

CRS Activity 510 Progress Report

Date this Report was Prepared: January 19, 2021
Name of Community: Linn County, Iowa
Name of Plan: Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2019-2024
Date of Adoption of Plan: March 27, 2019
5 Year CRS Expiration Date: August 15, 2023

1. How can a copy of the original plan or area analysis report be obtained:

Linn County contracted with the East Central Iowa of Governments (ECICOG) to complete a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan, which includes nearly every community within the borders of Linn County. The Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by the Linn County Board of Supervisors on March 27, 2019. This plan can be found on the Linn County website: <http://www.linncounty.org/748/Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>.

2. Describe how this evaluation report was prepared and how it was submitted to the governing body, released to the media, and made available to the public:

This evaluation report was prepared by Linn County Planning and Development staff, including the CRS Coordinator. This report was submitted to the Linn County Board of Supervisors and the state NFIP coordinator via email on January 19, 2021. It has been made available to the media and general public on the floodplain information page on the Linn County Planning and Development department website: <http://www.linncounty.org/301/Floodplain-Information>.

3. Provide a review of each recommendation or action item in the action plan or area analysis report, including a statement on how much was accomplished during the previous year:

See attached Table 1. 2019 Flood Mitigation Action Progress

4. Discuss why any objectives were not reached or why implementation is behind schedule:

See attached Table 1. 2019 Flood Mitigation Action Progress

5. What are the recommendations for new projects or revised recommendations?

See attached Table 2. 2019 Proposed Flood Mitigation Actions

Table 1. 2019 Flood Mitigation Action Progress

Mitigation Action Step	Hazard(s) Addressed	Inclusion in Existing Plan	Update/Notes
Participate in the Community Resilience Roundtable Program and implement supporting projects	All hazards	Yes	Pilot program of the National Research Council and National Academy of Sciences Resilient America Roundtable. The County is participating.
Identify and complete flood mitigation projects to protect identified critical facilities and infrastructure	Flood	yes	Three (3) flood mitigation projects have been completed around county bridges.
Acquire, relocate, elevate, and/or demolish structures in the floodplain	Flood	yes	One (1) dwelling was elevated, and no new structures were acquired in 2019.
Improve the county's rating in the Community Rating System	Flood	yes	Linn County was accepted into FEMA's CRS program in October 2012, with a Class 8 rating. This rating improved to Class 7 during the last recertification period, effective May 1, 2020. This action item is ongoing, as the county continually strives to improve its rating.
Strengthen the Floodplain Ordinance to reduce development in the floodplain	Flood	yes	Amendments to the Linn County Unified Development Code were approved in January 2020, which changed the definition of substantial damage and substantial improvement, and increased the freeboard requirement for elevated structures from 1 foot about base flood elevation to 2 feet above base flood elevation. Future floodplain ordinance amendments are possible.
Participate in the development and implementation of the Indian Creek Watershed Management Plan to improve stormwater management, which may include regulatory or structural projects	Flood	yes	The Indian Creek Watershed Management Authority (WMA) was formed in 2012. The Indian Creek Watershed Management Plan was completed in June 2015. Linn County is participating in the WMA with representation on the WMA Board of Directors.
Participate actively in the watershed management authorities (WMAs) that Linn County is a member of and support the WMA plans.	Flash Flood, River Flood	Yes	Linn County has staff participating on the Boards of Directors for five WMAs: Indian Creek, Lower Cedar, Maquoketa River, Middle Cedar, and Upper Wapsipinicon.
Continue continuity planning in all county departments	Flood	Yes	Continuity planning has occurred, and is an ongoing process.
Provide hazard-related educational materials on the county website	Flood	yes	An annual newsletter containing information about flood hazard areas, mitigation, and the CRS program was produced and distributed to rural county residents as a newspaper insert. Educational material pertaining to flood mitigation is also available on the Linn County Planning and Development website .

Table 2. 2019 Proposed Flood Mitigation Actions*

Priority Level	Proposed Mitigation Action	Lead	Potential Partner(s)	Benefit	Cost	Potential Funding Source(s)
1	Participate in the Community Resilience Program and implement supporting projects	Planning and Development Director	Cedar Rapids, Linn County EMA, Greater Cedar Rapids Community Foundation, ECICOG, United Way, and faithbased community	High	Low – High	County, partners, Resilient America, and others to be identified
1	Purchase and install generators in critical facilities	County Engineer	IHSEMD	High	Medium - High	County, PDM, HMGP
1	Identify and complete flood mitigation projects to protect identified critical facilities and infrastructure	County Engineer	Planning and Development	High	Medium – High	County, PDM, HMGP, FMA
1	Acquire, relocate, elevate, and/or demolish structures in the floodplain	Planning and Development Director	IHSEMD	High	High	County, PDM, HMGP, FMA
1	Strengthen the Floodplain Ordinance to reduce development in the floodplain	Planning and Development Director	IDNR	High	Low	County
1	Strengthen development-related ordinances to improve stormwater management in new development	Planning and Development Director	County Engineer, IDNR	High	Low	County
1	Improve the county’s rating in the Community Rating System	Floodplain Manager	Planning and Development	High	Low	County
1	Establish the use of the HAZUS and Iowa Flood Center flood inundation modeling systems with the Linn County Emergency Management Agency	Planning and Development Director and County Engineer	Iowa Flood Center, Linn County EMA	Medium	Low	County
1	Participate in the development and implementation of the Indian Creek Watershed Management Plan to improve water management, which may include regulatory or structural projects	Planning and Development Director	County Engineer and Secondary Roads	High	Medium - High	County, PDM, HMGP, FMA, others to be identified

1	Provide hazard-related educational materials on the county website	Planning and Development Director	Information Technology, Linn County EMA	Medium	Low	County
1	Encourage the Linn County Food Systems Council to identify the scope and potential necessity for a food security plan addressing access to food during and after hazard events	Planning and Development Director	Linn County Food Systems Council	Low	Low	To be identified
1	Continue continuity planning in all county departments	All department directors	Linn County EMA	Medium	Medium – Low	County
1	Participate actively in the watershed management authorities (WMA) that Linn County is a member of and support the WMA plans.	Planning and Development/Linn County Conservation	WMA's	High	Medium–Low	County
2	Provide residential home rehabilitation and/or emergency repair program to prevent major damage to homes during hazard events	Planning and Development Director	ECICOG	Medium	Medium – High	County, others to be identified

*An explanation of the priority level, cost, and benefit categories can be found in the section titled, "Action Plan," on pg. 368 of the [Linn County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan 2014-2019](#).