



**FEMA**

August 28, 2023  
R7 Release: 23-03  
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# News Release

## **FOUR MISSOURI CITIES TO RECEIVE LANDMARK FEMA FUNDING TO IMPROVE DISASTER RESILIENCY**

KANSAS CITY, Mo – Four Missouri cities have been selected to receive more than \$16 million in landmark federal funding to help reduce the impacts of natural disasters.

Three metro St. Louis communities - University City, the City of Ladue and the City of Webster Groves - have been approved for funding under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program to help reduce the impacts of future floods.

The projects include the voluntary purchase of flood-damaged properties impacted by the July 2022 flash flooding that hit the metro twice in two days. The focus of FMA grants is to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Elsewhere in Missouri, the City Utilities of Springfield was chosen in a national competition to receive \$9,375,000 in federal funding under another FEMA mitigation program known as BRIC – Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities.

BRIC grants help states, local communities, tribes, and territories fund hazard mitigation projects that reduce the risks from disasters and natural hazards and emphasize the need for resilient infrastructure.

“We are thrilled that these cities have been selected through a nationwide competition to receive this important funding,” said Andrea Spillars, FEMA Region 7 Administrator. “The results will improve the communities’ long-term resiliency by moving structures and people out of harm’s way and hardening critical infrastructure that residents rely on for essential needs.”

FEMA received additional funding for the agency’s annual resilience grant programs from the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act, commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The appropriation offered an infusion of funding from \$1.16 billion to more than \$3 billion for fiscal year 2022, significantly improving the opportunities for more communities to get help funding projects to better protect people and property.

The metro St. Louis FMA projects are:

- 1. University City buyout – 3 apartment buildings (Hafner Court)**
  - **Cost:** Currently estimated to be up to \$3,224,190 in federal funding
  - **Project:** Purchase of the three apartment buildings that are adjacent to the River Des Peres. These buildings have been classified as sustaining repetitive losses because of flooding.
  - Plan is for the land to be maintained as open space in perpetuity by the City of University City Parks Dept.
  
- 2. City of Ladue – 6 residential properties**
  - **Cost:** Currently estimated to be up to \$3,568,000 in federal funding
  - **Project:** Purchase & demolition of six (6) residential properties
  - The land will be maintained as open space in perpetuity by the City of Ladue.
  
- 3. City of Webster Groves – Acquisition & demolition of 2 residential properties**
  - **Cost:** Currently estimated to be up to \$578,730 in federal funding
  - **Project:** Purchase & demolition of two (2) substantially damaged, repetitive loss, single-family residential properties located in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) that were damaged in the July 2022 flooding event. The project will remove these structures from the floodplain and return the lots to natural grade with seeding and straw.

Springfield’s BRIC project will provide backup natural gas-powered generators to protect the ongoing water supply at the Blackman Water Treatment Plant in the event of a power outage due to tornadoes, ice storms, or cyber attacks.

Now that all four projects have passed the initial selections, they will undergo a second review for a final check to ensure environmental considerations and program requirements have been met. The timeline for the second review varies on the complexity of the project. Once the second review has been successfully completed, the grant funding is awarded to the State on behalf of the communities.

### **FY 2022 Resilience Grants:**

Nationwide, FEMA selected 149 FMA projects totaling nearly \$642.5 million in federal cost share. These projects are across nine FEMA regions in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

FEMA selected 124 BRIC projects nationwide totaling nearly \$1.8 billion in federal cost share through the annual national competition. These projects are from all 10 FEMA regions in 38 states including 115 communities, one Native American tribe, territories and the District of Columbia.

Grants from both programs are intended to tackle the climate crisis and strengthen the nation’s resilience, especially in underserved communities that are most vulnerable.

FEMA’s goal is to ensure that an equitable approach is provided to all communities for fair and equal access to grant funding to invest in mitigation and resilience.

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*FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters.*