

For Immediate Release

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Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission Receives FEMA Grant

Grant Allows Implementation of Multi-jurisdictional Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan

Springfield, IL August 27, 2007 — The Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission has been awarded a contract for a Hazard Mitigation Planning grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. This grant will fund 75% of the cost of plan preparation. The Regional Planning Commission will facilitate development of the plan and Sangamon County will provide the remaining 25% through staff involvement.

A task force will be created, with representatives from each community in Sangamon County that chooses to participate, as well as technical partners and other stakeholders. The first meeting will be held October 10, 2007 at 5:30pm in the County Board Chamber located on the 2nd floor of the Sangamon County Complex, 200 S. Ninth Street. Meetings will be held monthly and public participation is strongly encouraged. Citizens of Sangamon County are welcome to attend every meeting of the task force.

"The development and maintenance of a Hazard Mitigation Plan is important to the welfare of all of us in Sangamon County," said Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission Executive Director Norm Sims. "Any one of us could be affected by a future natural disaster, and this plan will help the Commission to identify these hazards and find ways to mitigate their effects on our communities and families. We hope that all of the communities in the area take part in this effort."

The advantages of having a hazard mitigation plan include protecting citizens and property from the effects of hazards such as tornadoes, flooding and winter storms. Any community that has a hazard mitigation plan that is compliant with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 is eligible for hazard mitigation grant money from FEMA. The purpose of this plan is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters by identifying mitigation measures that can be implemented prior to a disaster.

Specific opportunities for public input will be available. For further information on participation opportunities visit

<http://co.sangamon.il.us/departments/regionalplanning/HazardPlan.asp>

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