## **\$100 MILLION HOME ELEVATION PROGRAM LAUNCHED TO PROTECT HOMEOWNERS FROM FUTURE FLOOD AND STORM DAMAGE** *ELIGIBLE HOMEOWNERS CAN APPLY FOR UP TO \$30,000 REIMBURSEMENT GRANTS*

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Elevation Program is a reimbursement grant program designed to help homeowners with the elevation of their primary single-family residences to meet the requirements of the flood insurance risk maps in flood-prone communities. The program is limited to the Sandy-impacted communities of Atlantic, Bergen, Cape May, Essex, Hudson, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean and Union. There are no income requirements for the program and FEMA registration is not required in order to apply. Eligible applicants can receive reimbursement of up to \$30,000 for elevations on existing single-family homes.

As part of the 'reNew Jersey Stronger' housing initiative, an application can be made to both the Homeowner Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation (RREM) Program and the HMGP Elevation Program, but homeowners may receive a grant award from only one of the programs. Homes targeted for buyout under the state's HMGP acquisition program are not eligible to participate. Additionally, federal regulations restrict homeowners who have already begun elevation work from applying.

Homeowners can use any elevation contractor registered in New Jersey that is qualified to do the work. Once all necessary documents are received and the home elevation is completed, the homeowner will be reimbursed for all eligible expenses.

The HMGP Elevation Program application period is now open and closes on September 15, 2013.

Eligible homeowners can apply for elevation grant assistance at <u>http://www.renewjerseystronger.org/hmgp/</u>, by calling 1-855-SANDYHM <u>(1-855-726-3946</u>), or by visiting one of the Housing Recovery Centers open in each of the nine most-impacted counties.

NOTE: Individuals must apply to the HMGP Elevation Program directly regardless of whether they previously submitted Letters of Intent (LOI) or online applications with their local municipal governments.