



**Susquehanna County Emergency Management Agency**  
**COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING**  
**31 PUBLIC AVENUE**  
**MONTROSE, PA 18801**  
**570-278-4600 Ext. 257**  
**FAX 570-278-4440**



NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: Immediate

For Further Information:  
Contact: Charlene Moser  
County EMA Coordinator  
(570) 278-4600 ext 257

## **SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY TO SEEK FUNDING FOR BUY- OUTS**

The presidential disaster declaration issued to Susquehanna County for Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee created an opportunity for flood mitigation projects in the County.

Following each disaster declaration the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) activates the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), and a new pot of money is generated for projects that will reduce or eliminate the impacts of future disasters. While FEMA sponsors and funds the HMGP, the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA) is responsible for administering and implementing the program.

The HMGP can fund the acquisition and demolition of property ("buy-out"). To be eligible for funds, all projects must be cost-effective and beneficial to the environment. Both PEMA and the County have established the acquisition and demolition of flood damaged and destroyed homes as a priority for HMGP funds.

Susquehanna County will seek Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds for homes that suffered the worst damage from the August and September 2011 flooding - - those properties that served as the primary residence for a family or individual that were substantially damaged or destroyed by the flood.

A home is substantially damaged if it incurred damages equaling 50 percent or more of its fair market value before the flood. A home that has been destroyed is no longer habitable and the residents are living in other housing accommodations. Homeowners are not directly eligible for funds, townships or boroughs must serve as the project sponsor.

The process for securing HMGP funds is very competitive and the amount of time to prepare an application is very short. Susquehanna County Emergency Management Agency asks that all individuals and families interested in having their homes voluntarily acquired to please contact their municipality no later than November 10th. Your municipality will need your Name, Physical Address, and approximate value of your home.

Once the County has obtained this information from the municipalities the County will submit a Letter of Intent to the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. Upon certification that the County's letter of Intent meets eligibility criteria we will then be able to move forward and apply for the grant funding.