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# You Are Invited to the Kick-Off Meeting!

JANUARY 31ST 2023 BY DEE LOFLIN

**You Are Invited to the Kick-Off Meeting!** On behalf of the Stoddard County Commission, you are invited to the Kick-Off Meeting to update the county's Multi-jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. The existing plan, approved by FEMA five year ago, was developed in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000.

To maintain eligibility for certain FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants, the Act requires jurisdictions to develop a plan to assess their risks to hazards and identify actions that can be taken to reduce future losses. The law requires Plans to be updated every five years; your participation is key to this process.

The Kickoff Meeting will be Monday, February 6, 2023 at the County Commission Meeting Chambers located at 403 S. Prairie St., Bloomfield, Missouri.

The planning process is heavily dependent on the participation of representatives from local government agencies and departments, the public, and other stakeholder groups. A Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee will be formed to support this project and will include representatives from the County, cities, school districts, private-non-profit entities, business partners, academic institutions, and other local, state, and federal agencies acting in or serving Stoddard County.

At the kickoff meeting, we discuss the benefits of updating the plan, the project schedule, and the hazards that affect Stoddard County, such as tornadoes, floods, extreme temperatures, severe winter weather, and more. Stoddard County requests your assistance in forwarding this invitation to others in your jurisdiction that might participate.

The Bootheel Regional Planning Commission is responsible for developing this plan. community Development Specialists Christy LeGrand and Christine Young (573) 614-5178, ext 106 are coordinating this effort. We need your participation to successfully complete this project and ensure your organization is eligible for FEMA hazard mitigation assistance funding. Cities, counties, and school districts that do not participate in an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan are **NOT ELIGIBLE** to apply for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants.

Please confirm your attendance or provide contact information for your designated alternate by responding to Christy LeGrand at **clegrand@bootrpc.com**

This information from Jim Grebing, Executive Director, Bootheel Regional Planning and Economic Development Commission.

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