

Up to \$3,500 in grants available to homeowners

City of Toledo Basement Flood Grant Program

To help homeowners reduce the chance of future flooding, the City of Toledo provides homeowner flood-prevention grants of up to \$1,500. Some hardship cases may apply for \$2,000 as described on the application. This funding is a grant not a loan. Accordingly, it does not need to be paid back.

Examples of grant-eligible items are:

- ▶ A backwater check valve
- ▶ A standpipe
- ▶ A sump pump in conjunction with a backwater check valve or standpipe

Downspout/Drain Disconnection Grants

The city will pay the cost for downspout and drain disconnections up to a maximum of \$1,500. Downspout/drain disconnection grants do not need to be repaid.

How to Apply

- ▶ Request information from the City's Division of Engineering Services at 419-245-1315, or view program info online. On the City website (www.ci.toledo.oh.us), navigate to the Department of Public Utilities, Engineering Services Division website.
- ▶ The application must be submitted with a minimum of two written quotes.
- ▶ Backlogged applications are prioritized by severity and history of an area's flooding.
- ▶ The City verifies that the proposed work may likely reduce the reported problems.
- ▶ Property owners may undertake any desired work while the application is being processed. Proceeding with work prior to grant approval neither disqualifies nor guarantees grant approval.
- ▶ When your application is approved, you will receive a letter with instructions to proceed. When a contractor completes any pre-approved work, the owner indicates the satisfactory completion and the contractor may choose to directly invoice the City of Toledo, which saves the property owner the temporary out-of-pocket expense. In cases where the work was already completed and paid for, the property owner is reimbursed upon approval of the application.

Addressing Storm Water Flooding

Controlling storm water has long been one of the major challenges facing Toledo. It is estimated that \$200 million in system improvements are needed.

Not long ago, the City had no dedicated funding source for preventative maintenance or major upgrades to its massive storm water system that consists of:

- ▶ More than 1,000 miles of storm sewers
- ▶ 110 miles of ditches
- ▶ 50,000 manholes, catch basins and curb inlets

In 2001, the City launched its Storm Water Utility to provide funding. The goals of the utility are to reduce flooding, improve the drainage of storm water and improve the water quality of local rivers and streams.

Since the launch of the Storm Water Utility, the Department of Public Utilities has begun upgrades and regular maintenance of the system – completing \$15 million of flood control projects and storm sewer improvements between 2006 and 2009, and beginning \$3.8 million worth of new projects in 2010.

Storm water management is a long-term problem that requires a long-term solution. Unfortunately, there is no quick fix. Accordingly, the City of Toledo is implementing comprehensive programs to address storm water flooding and storm water management.

In addition to flood control projects, the City of Toledo requires that when land is privately developed or redeveloped, the storm water runoff does not contribute to peak flows in the City's storm water system. Similar requirements are used by other jurisdictions in the metropolitan area and the City participates in an area-wide Storm Water Coalition that promotes best storm water management practices throughout the region.

Who Can Help?

If you experience emergency flooding issues, you may contact the City of Toledo Department of Public Utilities (DPU) 24-hours a day at 419-936-2020.

When DPU is notified of a flooded basement, a city sewer crew is scheduled to visit the site to determine what appears to be causing the problem. In addition to the City of Toledo programs outlined in this brochure, help is available from a number of government and non-profit organizations including:

- ▶ Lucas County
- ▶ American Red Cross
- ▶ Salvation Army
- ▶ The Area Office On Aging of Northwest Ohio
- ▶ Lucas County Job and Family Services

To learn more about the programs offered by these agencies and eligibility requirements related to the **United Way's 2-1-1 program**, just dial **2-1-1** on your phone. If you're calling from a pay phone, dial 1-800-650-HELP.

How to Clean Up

United Way's 2-1-1 program has cleaning kits available. To obtain a kit, simply dial **2-1-1**.

How to clean up a flooded basement

The cleaning and reconditioning of basements should be carried out as soon as possible after floodwaters recede.

These are the steps to take:

1. Always wear boots and rubber gloves.
2. Remove silt and debris.
3. Clean basement floors and walls with soap and warm water.
4. Prepare a mixture of one (1) tablespoon vinegar, one (1) cup bleach and one to two (1-2) gallons water.
5. Spread mixture over affected area and allow to dry.
6. Thoroughly rinse area with water.

What to do with food items exposed to floodwaters

Because floodwater may contain raw sewage or other contaminants, exercise extreme caution when handling/consuming foods that have been exposed.

- ▶ Destroy any food which was directly exposed to flood waters.
- ▶ Salvage commercially canned foods by removing their labels, and washing and disinfecting cans with a water and bleach mixture (see above).