

Wisconsin Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant – Emergency Assistance Program (CDBG-EAP) FAQs.

How do I apply? If your community has an existing CDBG contract, then you will simply need to submit a letter from your County CEO requesting these funds. In the letter you should mention how much money you are requesting, what you will use it for, what technical guidelines you will follow if approved, and why you are a good candidate. The letter should be addressed to Caryn Stone at the Dept. of Commerce.

If your community does not have an existing contract for these funds then you will need to apply and hold a public hearing. Fill out the application on the Dept. of Commerce web site <http://commerce.wi.gov/cd/docs/cd-boh-recovery.doc>. In the budget section of the application, cross off one of the lines and add an item called "LiDAR Acquisition" and then add your cost estimate. In addition to filling out the application you will also need to fill out the Citizen Participation Plan and hold a public hearing. As part of the public hearing process a legal notice must be published at least two weeks before the hearing date. The application does need to be submitted by Dec. 4 to be eligible for these funds, but the board meeting/public hearing just needs to be scheduled. Include the Citizen Participation letter with your application and put a note on it to say "To be adopted at public hearing to be held on <date>."

How do I determine if my County has an existing CDBG contract? Check with Caryn Stone with the Department of Commerce at caryn.stone@wisconsin.gov or 608-267-3682.

Who is eligible? Any county that had documented flood damage during the 2008 flood event.

What are the eligible activities? LiDAR acquisition is the only eligible activity for this piece of the funding source.

What are the technical specifications and do I need to include them in my application? You should mention in your application that any data collected with these funds will meet FEMA Guidelines and Specifications for Mapping Partners. This will ensure that the data are able to be used if funding becomes available to update floodplains in your county.

How does this funding source relate to FEMA funding for floodplain mapping? FEMA has moved into a new funding program called Risk MAP. With this initiative they are moving away from "modernizing" entire counties and instead focusing on improving the quality of individual floodplain studies. Their priorities have been to study in detail streams that had significant flooding during recent events and where there is a risk of flooding in the future. In 2009, they funded new studies along the entire stretch of the Baraboo and Rock rivers.

We believe that they will continue to fund studies in this way in the future, but cannot be certain of that. We also believe that communities with high resolution elevation data available at the time of prioritizing for funds will be moved higher up the list than those without it, but only where FEMA's other criteria are met.