



# Property Acquisition

Under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

**A community's hazard mitigation plan could include acquiring flood-prone property. Property acquisition under the HMGP is VOLUNTARY.**

## Basic Steps:

1. The community identifies areas and submits a Notice of Interest (NOI) to the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division (HSEMD). Specific properties are identified.  
**THIS NOTICE IS DUE Sept 12, 2008.**
2. After review of all the NOIs, HSEMD invites qualified communities to apply, including input from the community and affected homeowners.
3. The state reviews applications and makes funding recommendation to FEMA based on state mitigation objectives and available funding.
4. FEMA notifies the state about approvals. The state notifies local governments to begin the acquisition process.
5. Local communities verify WILLING SELLERS, purchase properties for pre-flood fair market value, and take title.
6. Purchased homes are demolished and the land is cleared.
7. The property title is deed-restricted and the land must remain forever as public open space.



## The FINE PRINT:

1. Communities with a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program are eligible – but plans “under construction” might be considered.
2. The HMGP application process could take a year or more.
3. Properties with repetitive damage or in high-risk zones will receive higher priority for consideration.
4. The decision to buy damaged property is made by the local government and property owners – not the state or FEMA.
5. Costs are shared on a federal (75%), state (10%) and local or individual (15%) basis.
6. Money is limited and not all projects will be funded.