

Flood Damage Reduction Grant Assistance Program



Eligibility Criteria for Grants*

Eligible projects. The following project types are eligible for FDR grants:

- structural acquisition in the 100-year floodplain
- levees, ring dikes, and flood walls
- elevating existing structures
- flood warning systems
- public education
- flood insurance studies
- floodplain mapping
- comprehensive watershed plans
- flood storage easements
- cost share on federal projects

Eligible local government units. The following local units of government are eligible to apply for grants independent of a Presidential Disaster Declaration:

- cities and towns
- counties
- watershed districts and watershed management organizations
- lake improvement districts
- soil and water conservation districts
- joint powers organizations composed of the above units

*Individuals are not eligible applicants. Individual property owners should work through their local units of government for consideration of grant funding.

DNR Contact Information

FDR Program Coordinator
DNR Ecological and Water Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032
Telephone: (651) 259-5691
Fax: (651) 296-0445

Area hydrologists listed on the DNR Ecological and Water Resources website:
<http://mndnr.gov/waters>

How Does the Flood Damage Reduction Grant Assistance Program Help Minnesotans?

Program purpose

The Flood Damage Reduction Grant Assistance Program (FDR) helps reduce damages due to flooding in rural and urban areas.

FDR was established by the 1987 Minnesota Legislature to provide technical and financial assistance to local government units for reducing the risk and extent of flood damages. Under this program, the state makes cost-share grants for up to 50 percent of the cost of flood mitigation projects. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) commissioner may also make grants to local units of government to conduct studies. These studies determine the most feasible, practical, and effective methods and programs for reducing the risk of damage due to flooding. The Division of Ecological and Water Resources coordinates this program for the DNR.

Classes and uses of grants

Currently two classes of grants are available. Small grants are for projects with a total cost of less than or equal to \$300,000 (state share less than \$150,000). Small grants are made directly by the DNR from funds appropriated by the legislature. Large grants are for projects with a total cost greater than \$300,000 (state share greater than \$150,000). Grant applications are received and prioritized by the DNR. Grants with state share exceeding \$150,000 are presented to the governor and the legislature for consideration in a capital bonding bill.

In addition to partnering directly with local units of government, FDR grants can be used to leverage financial and technical assistance from other agencies. DNR Ecological and Water Resources and local units of government have partnered with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Natural Resources Conservation Service on federal flood control projects. After a disaster, FDR funds can also be used to leverage acquisition and hazard mitigation funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Division of Homeland Security & Emergency Management of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

Breaking the flood damage cycle

Flooding can have disastrous effects on people's lives and their community. Participation in the FDR program helps communities break the cycle of damage and repair and it is extremely cost effective. For example, the flood control project in Oslo, Minnesota, was built at a total cost of \$2 million (in mid-1980's dollars), including \$100,000 in local funds. Through 2009, this project has averted damages totaling over \$50 million. The FDR program reduces communities' future flood risk.

How can you receive FDR assistance?

If you have incurred flood damage, contact your local unit of government for assistance. The local unit of government will contact the FDR Program Coordinator in St. Paul or your Area Hydrologist in your region to discuss project needs and eligibility for assistance. FDR application forms and a workbook for your local unit of government are available on the DNR Ecological and Water Resources website (<http://mndnr.gov/waters>), as well as a list of FDR projects across the state.