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# OWDA's Emergency Relief Grant Program

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CIFA  
SRF Workshop  
October 2008

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# Emergency Relief Grant Program

- *Communities can receive relief from up to two semi-annual loan repayments if they are in a federal- or state-declared disaster area and have incurred loss or damage to their wastewater or water systems.*
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# Today's presentation will answer

- Why was the program created?
- What are the guidelines of the program?
- How much assistance has been provided to communities?



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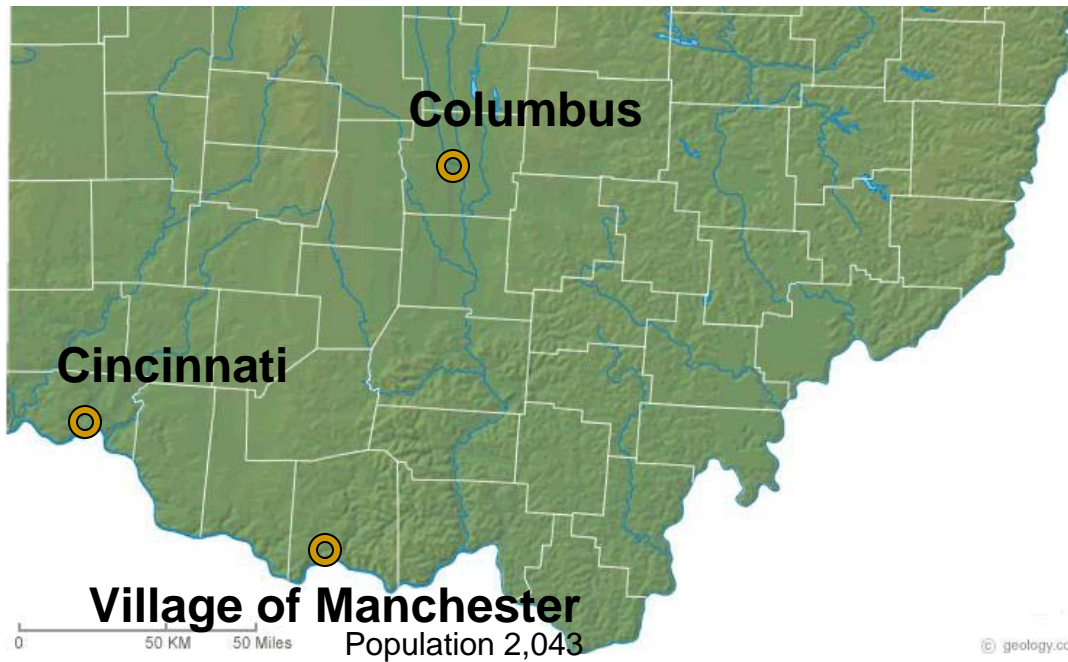
# March 1997 Flood

According to the National Weather Service  
Assessment Report -

*“The Ohio Valley is frequented by floods on an annual basis. However, flooding of the magnitude comparable to the floods of March 1997 is a rare occurrence. **Between March 1 and 3 , as much as 6 to 12 inches of rain fell in parts of northern Kentucky and southern Ohio.**”*

*Major flooding impacted a total of six states across the region. The most severe flooding occurred in Ohio and Kentucky with dozens of counties in each state declared natural disaster areas. Close to 14,000 homes were damaged or destroyed. Over 20,000 home and business owners applied for disaster relief. **Damage estimates totaled more than \$500 million.**”*

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*Photos Courtesy of The Columbus Dispatch*

# Governor asks State Agencies to help

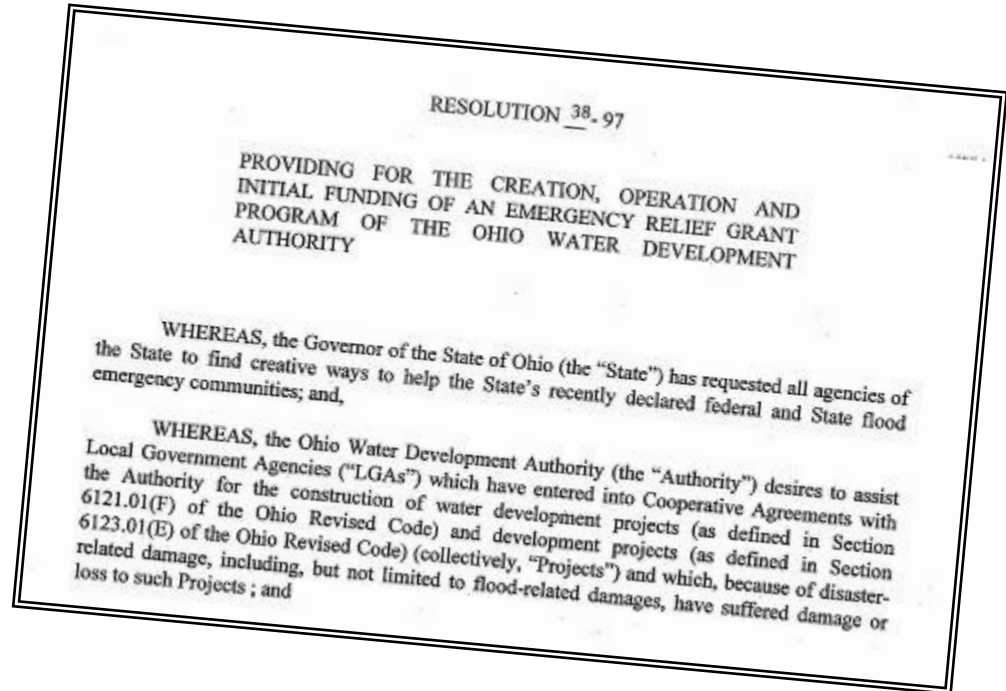
- Governor Voinovich requested all State Agencies to find ways to help the communities damaged by the recent flood.



# OWDA responds to Governor

OWDA creates the  
Emergency Relief Grant  
Program in April 1997

Program allows OWDA  
to make semi-annual  
payments on OWDA  
debt for communities  
that have suffered  
damage

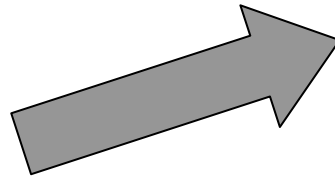


Communities can then use the revenue collected  
for their semi-annual payment to repair damages  
to their water or wastewater system

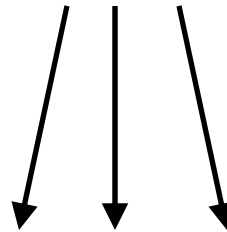
# The Flow of Funds



Unrestricted Funds



Emergency Relief Fund



Loan Repayment Accounts

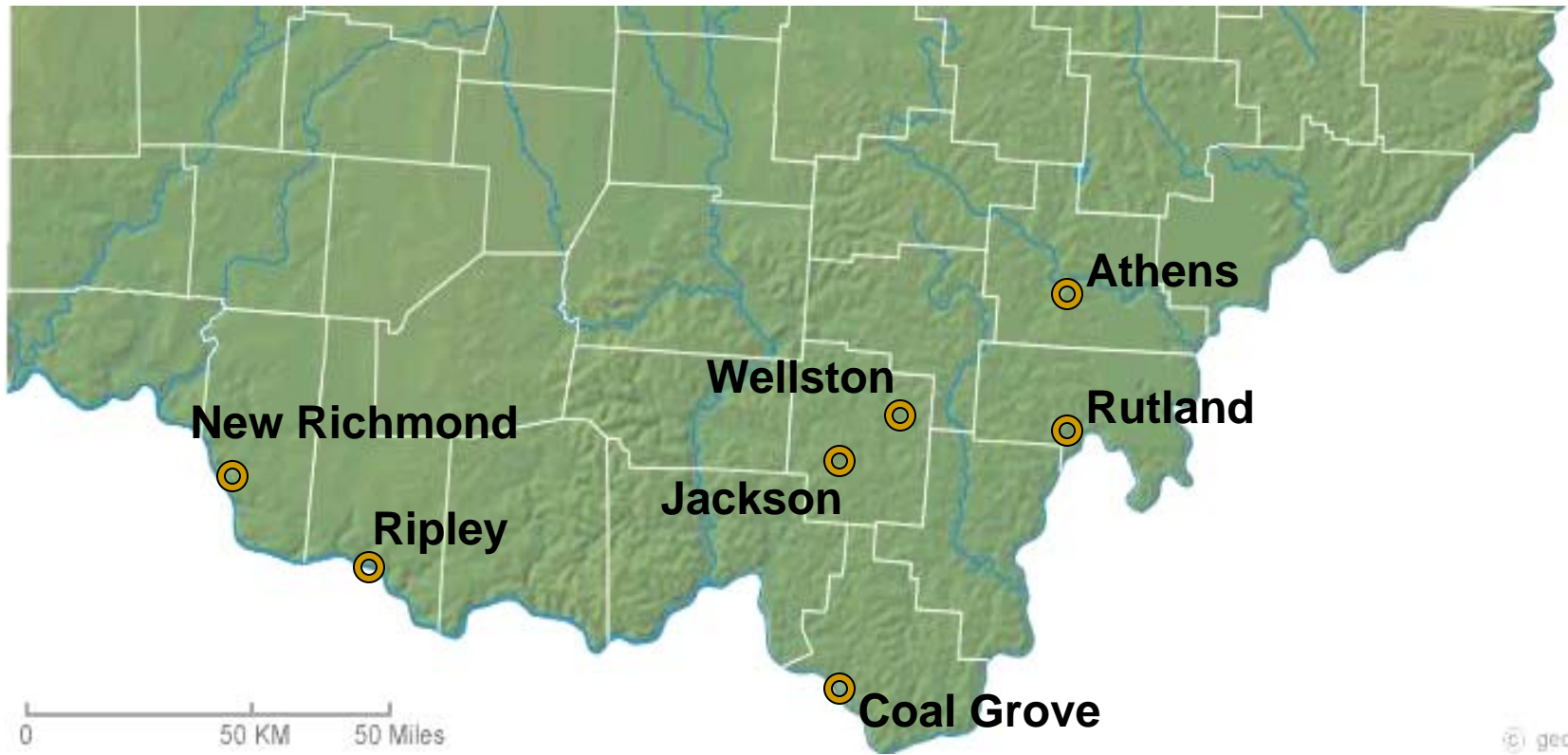
# OWDA awarded over \$907,000 to seven communities for damages from the 1997 flood

*New Richmond, Ohio (located on the Ohio River 20 miles east of Cincinnati) received \$134,000 to make repairs to their water system*



Jamie Sabau  
(reproduced with permission)

Figure 5. Ohio River floodwaters in New Richmond, Ohio, March 4, 1997.



Community	Population	Grant Award
Athens	21,342	\$404,000
Coal Grove	2,027	\$31,000
Jackson	6,184	\$155,000
New Richmond	2,219	\$134,000

Community	Population	Grant Award
Ripley	1,745	\$9,000
Rutland	401	\$52,000
Wellston	6,078	\$122,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$907,000</b>

# Communities are Notified



## OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

480 S. High St.  
Columbus, OH 43215-5603  
Phone: 614-466-6822  
Fax: 614-644-9964  
877-OWDA-23 (TOLL FREE)  
www.owda.org

Ted Strickland  
GOVERNOR

John D. McCullough  
CHAIRMAN

Steven J. Grossman  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM Ohio Water Development Authority

August 10, 2007

On August 8, 2007, Governor Ted Strickland issued an emergency proclamation for **Cuyahoga County** due to damage caused by severe storms that produced high winds, heavy rain and flash flooding in the area on August 7, 2007.

All local government agencies (cities, villages, and counties), water districts, sewer districts, and conservancy districts that have a loan(s) with the Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) and are located in a county of declared state of emergency may qualify for OWDA's Emergency Relief Program. This program provides short-term relief from OWDA loan repayments so communities can use their repayment funds to recover from damages or losses to their water or wastewater system resulting from a federal and/or state declared disaster.

OWDA will make a maximum of 2 semi-annual loan repayments from the Emergency Relief Program on behalf of qualifying communities. For additional information and application requirements please contact:

Ken J. Heigel, P.E.  
Chief Engineer  
Ohio Water Development Authority  
480 South High Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
614-466-0257  
[kheigel@owda.org](mailto:kheigel@owda.org)

# Hurricane Ike

Sep 14<sup>th</sup>

- Severe windstorms moved across Ohio

Sep 15<sup>th</sup>

- Governor issues Declaration of State of Emergency

Sep 16<sup>th</sup>

- OWDA notifies 650 communities about the Emergency Relief Grant Program



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# How does a community receive funds?

- Submit the following documentation:
    - Description of damage
    - Estimate of the repair or actual invoices
    - Certification that the damage was due to the disaster
    - Certification that the community has not received funds from FEMA or an insurance company for the same damage
  - OWDA staff will schedule a site visit to verify damage
  - OWDA staff will review documentation
  - OWDA staff makes recommendation to Board
  - Board takes action on recommendation from staff
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# Priority of Grant Awards

- Grants are based on availability of funds according to the following priority:
    - 1<sup>st</sup> – LGAs with a construction project underway using OWDA funds.
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> – LGAs with a completed project that was funded by OWDA
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> – LGAs with a construction project underway not funded by OWDA but has previous completed projects funded by OWDA
    - 4<sup>th</sup> – LGAs with a completed project funded by OWDA funds with the damage to another project
  - Loans from both the SRF program and OWDA's loan program are eligible to receive the grant funds.
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# Summary of ERF Awards

Year	Disaster Type	# of Communities	Total Award Amount
1997	Flooding	7	\$907,000
1998	Flooding	3	426,000
1999	Flooding	1	690,000
2000	Tornado	1	721,000
2001	Flooding and wind	1	32,600
2002			
2003	Flooding and wind	4	1,464,000
2004	Flooding	8	389,000
2005	Ice and wind	16	373,000
2006			
2007	Flooding	1	12,500
2008	Windstorm – Ike	?	?
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>\$5,015,100</b>