

### Fremont, Nebraska

The City of Fremont, NE (pop. 27,373), located in Dodge County, experiences frequent flooding due to floodplain inundation. In 2019, Fremont and Dodge County experienced a devastating flood that destroyed homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Neighborhoods that are predominantly lower-income families and Hispanic people, such as the Regency Mobile Home Park, were some of the hardest-hit areas in the flood.

In 2024 FloodWise submitted a grant proposal to the Climate Smart Communities Initiative (CSCI) on behalf of FloodWise, Fremont United Way, and the city’s project team. With this successful award, FloodWise continued working with the community to promote their flood resilience goals with a focus on reducing risk to the more vulnerable neighborhoods through 2025.

### Partnership Outcomes

- FloodWise extended its Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Fremont through December 2026 to continue collaborating and supporting the community’s flood resilience goals.
- FloodWise contracted with JEO Consulting Group to develop a communitywide, technical flood risk assessment tool that the city is using as evidence for meeting federal flood risk management standards and to prioritize risk-reduction options. The city is using the flood risk mapping tool to evaluate building permits and communicate with developers about elevating homes and structures above flood depths. FloodWise and JEO



Mobile homes in Fremont have been hit hard by floods in the past. A new flood-risk mapping tool is helping the city prioritize projects with a focus on vulnerable neighborhoods. (Photo by Headwaters Economics)

Consulting gave a presentation on Fremont and this tool at the Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Management Association (NeFSMA) annual conference.

- Under contract to FloodWise, Fremont United Way expended CSCI grant funds to:
  - Provide disaster risk reduction information in English and Spanish to local schools;
  - Ensure that local emergency alerts are translated into Spanish;
  - Facilitate long-term-recovery group meetings that help build relationships and coordinate resources amongst stakeholders from local government, regional housing groups, the school district, public health organizations, faith-based groups, and the nonprofit sector; and
  - Identify safe, new emergency shelters that better meet the Hispanic population's needs.
- FloodWise hired JEO Consulting Group and worked with Fremont United Way, Fremont Emergency Manager, Dodge County Emergency Manager, and the Greater Dodge County Long-Term Recovery group to identify shelters and critical community infrastructure that would benefit from backup power during disasters. Using this



FloodWise Community Assistance is a program of Headwaters Economics that provides free technical assistance and customized research to help reduce flood risk and strengthen communities. <https://floodwise.headwaterseconomics.org/>



FloodWise staff were onsite to learn about Fremont's flood resilience goals. (Photo by Headwaters Economics)

assessment and prioritization, JEO consulting prepared materials that will be used to apply for a future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program application (once available). The materials include detailed plans that show the locations and costs of backup power infrastructure, including generators and power sources, that are needed in case of flooding and other natural hazards.

## Next Steps

- Support the city and county in applying for grant funding for the backup power project.
- Continue to support the community as it pursues its flood resilience goals.

- 💧 FloodWise Community since October 2023
- 💧 Project services paid by FloodWise to date: \$86,970