

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
Department of Energy and Environment

November 29, 2021

**Subject: Sign up today for free resilience assessment and potential home improvement funding**

Dear Property Owner:

Your home is in the Special Flood Hazard Area, also known as the 100-year floodplain, which means that it has a higher level of flood risk. The Bowser Administration and the newly established DC Flood Task Force ([DCFloodTaskForce.org](https://dcfloodtaskforce.org)) would like to help reduce this risk.

To do this, the District's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) and Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), two members of the multiagency DC Flood Task Force, are applying for grant funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance program. To increase the chances that the District will be awarded money, we need to demonstrate that property owners like you are interested in making their homes more resilient. We also need to provide FEMA with cost estimates of the work that could be done on each property.

If you indicate interest in this program, the District will send a home improvement professional to your home and help identify the best solutions for your flooding concerns. This resilience assessment involves over \$1,000 in work, but we will make it available at no cost to you starting in spring of 2022. We will then submit your letter of interest (see page 2) and the cost estimate developed by the professional to FEMA as part of our grant application. If we are awarded FEMA grant funds, the money will be used to pay for the resilience upgrades (listed on page 2) at District homes. While we aim to provide resilience assessments and secure funding for everyone who expresses interest, if the level of interest exceeds the amount of available funds we will seek additional funding and create and share selection criteria that will include prioritizing the most vulnerable homes. Due to logistical constraints the initial priority will be owner-occupied single-family homes. We plan to begin upgrade work as early as 2023 but expect that it will be a multiple-year effort.

**Your Action Needed**

If you're interested in home resilience improvements, please do one of the following by **January 14th, 2022**.

- Complete the online survey here: <https://bit.ly/floodpreventiondc>
- Complete your letter of interest (page 2) and either
  - Mail it to the DOEE Flood Team 1200 First Street NE, 5th Floor, Washington, DC 20002
  - Take a photo or scan your letter and email ([flood.risk@dc.gov](mailto:flood.risk@dc.gov)) or text (202-439-5715) it.
- Call DOEE at 202-439-5715 and tell us which risk reduction measures you would be interested in.

The application process is free and voluntary, and we are happy to answer any questions. We look forward to working with you in making all District homes more resilient.

Sincerely,

Joshua Schnitzlein

District of Columbia National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator  
(202) 439-5715 | [flood.risk@dc.gov](mailto:flood.risk@dc.gov)

**PROPERTY OWNER LETTER OF INTEREST** (Return this page to DOEE)

**Property Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Owner's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_/\_\_/\_\_

**Owner's Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Owner's Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a list of potential flood risk reduction measures that we may be able to fund through a FEMA grant, along with a rough cost estimate. Our intent is to cover most of the costs through the FEMA grant so that there will be minimal cost to you. Please note that for the whole-home elevations, there are additional eligibility requirements, and potentially higher costs, explained on page 3.

Please place a checkmark in the box below if you are interested in a resilience assessment to gauge the feasibility of the listed measures at your home. Checking the box in no way means that you are agreeing to pay the estimated amount or have alterations made to your home – it simply means you are interested in starting a conversation. Please contact [flood.risk@dc.gov](mailto:flood.risk@dc.gov) if you have any questions.

**← CHECK HERE** if you are interested in one or more of the measures listed below.

**Potential Flood Risk Reduction Measures**

- **Mitigation warning kits with weather radios and water intrusion alarms**
  - Estimated cost: \$70 per home
- **Electrical outlet elevation and/or replacement with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets**
  - Estimated cost: \$15 per outlet plus installation
- **Installation of anchoring straps on water heaters, heating/ventilation/air conditioning (HVAC) equipment, and other appliances located below the design flood elevation**
  - Estimated cost: TBD
- **Sealing of HVAC ducts to prevent water damage and mold growth**
  - Estimated cost: TBD
- **Sump pumps**
  - Estimated cost: \$2,400 per home
- **Removable flood barriers**
  - Estimated cost: \$4,000 per home
- **Sewer backflow prevention valves**
  - Estimated cost: \$5,200 per home
- **Elevation of outdoor mechanical and electrical equipment**
  - Estimated cost: \$12,100 per home
- **Flood vents in crawlspace walls to relieve water pressure and prevent damage**
  - Estimated cost: \$3,300 per home
- **Whole-home elevation** (See additional information below)
  - Estimated cost: \$200,000-400,000 per home

**Additional Information on Whole-Home Elevations**

Home elevations are typically accomplished by elevating the existing structure on piles, posts, or piers, and filling in the basement and replacing it with an elevated floor. Recipients would be required to maintain flood insurance coverage on elevated homes, but elevation dramatically reduces the premium for a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy. Any remaining rooms below the design flood elevation would be allowed as long as such enclosures are wet-floodproofed and used only for parking, storage, or access. If your property is selected, federal funding could pay for 75% of the project cost. You may be responsible for the remaining 25%, but we are working to identify additional funding opportunities to cover the latter share for residents with financial need.

**HELP IN YOUR LANGUAGE**

If you need help in your language, please call (202) 535-2600 for free interpreter assistance.

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**語言協助**

如果您需要用 (中文)接受幫助, 請電洽 (202) 535-2600, 將免費向您提供口譯員服務

**AIDE LINGUISTIQUE**

Si vous avez besoin d'aide en Français appelez-le (202) 535-2600 et l'assistance d'un interprète vous sera fournie gratuitement.

**언어 지원**

한국어로 언어 지원이 필요하신 경우 (202) 535-2600 로 연락을 주시면 무료로 통역이 제공됩니다.

**AYUDA EN SU IDIOMA**

Si necesita ayuda en Español, por favor llame al (202) 535-2600 para proporcionarle un intérprete de manera gratuita.

**GIÚP ĐỠ VỀ NGÔN NGỮ**

Nếu quý vị cần giúp đỡ về tiếng Việt, xin gọi (202) 535-2600 để chúng tôi thu xếp có thông dịch viên đến giúp quý vị miễn phí.