



NY Rising Housing Recovery Program

Fact Sheet for Optional Items

Revised July 8, 2015

In addition to the repair or reconstruction of homes, the program may provide funding for certain optional items - elevation, mitigation or bulkhead repair. The eligibility requirements and funding process for each of these items is explained below, both narratively and in the Description of Optional Items chart on page 4. Award amounts for optional items will be limited by Program Design Standards and Award Caps and reduced by Duplication of Benefits (DOB). Before you receive funding for any of these items you will be required to sign a Grant Agreement outlining the terms and obligations of the award.

Optional items are intended to increase the resiliency of homes participating in NY Rising. Program funds for these items are available only to applicants whose homes sustained damage in one of the eligible storms. Receipt of any NY Rising Program funds for elevation or optional mitigation (even if only for a designer) obligates you and your successors to retain flood insurance on your property in perpetuity, if you live in the 100-year flood plain.

Please also note that you have 60 days from the time you are notified of your eligibility to opt-in to submit the Opt-in for Optional Items Form if you wish to undertake any of these optional items. The Opt-in for Optional Items Form is available electronically at <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/opt>.

OPTIONAL ELEVATION

If your property is located in the 100-year flood plain and sustained less-than-substantial damage, you may choose to elevate your home to resist future damage. (If your home is in the 100-year flood plain and sustained substantial damage as documented by your municipality or floodplain administrator, you are required to elevate your home, and funds for elevation have already been included in your award calculation.)

If you are either required to elevate or have the option of elevating, the Program has already estimated the cost of elevating your home, and your Award Calculation Table reflects the Program's estimate of your elevation cost. Any financial assistance you received specifically for the elevation of your home (Elevation DOB) has been separately deducted from the Program's estimate of your elevation cost. However, the amount of the award you receive for elevation, added to the amount you are receiving for Repair/Reconstruction, may not exceed your overall Award Cap.



If you are eligible for Optional Elevation and choose to elevate, the Program will first issue you payment for 10% of the elevation estimate minus any elevation duplication of benefits. The payment is intended to cover the cost of hiring a designer to assist you in developing a scope of work and securing approval for the work from your municipality.

Before the Program will issue the first construction payment for the elevation of your home, your designer must complete and submit to the Program a complete set of elevation design materials. (Please see the documents “**Home Elevation Design Guidance**” and “**Program Maximum Design Criteria for Structural Elevation**” for a full description of the Program’s Optional Elevation design requirements. These documents, like all Program documents, are available at <http://stormrecovery.ny.gov/homeowner-resources-and-forms>). Upon submission of all required documents, the Program will release 50% of your remaining elevation award, to allow you to begin elevation work.

OPTIONAL MITIGATION

The Program may provide funds to pay for one or more of the following measures to protect your home against future storm damage up to an overall maximum of \$30,000:

- installation of roof strapping
- installation of backflow valves
- installation of flood vents
- elevation of electrical systems and components
- securing fuel tanks
- installation of cost-effective flood resistant building materials below base flood elevation

Important note: most of the above measures are included in the elevation process. If you are elevating or have already elevated, only two optional mitigation measures are available to you (since the others are already covered in the elevation process). Those two are roof strapping and backflow valves.

To determine the award amount you would receive for any of this work, you must hire a design professional to prepare a scope of work for the proposed work. Your award amount for the work will be determined by the Program after a review and approval of the scope. Your award will include a design fee of 10% of the estimated cost of the optional mitigation work to cover the cost of your design professional.

Funding for optional mitigation measures is available to homeowners repairing their homes when a) storm damage repair work is being performed on the dwelling’s related system, component or element; or b) code compliance work triggered by storm damage repair occurs on the system, component or element. For example, the Program will pay for the installation of roof strapping when the scope of storm damage repair includes roof decking that is damaged and has to be removed and replaced. This will expose the trusses/rafters and will allow for the installation of strapping.

BULKHEADS

The Program will fund bulkhead work for an applicant whose home was damaged in one of the qualified storms and whose bulkhead must be repaired or replaced to protect that home from storm damage in the future. The Program will only fund bulkhead repair/replacement in place and in kind. To determine



the award amount you would receive to perform this work, you must hire an engineer to prepare a scope of work for the bulkhead. Your engineer will need to produce all the elements necessary for a complete design package, detailed in the “**Bulkhead Design Guidance**” document found on our website. Upon request, the program will advance \$2,500 to cover the cost of preparing the design documents. Your award amount for the work will be determined by the program after a review and approval of the scope. Your award will include a design fee of 10% of the estimated cost of the bulkhead work to cover the cost your engineer, minus any design funds previously advanced .

HOW TO OPT-IN AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

In order to opt in to any of the above mentioned optional items, you must complete the **Opt-In for Optional Items Form**. Please complete the form online by going to <http://www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/opt>, entering the requested identifying information, selecting which of the optional items you want to undertake, and providing the requested information. If you are unable to sign online, please contact your Customer Representative who will assist you in the submission. **You must submit the Opt-in for Optional Items Form to us within 60 days of the date of this letter.**

After you have opted-in for any of these items you should consult the document “After Opting In” which can be found on the website. It will provide you and your designer with more information about which documents are required to meet the Program requirements.

You must submit all required elevation design documents within 210 days of your opting-in to elevation, i.e. the date you signed the Opt-In Form. All design documents for bulkhead and optional mitigation work must be submitted within 180 days of opting in for that item. All design documents should be sent to review@recreatenys.org and programmatic documents should be sent to your Customer Representative.

In all cases, you will be required to sign a Grant Agreement /Amendment outlining the terms and obligations of the award, before receiving any payment. After you have opted-in and signed a Grant Agreement or Amendment, the Program will release any design advance funds due to you. **However, the Program will not release any payments for the construction of any optional item until you have submitted all the required design documents as well as all basic programmatic documents necessary for your participation in the Program.** Please check with your Customer Representative to determine if any of these documents are missing from your file.

You may reconsider your decision to opt-in to any of these items after reviewing your design plans and the award you would receive to implement the work. If you accept a design fee advance and then decide not to proceed with the implementation of the scope of work for that item, you are not obligated to return the design funds actually expended for that item. Please note, however, that any

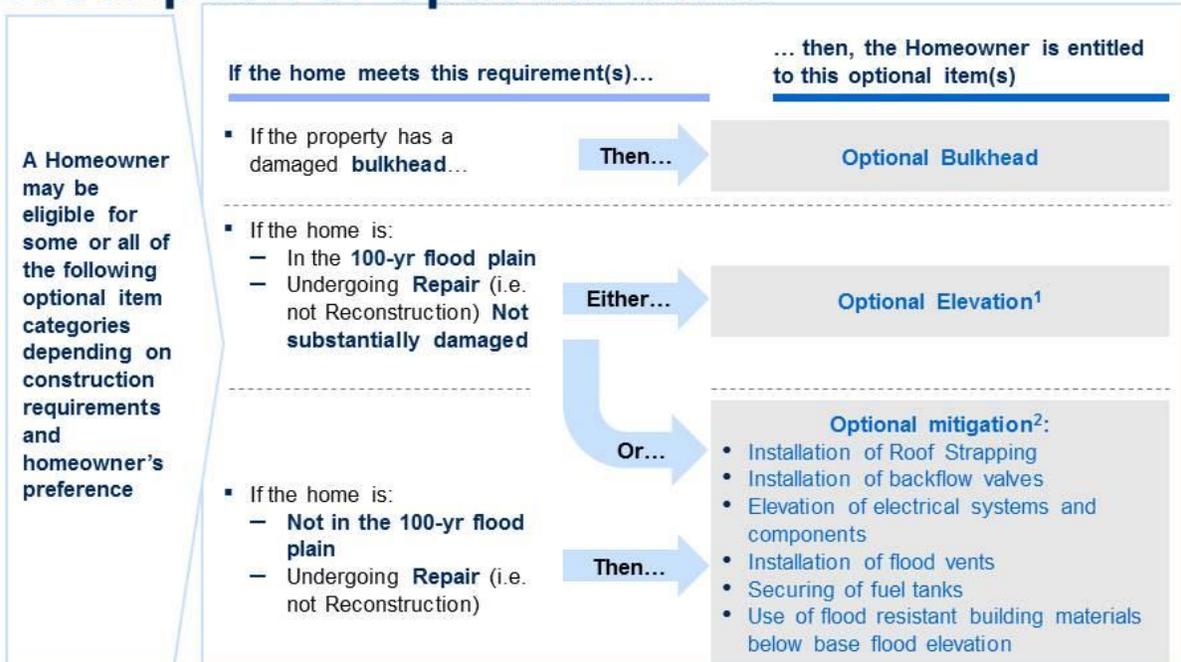


homeowner who receives any funding under NY Rising and whose home is in the 100-year flood plain is required to maintain flood insurance on the property in perpetuity.

Please also be aware that you will not receive any additional award payments if there is another matter, such as a non-construction clarification, which places a hold on the issuance of checks to you.

If you have any questions about the process to opt in to any of these items, please do not hesitate to call your Customer Representative. If you do not have your Customer Representative's number, you may call (855) 697-7263.

Description of Optional Items



¹ Homeowners opting for elevation can also choose the following optional mitigation items: Installation of Roof Strapping and/ or Installation of backflow valves

² Installation of Roof Strapping and Installation of backflow valves is available; other listed measures are only available where elevation has not taken place and will not take place.

SOURCE: NY Rising Housing Recovery Policy manual