

Topic 5: Community Rating System (CRS) Overview



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Topic 5 Objectives

- Know the benefits of NFIP's higher standards and the Community Rating System (CRS).



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CRS Program with Community Flood Insurance Discounts

- Communities can get CRS credits for applying higher standards, mitigation actions, and outreach activities.
- CRS credits lead to flood insurance premiums savings.
- All NFIP-insured structures receive discounts.
- ~40% of flood insurance claims come from structures not in mapped high-risk flood areas.



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CRS Classes and Their Discounts

- CRS rates communities from 9 to 1.
- Each CRS class earns an additional 5% discount on flood insurance premiums.
- Class 1 communities receive the highest discount.

CRS Class	Discount Percentage
9	5%
8	10%
7	15%
6	20%
5	25%
4	30%
3	35%
2	40%
1	45%



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Earn Discounts Through Activities

- Public Information (300 series):
 - Teaching the community about flood protection
 - Conducting outreach
- Mapping and Regulations (400 series):
 - Adopting higher standards
 - Preserving open space in the floodplain



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Earn Discounts Through Activities (cont.)

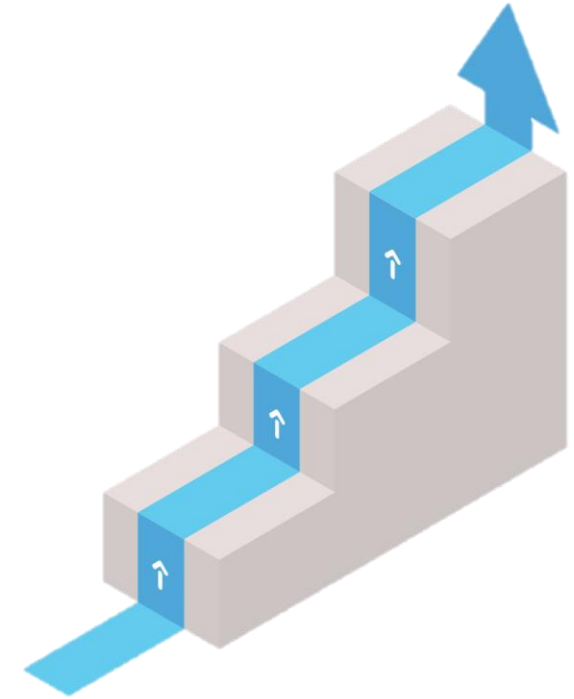
- Flood Damage Reduction (500 series):
 - Regularly maintaining drainage systems
 - Completing repetitive loss area analysis
- Warning and Response (600 series):
 - Creating dam safety plans
 - Emergency warning dissemination



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Steps to Join the Community Rating System (CRS)

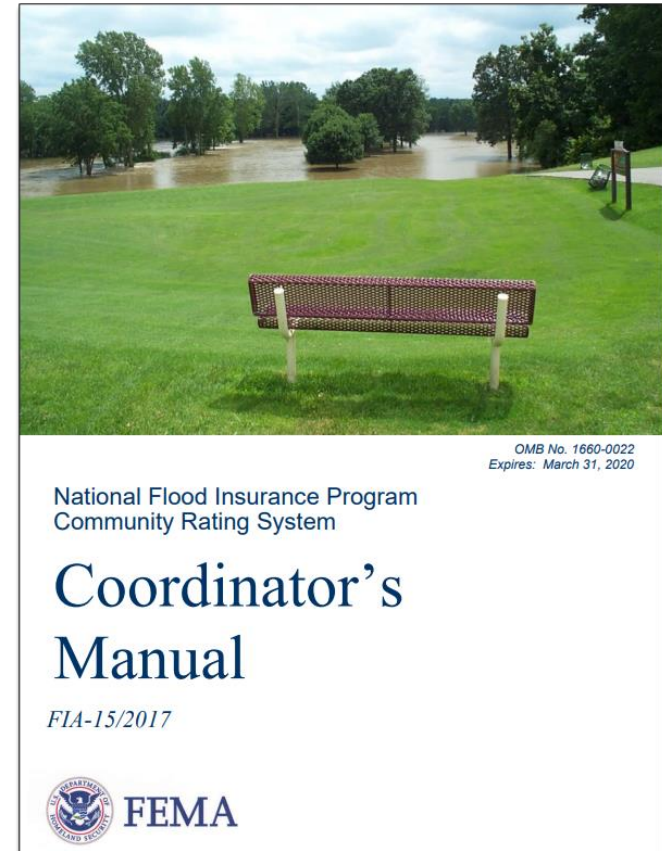
- Meet prerequisites for joining CRS:
 - Be NFIP-compliant.
 - Maintain construction documentation permanently.
 - Take flood insurance and mitigation actions.
- Submit a letter of interest to your FEMA Regional Office.
- Submit a CRS application.



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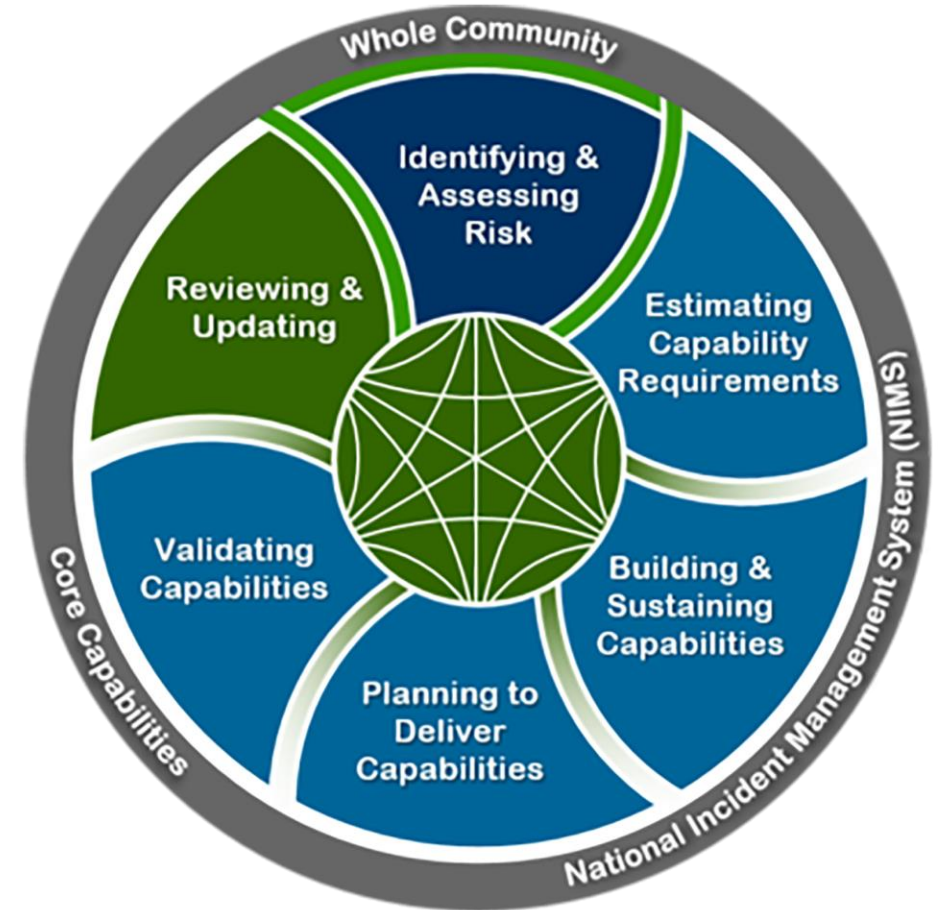
Maintaining CRS Participation

- Your community must recertify that you are doing your credited activities.
- Every three or five years the CRS Specialists visit.
- CRS Specialists help your community compile documentation.



Other Programs Similar to CRS

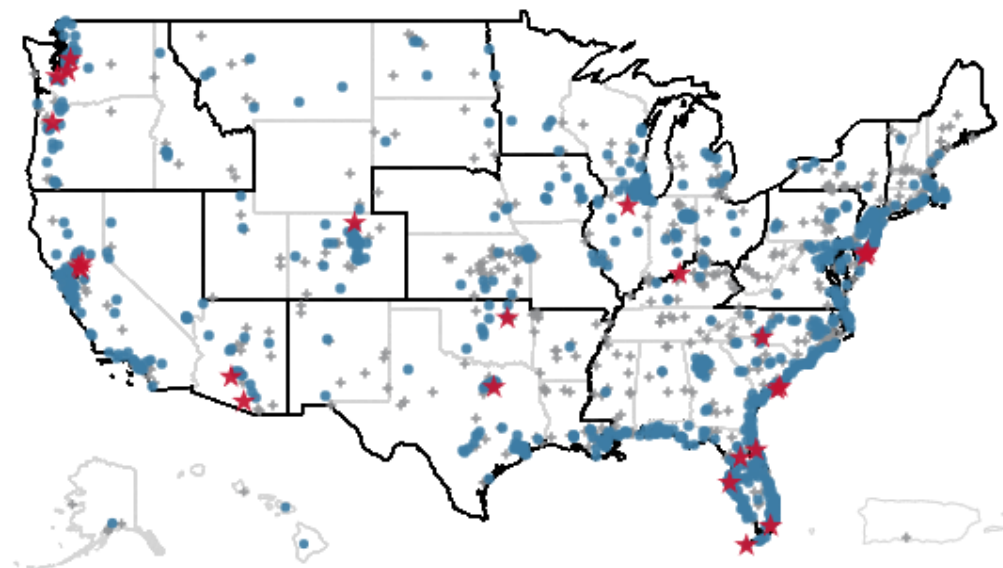
- THIRA: Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Fire Suppression Rating Schedule (FSRS): Rates your fire department's ability to serve the community
- Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule (BCEGS): Rates your building codes and how you enforce them



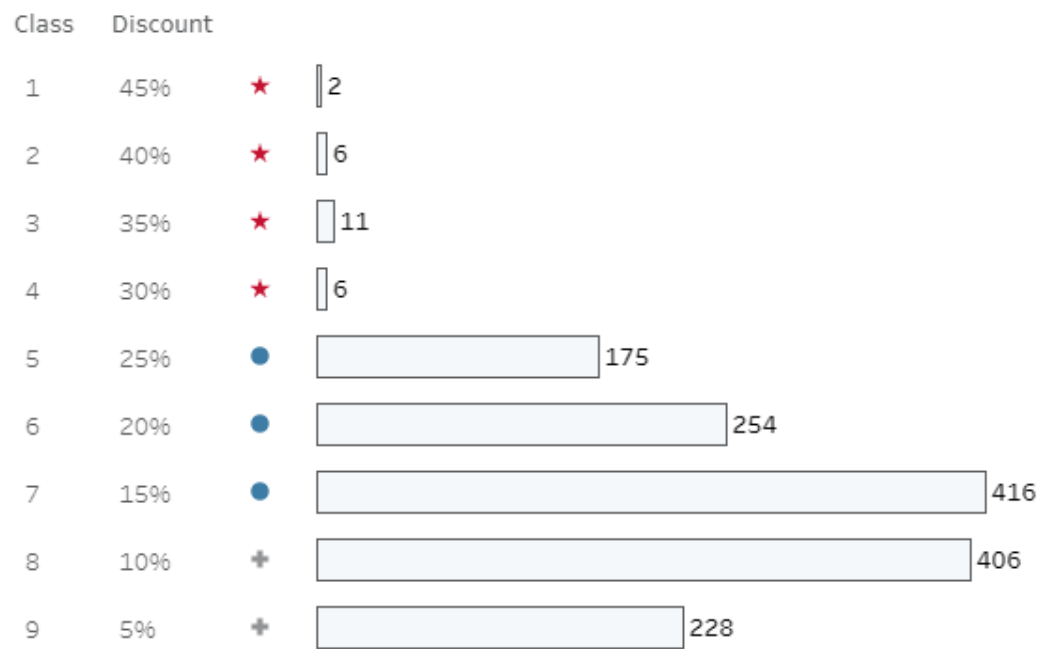
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CRS Participation

Community Geography



Communities by Class

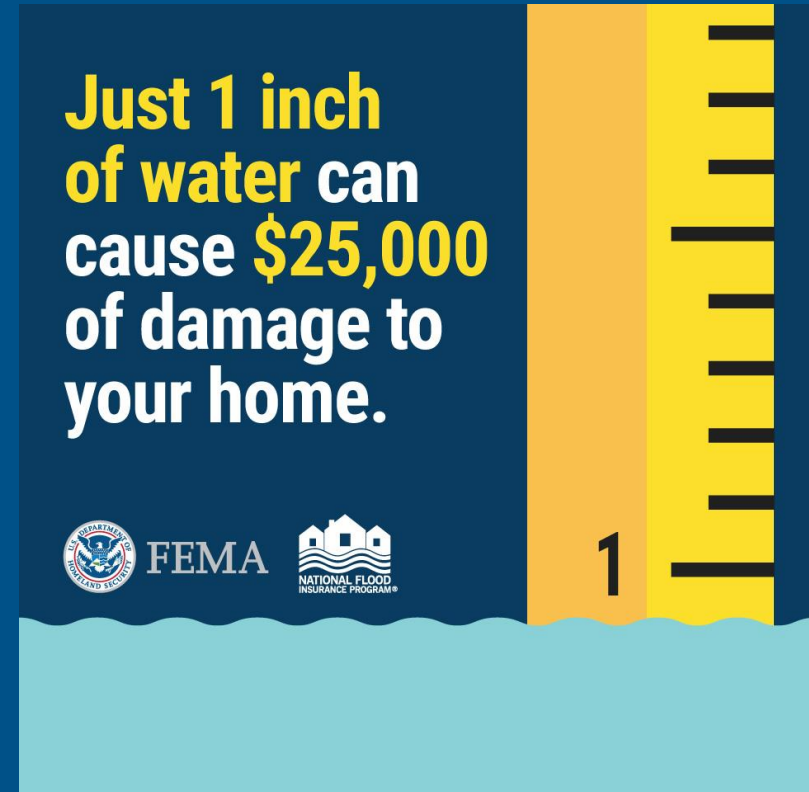


Source: FEMA at www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/community-rating-system
Date: April 2023



Benefits of Higher Standards

- Less damage from flooding and faster recovery
- More affordable flood insurance
- Safer places to live
- Economic growth



Common Higher Standards

Freeboard



Fill restrictions



No-rise requirements for entire floodplain



Open space preservation



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Recommended Higher Standards for Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage

Higher Standard	Further Details
Cumulative Substantial Improvement	Require compliance when the total value of all improvements or repairs over a specified period equals or exceeds 50% of the value of the structure
Cumulative Substantial Damage	Apply Substantial Damage requirements when multiple damage events add up to 50% over time
Repetitive Loss Property	Properties that meet the NFIP definition of repetitive loss must comply with current regulations
Lower threshold for Substantial Improvement and/or Substantial Damage	Set the threshold for Substantial Improvement and/or Substantial Damage lower than 50%. Increases the number of older homes brought into compliance with smaller improvements or after less severe damage.
Historic structures	Require historic structures to comply with Substantial Improvement and/or Substantial Damage requirements. Or require to the extent that buildings can still be deemed historic.



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Investing in Your Community

- Higher standards, building code minimums, and public mitigation grant projects save more than they cost.
- Case Study: The Left Hand Creek Flood Project saved Longmont, CO an estimated \$22 million.



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SMART INVESTING **MITIGATION SAVES**



Natural Hazard Mitigation Saves: 2017 Interim Report
nibs.org/mitigationsaves



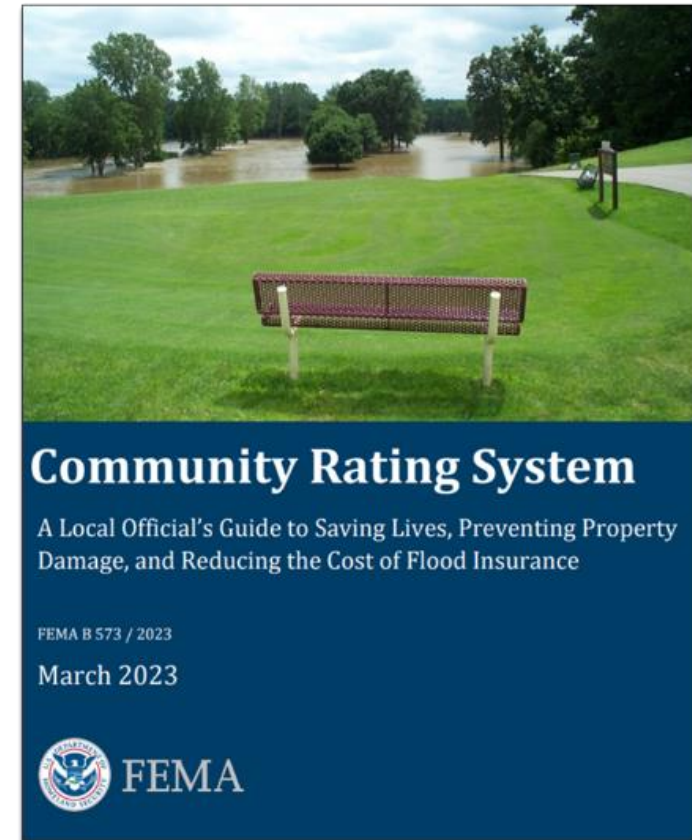
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Resources

- [Addendum to the CRS Coordinator's Manual](#)
- [Brochure for the Community Rating System](#)
- [Community Stories and Case Studies](#)



Activity: CRS and Higher Standards Discussion



Which of these higher standards do you think your community should adopt and why?

- Freeboard
- No-rise requirements
- Fill restrictions
- Open space preservation
- Lower thresholds for SI/SD



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Topic Summary

CRS is a voluntary incentive program that encourages floodplain management that exceeds the minimum requirements of the NFIP.

Benefits of higher standards:

- Less damage from flooding and faster recovery
- More affordable flood insurance
- Safer places to live
- Economic growth



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