Cedar Rapids:
Data and Tools Used in Planning and Carrying Out a Successful Resilience Strategy

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City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa
2008 Flood Strikes Cedar Rapids

$5.4 billion in community-wide damage
$1.064 billion over 10 years for City recovery
More than 10 square miles inundated by floodwaters
14% of the City and 1,126 city blocks impacted
42 tons of flood debris removed
Recovery Priorities Set

People and Housing
18,623 people living in flood-impacted area
10,000 residents displaced
5,900 residential properties damaged

Business Interests
1,360 jobs lost
1,133 commercial properties flooded

Public Buildings
310 City facilities damaged or destroyed
Major City facilities destroyed:
   City Hall
   Central Fire Station
   Transit Hub
   Public Library
   Animal Control
   Water Pollution Control Facility
Recovery Planning

River Corridor Reinvestment Plan
- Initiated with the Army Corps of Engineers
- Established Flood Control System boundaries
- Determined where re-building could occur

Neighborhood Planning Process
- Ten neighborhoods defined
- Provided a framework for neighborhood recovery

Downtown Revitalization
- Building on previous work
- Demonstrated the value of plans
Housing

1,400 properties voluntarily acquired at 107% of pre-flood value
Funded through CDBG and HMGP for $128M
1,900 structures demolished
900 new homes constructed with incentives provided to homebuyers
2,400 homes repaired and rehabilitated
Housing

Rental housing assistance
Housing rehabilitation assistance
Interim mortgage assistance
Demolition assistance
Voluntary acquisition program
Personal Possessions Program
Business Recovery

Five year Business Retention:
National Average: 55%
Cedar Rapids: 82%

More than $86 Million in assistance provided to over 600 Businesses for Rent, Equipment, Loan Interest supplements, Flood Insurance
  Jumpstart Program -- $19 Million
  Expanded Programs -- $55.6 Million
  Steam Buy Down/Conversion -- $11.5 Million
City Facilities

With more than 310 City facilities flooded, a number of remarkable building recoveries were made.

Central Fire Station: $20 Million
Paramount Theatre: $36 Million
City Services Center: $36 Million
Public Library: $45 Million
Historic City Hall: $10 Million
Animal Care & Control: $5 Million
Permanent Flood Control

Cedar Rapids Flood Control System

$550 Million total project cost ($750M over 20 yrs)
$117 Million – Federal US Army Corps of Engineers
$267 Million – State of Iowa/Sales Tax Growth
$268 Million – City Bonding

Designed to convey the same water volume as the Flood of 2008, reducing flood risk throughout Cedar Rapids. Consists of a series of floodwalls, levees, gates, and removable walls on both the east and west sides of the river. Community amenities such as trails and greenway space are key components of the system.
Flood Control System Overview