

**Disaster Recovery Enhancement Fund Activity Eligibility Guidance**  
*U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development*  
*Office of Community Planning and Development*  
*June 22, 2010*

<i>DREF-eligible activity</i>	<i>Description</i>
<b>Forward-thinking land use plan</b>	Development and adoption of a forward-thinking land-use plan that will guide use of long-term recovery efforts and subsequent land-use decisions throughout the community and that reduces existing or future development in disaster-risk areas.
<b>Buyout program</b>	Floodplain or critical fire or seismic hazard area buyouts programs under an optional relocation plan that includes incentives so that families and private sector employers move out of areas at severe risk for a future disaster.
<b>Individual Mitigation Measure</b>	Individual mitigation measures (IMM) to improve residential properties and make them less prone to damage. If such activities are incorporated into the grantee’s rehabilitation or new construction programs generally, the cost increment attributed to IMM will be the amount considered for the additional allocation, not the total construction amount budget.
<b>Disaster-resistant building codes</b>	Implementation of modern disaster resistant building codes, including, but not limited to, training on new standards and code enforcement.

**Please note:**

- This table provides examples of eligible and ineligible DREF activities. It will be updated as needed to provide more information to P.L. 110-329 grantees.
- Any activity funds listed as DREF-eligible by a grantee in its Action Plan must be adequately documented and supported in the state and/or subgrantee files.

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Example</i>	<i>Eligible</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>
<b>Administration</b>	General state and local program administration costs		X
<b>Forward-thinking land use plan</b>	Land-use plan that reduces risk	X	
	Hazard mitigation plan(s)	X	
	Floodplain mapping	X	

<b>Buyout program</b>	Demolition	X	
	Acquisition	X	
	Relocation assistance (to move buyout applicants into comparable housing)	X	
	Project delivery costs	X	
	New housing construction or homeowner assistance for units purchased/occupied by a buyout participant in a safer, lower-risk area	X	
	Rental assistance for a household that was a buyout participant	X	
<b>Individual Mitigation Measures<sup>i</sup></b>	Elevation costs	X	
	Sump pumps	X	
	Flood insurance		X
	Portion of drainage projects that reduces flood risk to residential properties	X <sup>ii</sup>	
	Portion of drainage projects that reduces flood risk to non-residential properties		X
	Landscaping that creates a “defensible space” in a fire-prone area	X <sup>iii</sup>	
	Use of building materials that are fire-resistant or flood damage-resistant	X <sup>iv</sup>	
	Project delivery costs that can be attributed to an individual mitigation measure	X	
<b>Disaster-resilient building codes</b>	Hiring of code enforcement officials	X	
	Development or update of disaster-resilient building codes	X	
	Development or updating of zoning, design, or development standards that are disaster-resilient	X	
	Training on enforcement of new codes and standards	X	

<sup>i</sup> To be eligible for DREF, the individual mitigation measure must mitigate and/or reduce risk beyond the pre-disaster condition—simply repairing infrastructure or housing to the pre-disaster status is not sufficient. For example, repairing a damaged lift station to the pre-disaster standard is *not* eligible; moving a damaged lift station out of the floodplain *is* eligible. Similarly, the repair or rehabilitation of a house is *not* eligible; costs associated with the elevation of the house or the addition of storm shutters or roof straps *is* eligible.

Furthermore, costs associated with meeting minimum code and standard requirements will be *ineligible*. However, costs associated with going above and beyond minimum code and standard requirements to reduce risk and mitigate damage from future disasters will generally be *eligible*.

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<sup>ii</sup> Most drainage projects will be identified as infrastructure activities in DRGR. However, to count a portion of these funds as DREF-eligible, please identify what portion of the project (and project funds) will reduce risk or damage to *residential properties*. This should be noted in the activity narrative and under the performance measure titled, “Amount of activity dedicated to Disaster Recovery Enhancement Fund (DREF) eligible purposes (P.L. 110-329 disaster recovery appropriation only).” Only measures that mitigate residential properties can be considered a DREF-eligible activity under this category.

<sup>iii</sup> A defensible space can be created by thinning trees and brush within 30 feet of a home, and/or by planting types of trees/shrubs/etc. that are naturally resistant to fire. For more information, please see: [http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all\\_citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/rural/landscape.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/rural/landscape.shtm)

<sup>iv</sup> Examples of eligible fire-resistant roofing materials include, but are not limited to: fiberglass-based asphalt shingles, recycled rubber tile, metal tile, clay tile, slate, and fiber-cement shingles. For more information and examples of building materials for a fire-resistant house, see the following website: <http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/info/0,,20157960,00.html>. Flood damage-resistant examples include, but are not limited to: adding waterproof veneer to exterior walls, raising electrical system components, anchoring fuel tanks, raising or flood-proofing HVAC equipment, installing sewer backflow valves, and protecting wells from contamination by flooding. For more information, please see: <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/howto/index.shtm>.