

FINANCING OF HOUSING PROJECTS
by
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
U. S. Housing Administrator

A Talk Delivered at a White House Conference on Finance and Employment

Washington, D. C., May 12, 1938

The National Shelter Policy, which is the responsibility of individuals and groups in all parts of our country, is a policy also properly put forward by the U. S. Housing Administration. We offer leadership, example and technical assistance.

Through its various programs of assistance to the state, county development and redevelopment, the Housing Agency has taken a number of important steps to support the Fair Deal White Policy. Most of them are designed to stimulate and assist the production of fallout shelter projects planned.

All of these actions have been developed with the full and helpful collaboration of Governor Foote and his staff. In the first place, we are giving real encouragement to the construction. We are doing this with our leadership with the building industry and with the home buying public to see that the National Shelter Policy is a success.

Before I describe the specific steps we have taken for fallout shelter, perhaps identify certain characteristics of the Federal Government's housing programs.

Electrostatic reproduction
for preservation of original
Eisenhower Library
and other historical documents

-2-

First. In all of HHPA's programs, Federal support takes the form of financial assistance through partial subsidies, loans, or loan insurance.

Second. HHPA will do one of two things (whether residential or non-residential) depending upon its judgment as to who is best suited either by private individuals or groups or by public agencies.

Third. When the financial assistance goes to a third parties, HHPA generally deals directly with those local agencies of government.

Here is a brief summary of the steps we are taking in HHPA to stimulate and assist in the construction of fallout shelters:

1. ShelterLink: by working with EPA, HHPA is putting its leverage behind the shelter industry and contractors to enter into building contracts with private individuals to set up fallout-shelter incorporating shelters in new buildings, existing buildings, and model homes.

This program is based on a belief that payment for every fallout shelter will make it appropriate to reflect their cost in property values for mortgage insurance purposes. This will make FHA loans generally available for shelter building. It is now planned to begin this throughout the country in certain areas of the program.

In addition, HHPA is taking a number of other measures to help mobilize its resources in regard to fallout shelter construction. These include special policy statements, a stand-by letter from the Secretary

Electrostatic reproduction made
for presentation to the
Fisher House Foundation
by the American Association
of Retired Persons

encouragement of home shelter construction, conferences designed to solicit the support and participation of local organizations, and the furnishing of technical assistance, materials, equipment, and funds to individuals and to the building industry.

2. Shelters in existing buildings - The construction of shelters in existing housing is being encouraged through the Civil Defense Program which involves the conversion of existing houses to shelters and repair. The FEMA Construction Branch will provide technical home improvement lenders (e.g., State Administrators, the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, and the Small Business Administration) with criteria for financing under the Civil Defense Program. Requests for requests there identifying institutions or organizations interested in the local Civil Defense Office, and to appropriate State and local government construction details as well as plans for equipping, maintaining,

3. Shelters in Multi-Family Buildings - Financed with FEMA assistance. The criteria and specifications for shelters in multi-family dwellings are being developed by the Office of Civil and Defense Preparedness. These technical guides are available, along with more detailed plans and drawings, to assist in the construction of family shelters in multi-family dwellings financed under its program of grants for research.

4. Public Shelters in Relocatable Residential Units - Financed by the Federal Urban Renewal Program. The Federal Urban Renewal Program has been adapted to encourage and assist the construction of public shelters on sites that have been cleared and redeveloped under that program. The Urban Renewal Committee has

Electrostatic precipitators made
for preserving artifacts in the
Emergency Utility Center
of the National Emergency Center

issued instructions to its state office representatives to cooperate fully in the Shelter Program by giving all aid and support to local public agencies to include public welfare departments, fire departments. A ruling has been made that public fallout shelter proposed by local public agencies may be accepted as part of the requirements of projects, thereby, and the structures must standards established by the Office of Civil Defense, Mobilization.

5. Shelters in Colleges - Shelters are assisted under the College Housing Program. HNFA's Community Facilities Administration makes loans to colleges and universities for the construction of dormitories and student and faculty housing. The Community Facilities Administration has ruled that the additional cost of providing space in these structures can be covered under the Federal loan. In addition, the Community Facilities Administration provides encouragement and technical assistance to institutions of higher learning to provide shelters in their dormitories and other construction assisted under the College Housing Program.

6. Shelters in Local Public Works - Financed under the Public Facilities Loan Program. HNFA's Community Facilities Administration makes loans to local public bodies for the construction of public facilities. Local Public Works are limited to small cities and provide space either in houses or along water and sewer facilities. Where the proposed project requires the construction of a building such as a pump house or a treatment plant there may be a shelter for the operating personnel in the system may be included.

Electrostatic precipitation made
by the
Hewitt
Company
of
Milwaukee,
Wisconsin

loan. As in the College Building Program, prospective loan applicants are told of the eligibility of shelters and are provided with technical assistance.

7. Inclusion of Shelters in Public Works Program. The Community Facilities Commission has authorized local governments and public bodies to plan appropriate fallout shelter projects. The Community Facilities Commission has ruled that public works activities which include fallout shelters are eligible for planning assistance. The Commissioner has further ruled that a public authority may submit a fallout project provided the applicant has authority to do this type of construction. Thus, through this program, a government can obtain assistance for the purpose of planning fallout shelters.

8. Shelters in Public Housing Program. The Office of Management and Budget has issued local housing authorities the authority to assist local public housing. Federal assistance is of two kinds: (a) the payment of financing of development costs; (b) the payment of annual rents. Payments to the local housing authority over a period of years for rents are to exceed the interest and amortization schedule required for the project construction. The Public Housing Authority may submit a request to local housing authorities to build fallout shelters on buildings containing public housing to the extent that it is practicable and feasible and increase of the Federal subsidy. This program will help to insure that the OMB has completed test data on fallout shelter requirements for shelters in multi-family dwellings.

Electrostatic decontamination made
the present possible by the
Fission Energy Corporation
and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers