



New York State

Department of Environmental Conservation

January 24, 2012

Dear Friend:

As you know, many areas of our state were hard hit by last year's record-breaking storms and subsequent flooding in the wake of Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. Governor Cuomo launched an immediate and coordinated response, deploying senior members of his administration across New York to serve as points of contact for our regions, activating the Labor for Your Neighbor volunteer initiative, and helping to expedite critical relief dollars for families and businesses reeling from the disaster.

Today, we are pleased to share with you that additional help is on the way. Applications for the Governor's Business Flood Recovery and Mitigation Grant programs, passed by the Legislature in December, are now available. The new law includes the following support for communities recovering from these storms:

- Business Flood Recovery Grant Program – \$21 million for small businesses, farms, multiple-dwellings and non-profit organizations that sustained direct physical flood-related damage costs not covered by other federal, state or local recovery programs. Grants are limited to a maximum of \$20,000 and will be provided to applicants that demonstrate the greatest need, based on available flood damage assessments provided by relevant federal agencies.
- Flood Mitigation Grant Program – \$9 million for county flood mitigation or flood control projects. The grants for each county range from \$300,000 to \$500,000; however, counties can jointly apply. Eligible counties must be included in the federal disaster declarations for Hurricane Irene or Tropical Storm Lee.

We urge you to visit the DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/79243.html and ESD at www.esd.ny.gov/BusinessPrograms/FloodRecovery.html to learn more about these programs and eligibility.

Under the Governor's leadership, the Department of Environmental Conservation and Empire State Development pledge our continued commitment to rebuilding our neighborhoods and providing the support needed to help communities get back to business.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Adams
President, CEO & Commissioner, ESD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph J. Martens". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Joseph J. Martens
Commissioner, DEC