

COUNTY OF KENOSHA

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News release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Assistance Program grant applications now available for July 2017 flood survivors

Kenosha County residents whose homes were damaged by the July 2017 floods may now apply for recovery funds through the Southern Housing Region Kenosha County Emergency Assistance Program, County Executive Jim Kreuser announced today.

The county was recently awarded \$756,000 in Community Development Block Grant-Emergency Assistance Program funding to provide aid to low-to-moderate-income households affected by the flooding.

"Receiving these funds was a great win for Kenosha County, and for residents whose homes were hit hard by this natural disaster," Kreuser said. "Even if you've already recovered from the floods, it's worth doing your homework – you might be eligible for reimbursement of past expenses."

Funds granted to applicants do not need to be paid back, said Kari Justmann of MSA Professional Services, the firm administering the grant for the multicounty Southern Housing Region. Applicants may only receive Emergency Assistance Program funding once, however, and they will not qualify for the program again if their homes are damaged by future flooding.

Justmann said those who have receipts for repairs already made may be reimbursed. For those who have work that needs to be done, MSA will help them to receive bids and will pay the contractors directly. Applicants' homes will be visited to see that repairs have been made or that there is still flood-related damage in need of repair.

Homeowners and landlords who rent to low-to-moderate-income families may apply, Justmann said.

In order to be eligible for the funding, applicants' household income must be below the following thresholds:

- One-person household: \$39,050
- Two-person household: \$44,600

- Three-person household: \$50,200
- Four-person household: \$55,750
- Five-person household: \$60,250
- Six-person household: \$64,700
- Seven-person household: \$69,150
- Eight-person household: \$73,600

There is no firm deadline to apply, but people are urged to do so as soon as possible. All work funded by the grants must be completed by Dec. 31, 2018.

For more information about the program, please contact Sue Koehn at 800-552-6330 or <u>skoehn@msa-ps.com</u>.

Those who do not qualify for Emergency Assistance Program grants may be eligible for another resource: low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

SBA loans are available to cover damage to homes, as well as businesses. The recently-extended deadline to apply is Jan. 12, 2018. Apply online at <u>https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela</u>. Applications may also be downloaded at <u>www.sba.gov/disaster</u> or requested by phone at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for the hearing impaired) or by email at <u>disastercustomerservice@sba.gov</u>.

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