Categories. Those items declared as non-emergency and eligible under the Housing and Community Development (HCD) Act of 1974, as amended will be a priority for funding with respect to long-term recovery.

Planning category Disaster Recovery Funding will not exceed 10% of the total base allocation, which equals \$555,775. Application acceptance date is June 1, 2009 and ends when all funds are awarded. Maximum grant amount is \$200,000. Funds will be used for disaster recovery planning, which includes floodplain mapping and flood studies in areas covered by the major disaster declaration, which have changed by virtue of the disaster. The evaluation of applications and selection will be coordinated with the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources and the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. Project-eligible activities will be determined by DED on a case-by-case basis during application review. Funds may not be used for activities reimbursable by, or for which funds are made available to, FEMA for Hazard Mitigation Planning grants. Disaster recovery planning includes floodplain management measures during long-term recovery through mapping, zoning/building code ordinance revisions, floodplain ordinances, drainage basin studies directly related to impacts of the disaster, infrastructure studies necessary to establish action plans for community disaster recovery, and building requirements. Funds may be used to develop new floodplain maps and to update and improve existing maps.

Housing Impact Assistance category Disaster Recovery Funding is allocated at a range of 0-15%, which equals \$0 to \$833,660. If less than the maximum level of 85% is awarded by October 1, 2009 for Public Infrastructure, the Housing Impact Assistance category applications will be accepted. Application acceptance date is November 1, 2009 and ends when all funds are awarded. Maximum grant amount is \$300,000. Funds will be used for assisting the clearance and removal of debris on low- and moderate-income residential properties and adjacent properties. These actions will complement and support the repair and restoration of surface and below surface drainage structures resulting in the reduction and restriction of future damages to private residential properties, which were damaged by the disaster located in areas covered by the major disaster declaration. Project-eligible activities will be determined by DED on a case-by-case basis during application review. Funds are available for disaster-damaged facilities or infrastructure that are non-FEMA eligible or for reimbursement of the non-federal local share required for a FEMA project.

State administration will not exceed 5% of the total base allocation, which equals \$277,886. State administration will include staff, equipment, consultant fees, and other operation costs involved in selection, funding, assisting, monitoring local projects, processing of local government disbursement requests, recordkeeping, detailed quarterly reporting to HUD, documentation of adherence to laws, and other allowable expenses.

The total amount of funding for Categorical Distribution (\$5,279,850 or 95% of the base allocation) includes local administration. The total for the local administration of all projects awarded will not exceed 5% (\$277,886) of the total base allocation. Local administration will include staff, equipment, consultant fees, and other operation costs involved in administering the local project.

The priority categories are Public Infrastructure and Disaster Recovery Planning. For both categories, the application acceptance date is June 1, 2009. The Housing Impact Assistance category funds will become available following awards made through October 1, 2009 for Public Infrastructure. The balance of Public Infrastructure category Disaster Recovery Funds available at the level of 15% or less will be considered for Housing Assistance activities. All Disaster Recovery Funds will be available for consideration and awards after October 1, 2009 for all

categories: Public Infrastructure, Disaster Recovery Planning, and Housing Impact Assistance.

All project activities, excluding administration and management, must meet a CDBG national objective for either (a) benefit to low- and moderate-income persons or (b) prevention or elimination of slums or blight or (c) urgent community development need. The aggregate use of Disaster Recovery Funds shall principally benefit low- and moderate-income families in a manner that ensures that at least 50 percent of the amount is expended for activities that benefit such persons during the designated period.

As of the submission date of this Action Plan in the DRGR system, DED has awarded \$2,913,875 in the Public Infrastructure category, \$372,640 in the Disaster Recovery Planning, and \$0 in the Housing Impact Assistance. The remaining balance available for award is \$1,993,335. DED is still accepting applications and will continue to do so until all funds are exhausted.

Project Summary

Project #, Project Title	This Report Period		To Date	
	Project Funds Budgeted	Program Funds Drawdown	Project Funds Budgeted	Program Funds Drawdown
08DADMIN, State Administration	\$277,886.00	\$0.00	\$277,886.00	\$0.00
08DPI, Public Infrastructure	\$4,724,075.00	\$0.00	\$4,724,075.00	\$0.00
08DRP, Disaster Recovery Planning	\$555,775.00	\$0.00	\$555,775.00	\$0.00
9999, Restricted Balance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00