

# National Flood Insurance Program 101

#### **Nell Durfee**

Community Resilience and Recovery Planner, NYC Emergency Management

**Caroline Hays** Senior Policy Advisor, Mayor's Office of Climate & Environmental Justice



October 2, 2024

# Agenda

- Intro to the National Flood Insurance Program
- National Flood Insurance Program in New York City
- Spreading the Word About Flood Insurance



## The National Flood Insurance Program

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is an agreement between the Federal government (FEMA) and a local community, which makes federally-backed flood insurance available to all homeowners, renters and business owners in the community.

To participate in the NFIP a community must adopt and enforce floodplain management regulations that meet or exceed the minimum requirements of the program. These requirements are intended to prevent loss of life and property and reduce taxpayer costs for disaster relief, as well as minimize economic and social hardships that result from flooding."

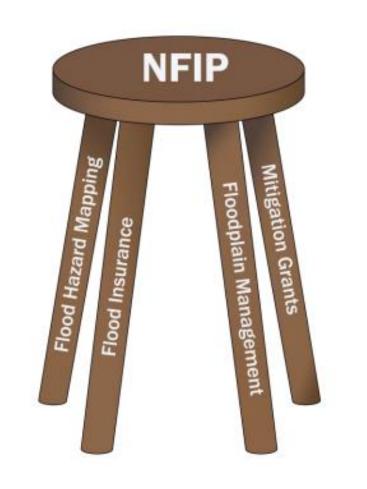






### **NFIP Components**

- → Flood hazard mapping
- → Flood insurance
- → Floodplain management
- $\rightarrow$  Mitigation grants







Player



Responsibility

Administers NFIP

NATIONAL FLOOD

 $\rightarrow$ 

Underwrites almost all residential flood risk

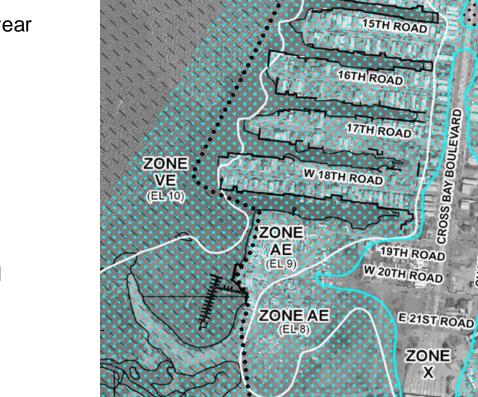
Private Insurance Companies Sell and manage NFIP policies & claims per FEMA guidance



# Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)

Developed as part of the National Flood Insurance Program:

- Shows **current flood risk**, related primarily to coastal + riverine flooding
- Defines the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA): The "100-year floodplain"
- Determines flood insurance purchase requirements
- Informs **building code standards** in the floodplain
- Location in a SFHA must be disclosed to home buyers and renters in NY state



9TH R

E 10TH RO

ZONE AE

ZONE X

12TH ROAD

ZONE X

14TH ROAD

CRO;

W 11TH ROAD

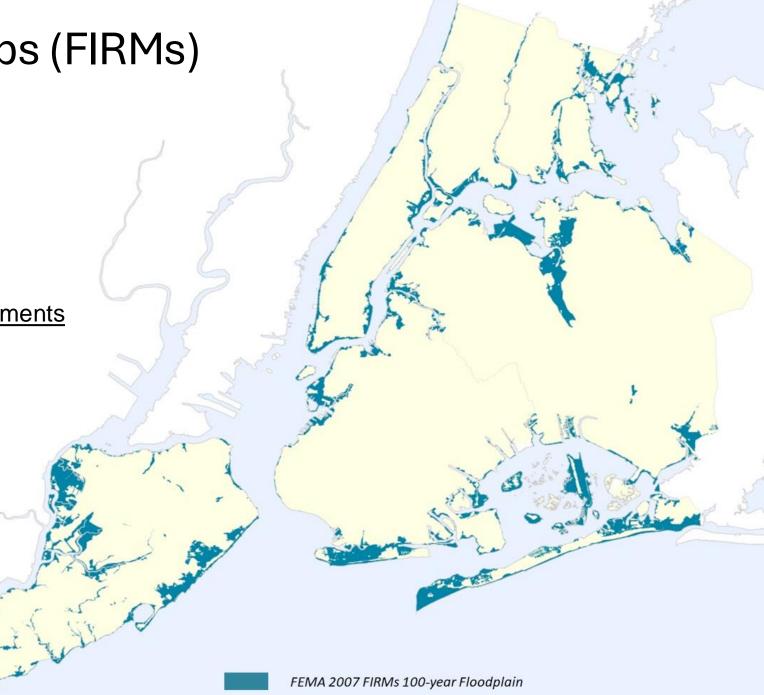
W 13TH ROAD



### Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)

FEMA's 2007 FIRM

Used for flood insurance purchase requirements

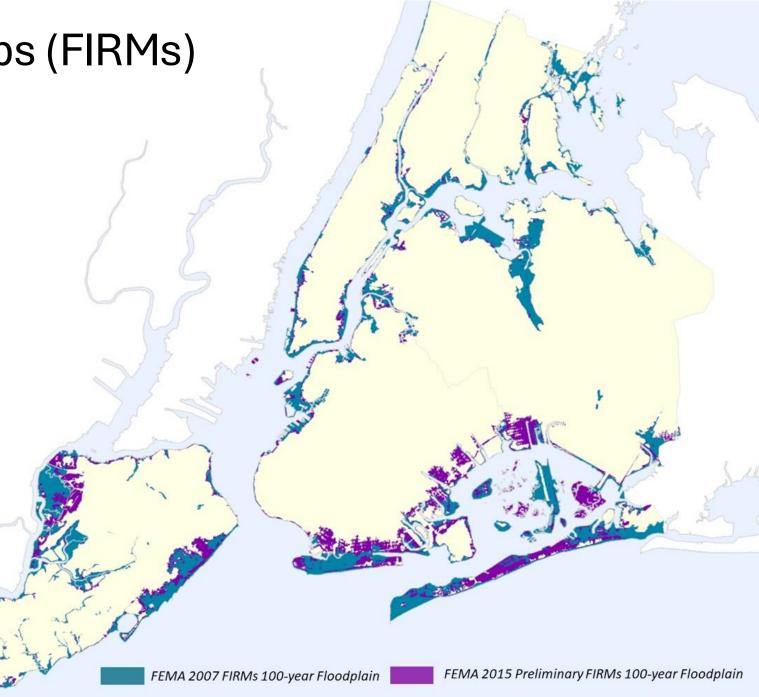




### Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)

### FEMA's 2015 Preliminary FIRM (PFIRM)

Used for <u>New York City's building codes</u>





### What does the NFIP cover?

Covered	
Building Coverage (up to \$250,000)	Contents Coverage (up to \$100,000)
Coverage includes:	Coverage includes:
<ul> <li>Electrical, plumbing, furnaces, water heaters</li> <li>Refrigerators, stoves, built-in appliances like dishwashers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Personal property: clothing, furniture, electronic equipment</li> <li>Portable and window air conditioners</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Foundation walls</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Washer/dryer</li> </ul>

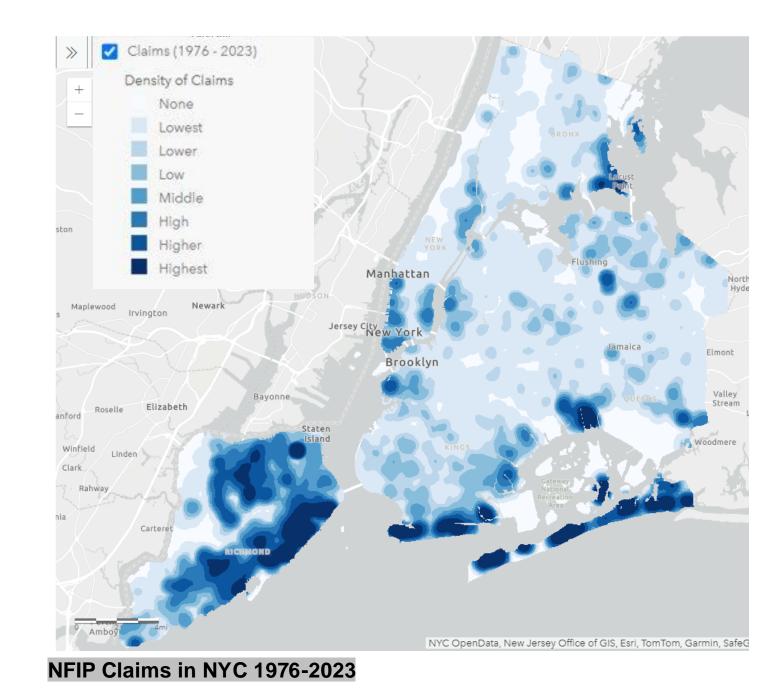
#### **Not Covered**

- Decks, patios, fences ٠
- Cars and their parts ٠
- **Business interruption** ٠
- Limited coverage ٠ in basements:
  - Personal property, finished walls, and finished floors are not covered

# NFIP in New York City

59,158

NFIP policies in New York City as of July 2024





# Spreading the word to New Yorkers about the NFIP



### Why should you get flood insurance?

- Homeowners and renters' insurance policies do not cover most flood damage.
- Flood risk in New York City is increasing because of rising sea levels and more extreme rain events.
- It pays to be insured. Nationally, the average National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) payout is \$66,000 while the average FEMA disaster assistance grant is \$3,000.
- Flood insurance may be required for some homes and businesses in the floodplain, but all New Yorkers are eligible for NFIP – no matter what neighborhood you live in.

### Just 1 inch of water can cause \$25,000 of damage to your home.

As floodwaters rise, so do the costs of repairing your home and replacing the things inside of it. This summer, when heavy rains lead to flash flooding, make sure you're covered-invest in a flood insurance policy.

Call your insurance agent today, or learn more at FloodSmart.gov.











### Flood Insurance for Renters

- If you're a renter, flood insurance can offer financial protection in case of a flood.
- Renters' insurance does not cover most flooding damage.
- The NFIP offers coverage for personal belongings (called Contents Coverage) up to \$100,000 for renters.

### TYPES OF COVERAGE FOR RENTERS





#### CONTENTS COVERAGE

Examples of what might be covered: Furniture Clothes Television Rugs Up to \$2,500 of certain valuable items Ask your landlord to make sure the building has coverage!



# How to Learn More & Sign Up

#### Websites for More Information

### <u>FloodHelpNY.org</u>

 Information about flood insurance, flood risk, and how to protect your property.

#### FloodSmart.gov

- FEMA resources to help you understand and purchase flood insurance.
- If you need help finding a provider, go to FloodSmart.gov/flood-insurance-provider.

#### NYC-based Nonprofits Who Can Help You Sign Up

### Neighborhood Housing Solutions (<u>nhsnyc.org</u>)

- For renters and homeowners: Find your local branch and speak with a housing counselor about flood insurance.
- Center for NYC Neighborhoods (cnycn.org)
  - For homeowners: Access resources for homeowners, including flood counselor resources within CNYCN's network.



# Contacts



Caroline Hays, CHays@climate.nyc.gov Nell Durfee, EDurfee@oem.nyc.gov

