



PRESS RELEASE

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ROCKFORD RECEIVES HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT

\$2,226,740.00 Grant Allows City to Continue Keith Creek Project

Rockford, Illinois – November 5, 2010 - Senator Durbin announced today that the city of Rockford is the recipient of a \$2,226,740.00 IEMA/FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Phase Two Award. These mitigation dollars will be used to pay for the properties that have already been purchased by the Rockford Local Development Corporation (RLDC) as well the acquisition and demolition of 38 additional properties in the Churchill Park Neighborhood (see attached map).

“This announcement is great news for our neighborhood! We are glad to see the first two phases being funded and we are anxious to receive the icing on the cake for phase three,” stated Michael Brackett, President of Keith Creek Neighborhood Association. To date there has been 112 properties purchased as part of the Keith Creek project. With the completion of Phase Two, 28 properties will be left to finish off the housing portion of the project. Although the grant award will only cover 75% of the total cost of the \$3 million project, the City of Rockford has already applied for a State of Illinois grant to cover the remaining 25%.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA’s) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States, local governments, and Indian tribes for long-term hazard mitigation projects following a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property in future disasters by funding mitigation measures during the recovery phase of a natural disaster. HMGP funds can be used to make improvements to public or private property. To be eligible, a project must provide a long-term solution to a specific risk. The program requires that the property of the acquired homes be returned to open space and their deeds restricted forever.

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