

## **2008 Flood Recovery Program**

### **FACT Sheet Overall Program and Partner Information**

- The **2008 Flood Recovery Program (FRP)** was established in September 2009. The Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church has been selected by the State of Wisconsin's Department of Health Services, to administer and distribute \$6 million dollars in Federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services - Administration for Children and Families, Office of Community Service.
- The Block Grant funds will be used to help repair damage to residences, replace essential household items (such as furnaces, appliances, etc.), and also provide case management support to affected homeowners throughout a 30-county area of Southern Wisconsin.
- Wisconsin was one of many states to receive part of the \$600 million Federal Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds for the 2008 floods.
- A total of \$15.9 million in SSBG funds was granted to Wisconsin. The other \$9.9 million is earmarked for initiatives such as Outreach Services administered by Lutheran Social Services, system upgrades for 2-1-1 Wisconsin, Inc., and the hiring of a local flood coordinator for Gays Mills through Wisconsin Emergency Management.
- The goal of the FRP is to find and help people affected by the devastating floods and storms that occurred during the summer of 2008. The FRP will provide financial and other resources to qualified victims as quickly as possible.
- The Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church will be working in partnership with Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WIVOAD).
- The Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church provides a connection for ministry linking all United Methodist clergy and the 480 congregations across Wisconsin, and is headquartered in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

- WIVOAD is a coalition of more than 25 voluntary, nonprofit organizations that respond to disasters as part of their overall mission, some of whom include: American Red Cross, Catholic Charities, Impact 211, Lutheran Social Services, MN-WI Baptist Convention, Presbyterian Disaster Response, Southern Baptist, The Salvation Army, United Methodist Committee on Relief, Wisconsin Council of Churches. WIVOAD works closely with the County and Tribal Emergency Managers and their staff throughout the state.
- Project Recovery works in collaboration with the FRP to address the emotional needs of homeowners. Project Recovery is also a community-based outreach program designed to locate homeowners who may qualify for the FRP program.
- Additional information is available at the official Website for the **2008 Flood Recovery Program**: [www.2008floodrecovery.org](http://www.2008floodrecovery.org).

**2008 Flood Recovery Program**  
**Contact Information**

- **2008 Flood Recovery Program** spokespersons who may be reached for interviews include:
  - Steve Zekoff, Project Director
  - Deborah Thompson, Grant Administrator
  - Linda Lee, Bishop for the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church
  - Michele Virnig, Director of Communications

*All of the above may be reached by calling 888-240-7328.*

- For more information about the Wisconsin Conference of The United Methodist Church, visit: [www.wisconsinumc.org](http://www.wisconsinumc.org) or contact Michele Virnig, Director of Communications, at [mvirnig@wisconsinumc.org](mailto:mvirnig@wisconsinumc.org) or 888-240-7328.
- For information about the Wisconsin Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (WIVOAD) and Project Recovery, contact Keith Lang, President of WIVOAD and Director of Project Recovery, at: [klang@lsswis.org](mailto:klang@lsswis.org) or 608-834-4444.
- To facilitate interviews about the **2008 Flood Recovery Program**, contact Michele Virnig directly, or contact Laurel Cavalluzzo or Merri Oxley of Madison Marketing Communications: Laurel 608-663-9867 (cell: 703-629-5693); Merri 608-877-0528 (cell: 608-332-5565).

## 2008 Flood Recovery Program

### FACT Sheet Program Qualifications and Process

- The \$6 million Federal Social Services Block Grant is restricted by the federal government for use only in the 30 counties that were affected by floods and storms in 2008 and declared as disaster areas at that time.
- The 30 counties in Southern Wisconsin designated as disaster areas in 2008 include: Adams, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago.
- The 2008 Flood Recovery Program (FRP) Case Managers and Project Recovery Outreach Workers will spread the word about the FRP program across the 30-county area, evaluate all applicants for funds, and assist qualified homeowners in getting the resources they need.
- The qualifications residents must meet to be eligible to receive FRP funds include:
  - Recipients of funds must be the homeowner.
  - The home must be the recipient's primary residence.
  - The total combined income of all of the residents in the home *must be less than or equal to 150% of the median income* in the homeowner's county.
  - Other eligibility factors will also be taken into consideration.
- There are restrictions around the use of FRP funds:
  - Funds must only be used for repairs to primary residences, or replacement of furnaces, appliances, etc., that were damaged as a direct result of the 2008 floods and storms.
  - Funds cannot be used for rental units, second homes, outbuildings, businesses or automobiles.
- The statewide phone services numbers are 2-1-1 and 877-947-2211.
  - Operators will take homeowner's initial inquiries and prequalify those who may be eligible to receive assistance.
  - Operators will then refer callers on to FRP Case Managers throughout the 30-county region for follow-up response and evaluations.
- The process to evaluate eligibility for funds through the FRP may take 6-12 weeks. The Flood Recovery Program continues until September 30, 2010.