USACE Flood and Storm Damage Reduction – Helping to Manage the Risk to American Lives and Property from Floods

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Flood and Storm Damage Reduction Program (Program) is a collaborative effort that integrates and synchronizes flood and storm damage reduction projects, programs and authorities of USACE with other Federal agencies, and state, regional, and local agencies. Through both structural and non-structural measures, the Program helps to increase the resilience of projects and reduce the risk of loss of life and property damage from riverine and coastal flooding.

Funding

The President’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) provides $4.7 billion in gross discretionary funding for USACE and includes $1.271 billion for the Flood and Storm Damage Reduction Program. The Budget provides funding that will allow USACE to study, construct, operate, maintain, repair and improve the Civil Works flood and storm damage reduction approaches, including continuing construction at high risk dam safety projects and the levee safety initiative. The Budget invests in projects that reduces risks to lives and property from inland and coastal flooding. Risk management entails prioritizing the highest priority new construction, major rehabilitation projects and priority maintenance activities.

The Budget includes $470 million for this Program to fund continuing construction on 27 projects, including $261 million for 9 high-risk Dam Safety Action Classification I and II projects. In addition, 2 Dam Safety projects will be funded to completion in FY 2016 (Canton and Pine Creek Lakes). The Budget also provides $689 million for continued operation and maintenance of 396 projects. Also included in the program is $44 million for the USACE Levee Safety Initiative. This funding continues the four-year initiative which began with the FY 2012 President’s Budget and that will complete important components of the levee safety program. This funding will enable completion of periodic screening-level risk assessments of Federally-authorized and constructed levees, including levees that USACE operates and maintains, Federally-constructed levees that are locally-maintained and operated, and non-Federal levees covered in the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program; and complete levee data collection for the National Levee Database.

USACE’s FY 2016 Budget includes about $38.5 million in the Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies account for preparedness for floods, hurricanes and other natural disasters. The Budget also includes $31 million to provide communities with the adequate tools, data, and technical and planning assistance necessary to develop and implement nonstructural approaches to better manage and reduce flood risk and promote sustainable and resilient coastal management in light of climate change. This investment also builds on successful programs such as the Silver Jackets, a critical link in helping the Corps partner with Federal, State, local, and Tribal communities to encourage a better understanding of and more comprehensive approach to addressing flood risks.

Program Objectives

- Operate and maintain Federal projects at safe, authorized levels
- Identify, plan and design high priority flood risk management projects, including looking at a variety of strategies (e.g., structural, non-structural, natural, and nature-based features) to reduce riverine and coastal flood hazards
- Bring high performing projects and programs on line to achieve benefits
- Improve intergovernmental coordination to effectively and efficiently manage flood risk
- Provide planning and technical expertise to local communities to help them appropriately identify and address increasing flood risks due to a changing climate

Over the years, the USACE role in flood and storm damage reduction (originally conceived as flood “control” or flood “prevention”) has evolved. This change reflects a greater appreciation for the complexity and dynamics of floods and flood plains—the interaction of natural forces and patterns of urban and rural development—as well as the Federal, state, local and individual partnerships necessary to manage the risks of flooding in a riverine or coastal setting. This shift in perspective also reflects USACE’s commitment to the partnerships needed to apply more effective flood plain and flood risk management practices at the state and local levels.
### Key Messages
- Public safety is USACE’s number one priority.
- The Program enables USACE to help reduce risk of loss of life and property damage in the event of floods.
- Flood and storm damage reduction is a shared responsibility.
- Communities will face increasing flood risks due to climate change and should consider resilient and sustainable approaches to address future flood risks.

### Facts & Figures
- USACE infrastructure includes 708 dams and 14,700 miles of levees that help reduce the risk of flood damage.
- For more information about USACE’s efforts, visit [http://www.usace.army.mil/](http://www.usace.army.mil/).