

LGFCU Excellence in Innovation Award Project Evaluation

Project ID	GG-7
Title of Program	retroFIT Floodproofing Program
Program Category	General Government
Submission Date	5/30/2017 6:55:01 AM
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Implementation Date	5/19/2016
FLSA Designation	Exempt
Project Team Members	Tim Trautman, David Goode and Mark Boone

Description of Productivity Improvement

Increase community resiliency through reduction of future flood losses by developing an on-site mitigation program to provide local competitive grant funding for mitigation as well as customized face-to-face technical assistance for property owners. Implementation: This multipronged program required adoption of legislation allowing Mecklenburg County to distribute fee-based revenue to local property owners via stormwater grants, a first for the State of North Carolina.

Description of why this project was initiated

Prior to FEMA regulation of floodplains in 1978, many homes were constructed in flood-prone areas in Mecklenburg County. Despite other aggressive mitigation efforts, nearly 2600 homes remain in the floodplain, meaning 2600 families may be at-risk of a flooding disaster. The retroFIT program provides an alternative to the floodplain buyout program.

Quantifiable results (sustainability, cost savings, cost avoidance and/or a higher level of service).

Indication of what resources were used and what was done with any accrued time savings

Results show that 204 property owners applied for onsite mitigation funding and technical assistance. Of those, 79 properties were identified as eligible for onsite mitigation technical assistance. 57 of

those property owners learned of mitigation strategies specific to their property. 9 Property owners received engineering advice for future grant applications, remaining eligible in future fiscal years. 5 Projects have been approved for \$33,000 grant funding and are underway. Another 24 projects are currently under review for grant funding, totaling an additional \$406,000.

Other descriptive information

To our knowledge this is the first locally driven, and funded, flood mitigation grant program. We anticipate this program will be incredibly popular when property owners are recovering from the next flood. We anticipate that while a property owner is replacing their HVAC system, they may access retroFIT funds to elevate the unit to reduce future losses. The online application can be found at: <http://charlottenc.gov/StormWater/Flooding/Pages/retroFIT.aspx>