

City of Norman
Frequently Asked Questions
Shelter Rebate Program

There have been many inquires to the City of Norman regarding the safe room application submitted by the City of Norman to the State of Oklahoma in 2011. Recent tornados have left many communities devastated and citizens are inquiring whether or not there will be immediate funding available for our application or if, due to these events, it will speed up the process.

The following are some common questions regarding the rebate program and the current situation:

1. Is there a Shelter Rebate program currently available for City of Norman residents?

The City of Norman has applied to the State of Oklahoma to administer a program. The City has done everything that is required and it is an active application pending funding from the Hazard Mitigation program under the State Emergency Management Office. The residents selected in the drawing have been identified in the application.

2. Has the City of Norman applied for a grant from FEMA to provide private shelters?

During 2010, the City of Norman submitted a Notice of Intent to apply for a rebate program to the Oklahoma State Office of Emergency Management. Due to the amount of detail required for the application, the final application was completed and submitted to the State in early 2011. The process to apply for a grant does not go to FEMA. It is submitted to the State Office of Emergency Management's Hazard Mitigation Office. It begins with a Notice of Intent indicating the City is interested in administering a program. Quarterly, the State Hazard Mitigation Committee meets to review the Notice of Intents. When funding becomes available and the Notice of Intent is approved, the State will notify the City they are authorized to administer the grant. Assuming funding is available; an average time for a City to complete the process of application, get approval for a grant, and be able to assist the first citizen is 18 to 24 months. However, in recent years the amount of Hazard Mitigation money has been very limited, which in turn further delays the application approval.

3. Can I get a rebate if I already have my unit installed? Are there tax credits available if I have a unit installed?

No, currently there are no programs available that will retroactively provide for a shelter reimbursement. There are currently no tax credits available. This includes if you were selected for the application. If you have moved or sold the house indicated in the application, then you would not be eligible for a rebate. It is non-transferable.

5. Can I get my name on a list for the program?

Currently the City of Norman does not have a program designed to maintain a list of citizens interested in participating in a rebate program. Until the program is available any rules changes for the City to follow in determining a selection process of citizens to receive the benefit will be unknown. Maintaining a list of interested citizens would not qualify or guarantee their participation in any future program.

6. If I was on the list for the past programs, am I still on a list to get a reimbursement?

Only those chosen for the City's application are eligible once the application has been approved and we can administer the program. Any previous participation lists are no longer valid.

7. If a process to create a waiting list begins and I install a shelter or safe room while I am waiting will I get any reimbursement?

No, currently there are no programs available that will retroactively provide for a shelter reimbursement, even if you are on a waiting list.

8. How will I be notified when a program is available?

When the City of Norman has been approved to administer the program the City will notify those identified as part of the application and advise them of the procedure to complete the program.

9. If I am approved, how much will the reimbursement be?

The amount of the rebate will be 75% of the cost up to \$2500 whichever less is.

10. It was explained the money for safe rooms came from Hazard Mitigation money that returns to the State after a disaster. Now that we have had a federally declared disaster how fast will money be available? Will money for shelters become available faster because of these events?

In general, the money that returns to a state for hazard mitigation money is always determined based as a percentage of the total cost of the devastation and is for all funding, not just safe rooms. That cannot be determined until all damages have been documented through Public Assistance and jurisdictions apply for reimbursement for those Public Assistance funds. Due to the magnitude of this event, it is unknown how long it will be before any money will be available.