

Creating Strategies for Flood Preparedness Nebraska Silver Jackets Flood Management Program

This program is one of 12 featured in our Creating Strategies for Flood Preparedness profile series. The flood assistance/preparedness programs highlighted in this series represent state and local efforts across the country to make homes and communities flood resilient and to aid in recovery efforts after flooding events. When possible, each program's background information, funding, impact, eligibility, services, and challenges/lessons learned are summarized in the series. These examples can be used as models for other states and local agencies as they consider local possibilities to develop, fund, and implement their own programs.



Program Background. The **Silver Jackets** are a national initiative of state-led collaborative interagency teams that continuously work together to reduce flood risk at the state level. The Nebraska Silver Jackets program provides a formal and consistent strategy for an interagency approach to planning and implementing measures to reduce the risks associated with flooding and other natural hazards in Nebraska. The name *Silver Jackets* is used to highlight the common mission of the agencies involved. The Nebraska Silver Jackets collaborate with the following agencies to mitigate flood risks: Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NDNR), Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District and Kansas City District (USACE), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region VII, U.S. Geological Survey (Nebraska Water Science Center), National Weather Service (NWS), Bureau of Reclamation (Great Plains Region), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Nebraska Association of Resources Districts (NARD), Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ), Nebraska Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association (NEFSMA), and Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR).



Funding. The Nebraska Silver Jackets are funded through congressional authorization. The Nebraska Silver Jackets submit program applications for funding each year, and Congress allows different funding amounts for each project depending upon its priority.



Impact. The Nebraska Silver Jackets team has completed or assisted with many activities including the Wood River Watershed Study and three flood workshops. The Nebraska Silver Jackets hosted three flood workshops between July 2019 and October 2020. The first workshop saw over 65 registrants who received updates on changing legislation and programs and discussed lessons learned from previous flooding events. During the second workshop, state and local staff learned how to set high-water marks (post-flood evidence of the highest level of floodwaters). The final workshop updated the public on ongoing activities and resources available through state and federal partners. To learn more about **Nebraska Silver Jackets'** team activities, visit the **Silver Jackets' national website**.



Program Eligibility. Any Nebraska resident may access the website and webtool to locate resources to manage flood risk and prepare for or recover from a flood.



Program Services. The Nebraska Silver Jackets focus their communication efforts on two main areas: managing flood risk and preparing for/responding to floods. Their website provides a wealth of information and connects to additional resources from multiple agencies with these primary goals:

- Assisting homeowners in recognizing, understanding, and responding to their flood risk, and
- Providing a sharp vision of how to prepare before a flood, respond during a flood, rebuild following a flood, and find additional flood information.

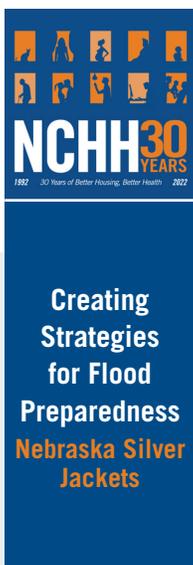


Challenges and Lessons Learned. As the Nebraska Silver Jackets often help with smaller, non-construction-related projects, limited budgets are frequently a challenge that can affect the scope of the work to be accomplished. Further, when implementing flood assistance and preparedness projects, some communities match the funding the Nebraska Silver Jackets is able to provide; others, particularly small, rural communities, provide in-kind work or additional services. These projects can be challenging if the local agencies are not able to provide any financial or in-kind support, but such challenges also present unique opportunities for community involvement.

For additional information about the Silver Jackets program in Nebraska or in other states, visit the **Silver Jackets 2021 Team of the Year**, **Adaptation Clearinghouse**, and **Nebraska Silver Jackets**.

For additional examples and resources related to flood preparedness, visit...

<http://bit.ly/NCHHpubsCSFP>



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