



The King County Flood Hazard Management Plan & Equity and Social Justice

With a Focus on Outreach to
Underserved and Vulnerable Populations

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Equity and Social Justice

As Defined by King County

- **Equity** - Everyone has **equal access** to opportunities that enable them to attain their full potential.
- **Social justice** - Requires the **fair distribution** of public goods, institutional resources and life opportunities for all people.

King County Objectives to Achieve Equity and Social Justice

1. **Consider** equity impacts in all decision making;
2. **Build** community trust, improve customer service and institute robust civic engagement; and
3. **Promote** fairness and opportunity in County government practices.

Primary flood risk reduction services:

1. **Assess** flood and erosion risks in King County;
2. **Communicate** flood risks to the public; and
3. **Reduce** flood risks, including repairing and maintaining levees.

Vulnerable Populations

As Defined by Public Health – Seattle & King County

- Limited English or non-English proficient
- Deaf
- Immigrant communities
- Blind
- Physically disabled
- Deaf-blind
- Hard of hearing
- Mentally ill
- Developmentally disabled
- Impoverished
- Seniors
- Children
- Undocumented persons
- Medically dependent or medically compromised
- Chemically dependent
- Homeless and shelter dependent
- Clients of criminal justice system
- Emerging or transient special needs

Top languages spoken at home in the King County floodplain

1. English
2. Spanish
3. Chinese languages (combined)
4. Vietnamese
5. African languages (combined)
6. Korean
7. Russian

American Community Survey, 2005 - 2009

Flood Risk Reduction Projects

- Sited and designed to mitigate flood and erosion impacts regardless of the economic group or population.
- Prioritized, selected and implemented based on risks associated with death, human injury, and potential land use damage.

Flood Elevation Program

- Assists property owners with costs of raising a structure above flood level.
- Eligibility is based on cost-effectiveness and level of risk of the structure.
- Participants need to pay up to 25%, out of pocket, of the project cost (\$70K-\$120K) and any relocation costs needed if necessary.



Flood Risk, Preparedness and Safety Communication

- Translation services available.
- All printed materials available in Spanish.
- Flood safety video in 21 languages.
- Partner with emergency response community organizations.
- Customer service survey to be conducted in fall 2012.



The Question

How should the King County Flood Hazard Management Plan be used to direct our efforts to ensure we are providing services equitably?



Discussion Point #1

What networks can we build or enhance to improve our delivery of the Flood Education and Flood Preparedness Program to vulnerable or historically underserved populations?

Discussion Point #2

How can we assess the effectiveness of outreach to vulnerable and underserved populations -- a difficult population to assess by traditional survey methodology?

Discussion Point #3

- What networks can we build or enhance to improve our delivery of the Flood Elevation Program to vulnerable or historically underserved populations?
- What alternative mitigation options could be proposed for special needs, such as low-income, physical or developmental disabilities?