An Overview of the Community Rating System (CRS)

September 24, 2014
Mari Radford – FEMA Region III
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)

- National Flood Insurance Act of 1968

- Participation is voluntary
  - Adopt and enforce regulations
  - Eligible for flood insurance

- Benefits of participation:
  - Flood insurance
  - Grants and loans
  - Disaster assistance
  - Federally-backed mortgages
Goals of the CRS

1. Reduce flood damage to insurable property,

2. Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP, and

3. Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.
CRS Basics

✓ Voluntary program

✓ Recognizes good floodplain management above and beyond the minimum requirements of the NFIP

✓ Modeled on the fire insurance rating system

✓ Insurance Services Office (ISO)

✓ ISO/CRS Specialists work with the communities
### Premium Discount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>SFHA</th>
<th>Non-SFHA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4,500</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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</table>
Benefits

→ Money stays in the community
→ Insurance savings offset any costs
→ Improved flood protection
→ Better organized programs
→ Evaluate vs. national benchmark
→ Technical assistance
→ Incentive to keep implementing
→ Public information builds constituency
What If?

- City of Philadelphia
  - 4,135 Policies: $3,092,931 premiums
  - Average premium $748
  - CRS Class 9: savings $33 ($134,662 total for community)
  - CRS Class 7: savings $90 ($373,181 total for community)
  - CRS Class 5: savings $152 ($627,101 total for community)
Crediting Process

- Application
- Verification
- Verification Visit
- Recertification
- Modification
- Cycle Verification
Four Categories of Activities

- 300 Series – Public Information
- 400 Series – Mapping and Regulations
- 500 Series – Flood Damage Reduction
- 600 Series – Flood Preparedness
Public Information Activities

- 310 – Elevation Certificates
- 320 – Map Information
- 330 – Outreach
- 340 – Hazard Disclosure
- 350 – Flood Protection Information
- 360 – Flood Protection Assistance
- 370 – Insurance Outreach NEW
Mapping and Regulatory Activities

- 410 – Additional Flood Data
- 420 – Open Space Preservation
- 430 – Higher Regulatory Standards
- 430LD – Land Development Criteria
- 440 – Flood Data Maintenance
- 450 – Stormwater Management
Flood Damage Reduction Activities

- 510 – Floodplain Management Planning
- 520 – Acquisition and Relocation
- 530 – Flood Protection
- 540 – Drainage System Maintenance
Flood Preparedness Activities

- 610 – Flood Warning Program
- 620 – Levee Safety
- 630 – Dam Safety
# Uniform Minimum Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Element</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Uniform Minimum Credit</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>340</td>
<td>Other Disclosure Requirements (ODR)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>430</td>
<td>Other Higher Standards (OHS)</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>430</td>
<td>State-mandated Standards (SMS)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>Erosion &amp; Sedimentation Control (ESC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>25.5</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Possible Additional Credit</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>430</td>
<td>Building Codes (BC)</td>
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<td>430</td>
<td>State-mandated Standards (SMS)</td>
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<tr>
<td>430</td>
<td>Local Drainage Protection (LDP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>450</td>
<td>Water Quality (WQ)</td>
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<tr>
<td>630</td>
<td>State Dam Safety (SDS)</td>
<td>0 - 38</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>83.8 – 121.8</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Pennsylvania
Minimum Requirements

- Elevation certificates (with sampling accuracy of 90%)
- Repetitive Loss Plan.
- Community owned properties in the SFHA must carry flood insurance and the community CEO must sign a statement.
- If a coastal community receives a LiMWA on their prelim maps, they must keep it on their effective maps.
- BCEG requirements for Class 1-5.
- Designate a CRS Coordinator.
You Must First be Compliant

- Permits
- Elevation/Openings/Utilities
- Foundation and Siting
- Substantial Damage/Substantial Improvement
Get “CRS Ready”

to do:
Timeline

- Letter of Intent: up to 6 months to schedule the Community Assistance Visit.

- Letter of Good Standing must be issued within 6 months of CRS application.

- To make the October 1 list you need to have your completed application in to your ISO representative by May that year.

- To make the May 1 list you need to have your completed application in to your ISO representative by October the previous year.

- Modifications do not take as long.

- Typical time from LOI to Entry – 18 months to 2 years.
CRS Resources

- L/E273 Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program: Nov 3-6 Lawrence County or Dec 1-4 Philadelphia

- E278 NFIP/Community Rating System (at EMI)

- http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/CRS/

- Form a CRS User Group

- Sponsor a regional workshop!
Questions?