The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is essential to completing half a million property sales each year, but it must be reauthorized by September 30, 2019 to continue providing flood insurance. REALTORS® support H.R. 3167 and urge Congress to find a way forward on a long-term NFIP reauthorization.

Properties at Risk

Every property in the state has some flood risk; wherever it rains, it can flood, yet not all at-risk are insured.

1,249,733 Total housing units, 2017
131,706 Housing units in the state within a 500-year floodplain, 2015
11,004 Number of NFIP policies in force as of April 30, 2019
1% Percent of housing units with an NFIP policy

Flood Insurance Benefits to Policyholders

For many, owning a property is the biggest source of wealth. The NFIP offers substantially more rebuilding assistance than FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) for uninsured properties.

$291,703 Median home value, 2019 Q1
$23,844 Average NFIP dollar amount paid on residential claims for properties in the state, 1996–2016
543 Number of NFIP paid claims
$9,417 Average IHP disaster payment to those without flood insurance in the state, 2006–2016
181 Number of IHP disaster payments

98% of U.S. counties have experienced at least one major flood disaster declaration. Without flood insurance, property owners must turn to the federal government for rebuilding assistance. The total cost to taxpayers of uninsured property damage is $3.4 billion each year.

[1] Source: NAR estimate
[2] Source: NYU Furman Center FloodzoneData.us based on FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer as of May 2016
[4] Source: NAR estimate using data from U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey and Federal Housing Finance Agency Home Price Index
[7] Source: FEMA
[8] Source: Congressional Budget Office Expected Costs of Damage from Hurricane Winds and Storm Related Flooding, p.3., April 2019

The one-year cost of flood damage to the residential sector is $20 billion, of which 17% is for federal disaster assistance ($3.4 B).


National Association of REALTORS®
August 2019