



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
**OFFICE OF BUILDING CONSTRUCTION
ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT**

Richard David, Mayor
Thomas F. Costello, Supervisor

April 28, 2014

TO: **Owner/Occupant
One or Two Family Residence**

RE: **NY Rising Housing Recovery Program
Notice to Homeowners - Beneficial Support**

To Whom It May Concern:

Due to a very recent change in the eligibility requirements in the NY Rising Housing Recovery program, the City of Binghamton is alerting homeowners, whose property is known to have been damaged by Tropical Storm Lee, to consider or reconsider their eligibility for the substantial financial aid that can be provided by this program.

The NY Rising Housing Recovery Program provides aid and support for the reconstruction, repair, elevation, and demolition/removal of structures that were substantially damaged by Tropical Storm Lee. Specific grants are reserved for Single Family and Two-Family, Owner Occupied structures. Additional aid may be available for other types of structures, as well, based on eligibility requirements that are described in detail on the NY Rising Housing Recovery website, <https://stormrecovery.ny.gov>

The financial aid offered through this program is in the form of direct grants to homeowners and there are no Income Eligibility requirements. This aid is meant to address "unmet housing recovery needs" and may be received for work that has already been completed, but for which the homeowner had unreimbursed – by homeowner's insurance, flood insurance or other government aid programs – out-of-pocket expenses.

Program Eligibility is based on the following criteria:

If your structure is a

1. Single-family residence
2. Two Unit Owner-occupied residence
3. Rental Property

And if:

1. You have unmet needs after accounting for all federal, state, local and/or private sources of disaster-related assistance, including, but not limited to, homeowners, and/or flood insurance proceeds
2. Your residential property was damaged as a direct result of one of Tropical Storm Lee
3. Your residential property is a municipally approved dwelling unit
4. The property was occupied as a primary residence (whether owner-occupied or rental) at the time of one of the three storms.

The major rule change for program eligibility involves the location of homes in relation to the 100 and 500 year Flood Plain. Previously, this determination was based on the current FEMA FIRM mapping (ref:). However, NY Rising will now permit property owners, in the City of Binghamton, to make this determination based on Advisory FIRM mapping (ref:

The deadline for this program has been extended for a short, but indefinite period, as a result of the recent rule change. Nevertheless, we urge all City residents and property owners who may have an interest in this type of disaster recovery assistance, to contact the NY Rising Housing Recovery program as soon as possible

A NY Housing Recovery representative may be reached by calling the program Hotline at 1-855-697-7263. Intake staff can provide you with detailed information about the different types of assistance available and the exact eligibility requirements for each type of support.

When you speak to a representative, be sure to state that your home is located in Broome County. In addition, please inform the Intake representative that public records maintained by the local municipal, Building Official indicate that **your home is located in the 100 year floodplain, as defined by FEMA Advisory FIRM mapping.**

If you do not understand this correspondence or need further clarification, prior to contacting NY Rising, please contact the Supervisor of Building Construction, Office of Building Construction Zoning & Code Enforcement, at (607) 772-7004.

Thank you, your interest and cooperation are appreciated.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.F. Costello', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas F Costello
Supervisor Building Construction