



Executive Summary

Exhibit A

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DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

DuPage County is submitting to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) its Community Development Block Grant – National Disaster Resilience Competition (CDBG-NDR) Phase 2 application, which proposes a project to build resilience in a region left disproportionately vulnerable by severe flooding in April 2013. The project is targeted in an area within the Village of Lisle, Illinois, but is designed to be replicable and scalable throughout the region, state and nation as unregulated development in a floodplain is an issue not unique to just DuPage County.

To achieve these goals, DuPage County is an integral member of the Northeastern Illinois Resilience Partnership (Partnership), a multi-jurisdictional, nonpartisan alliance, which also includes Cook County, the City of Chicago and the State of Illinois. Convened with the assistance of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and other non-profits in response to severe, repetitive and chronic flooding in the region, the Partnership intends to pilot, scale and collaborate on successful resilience building strategies across the region and state.

Northeastern Illinois' strength lies in the geography and natural assets upon which this great metropolis was originally established. Located on the divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River watersheds, the region is a key steward of 84% of the country's freshwater. This position has ensured its spot as the nation's central transportation hub, handling 50% of all rail freight.

Notwithstanding, DuPage County and the region are not without significant stressors. Chronic and repetitive flooding takes a devastating economic, environmental, and social toll on residents and businesses. While northeastern Illinois has not experienced a well-known mega-storm like Hurricane Katrina or Super storm Sandy, small, frequent storms regularly flood

homes, businesses and communities, in addition to draining polluted runoff into Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River.

DuPage County is positioned well to drive and implement resilience and contribute to regional efforts in a way that builds upon existing partnerships and enhances current efforts. The County is the second largest in Illinois with 932,126 residents. DuPage spans 336 square miles, 39 municipalities and 9 townships. It is home to more than 750,000 jobs, 16 colleges, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories, 300 miles of trails and 23,000 acres of forest preserve land.

To improve the livability and resilience of the region, an approach to build the adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable communities and their populations is necessary. The Partnership will serve as a model for a network of regional resilience partnerships that will form across the state, with the aim of sharing lessons learned and advancing best practices. This multi-faceted regional and local strategic approach, which aims to provide further relief from and future resistance to flooding, will create and expand employment opportunities, facilitate public and private investment, enhance overall economic growth, expand recreational options, promote environmental stewardship, and increase social cohesion. It will foster stronger connections between and within communities and their residents, particularly vulnerable populations.

To further the regional goals, each member of the Partnership has created pilot projects within their own jurisdictional boundaries that are scalable throughout the region and state. Locally, DuPage County has is proposing a Lower East Branch Pilot Project as demonstrated throughout Exhibits C through G.

Exhibit C: Capacity

DuPage County's internal capacity to carry out large-scale and innovative projects is comprehensive, made more so by substantial partnerships throughout both the County and

greater northeastern Illinois. In particular, the County's Stormwater Management Department (SWM) has experience implementing projects of similar to the Lower East Branch Project in terms of size and scope, including a series of projects along the West Branch DuPage River and the Klein Creek Flood Mitigation project.

DuPage has leveraged SWM's expertise by coordinating a Resilience Team, which includes involvement from five other County departments. The Resilience Team coordinates a larger countywide Steering Committee that includes participation from municipalities, taxing districts and nonprofits located and operating throughout DuPage. These groups build upon the capacity of the regional Partnership by carrying out its approach countywide. The involvement of County departments, community agencies and entire entities demonstrate a robust cross-jurisdictional and multi-disciplinary capacity to carry out complex, resilient projects.

Exhibit D: Need

The region as a whole is subject to devastating, repetitive flooding that does not adhere to watershed or jurisdictional boundaries. Risks from threats and hazards will be exacerbated, particularly for vulnerable populations, with climatic changes that show patterns of more extreme periods of weather, already evident in DuPage County and the region. The CDB-NDR Phase 2 proposal seeks to build resilience in Most Impacted and Distressed (MID) communities while also addressing Unmet Recovery Needs (URN) relating to housing, infrastructure and economic revitalization in the target area that is home to a larger proportion of low- to moderate-income (LMI) families, seniors and elderly populations.

Exhibit E: Soundness of Approach

As DuPage County developed a strategy to increase resilience, it worked extensively with stakeholders to identify existing needs in local communities. Building upon the qualitative and

quantitative data collected, the County's project team, consisting of County staff and consultants, developed solutions for the East Branch DuPage River Watershed (East Branch Watershed), including the creation of the Lower East Branch Pilot Project to improve the capacity of the MID-URN to withstand future extreme weather events. The \$49.7 million project would result in approximately 200 existing structures mapped out of the 100-year floodplain, including a commercial parcel difficult to develop today. The project also includes in-stream and streambank restoration for nearly a mile of stream, the creation of 140-acre-feet of wetlands and improvements to protect the safety, health and well-being of local residents.

Exhibit F: Leverage

DuPage County continues to explore and engage in partnerships across public, private and nonprofit sectors to secure sustainable and attainable financing for building resilience throughout the East Branch Watershed. The County has entered into an agreement with Commonwealth Edison (ComEd), Illinois' largest utility, to provide a direct financial commitment to the Lower East Branch Pilot Project, as well as in-kind services to help flood-proof power stations within the MID-URN. In addition, the County has entered into an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to participate in a \$3 million study of the entire DuPage River to identify opportunities to protect and build resilience in vulnerable areas throughout the greater watershed.

Exhibit G: Long-Term Commitments

DuPage County and the Partnership have already taken steps toward long-term resilience and are committed to implementing future initiatives regionally and statewide through an initial five-year plan. In addition, DuPage County has established measurements for success, realized through attainable programmatic, institutional and behavioral changes that the County and its

partners are implementing. DuPage County also remains committed to implementing the [East Branch DuPage River Watershed and Resilience Plan](#) (East Branch Resilience Plan), developed in support of [DuPage County's CDBG-NDR Phase 1 application](#), as well as sharing best practices to be scaled throughout the region, state and nation.