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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ohio EMA Now Accepting Safe Room Applications from Homeowners

Hamilton County, OH — Hamilton County Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (EMHSA) is excited to announce that the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program is once again accepting applications for a rebate of the purchase and construction/installation of tornado safe rooms for Ohio homeowners selected to the program.

“The entire state of Ohio is at risk of an EF5 tornado, which produces 250 mile per hour winds capable of destroying most structures,” said Steve Ferryman, Ohio EMA mitigation branch chief. “A safe room is built to withstand these winds and resulting airborne debris and provides near absolute protection for occupants.”

A safe room is an extreme-wind shelter or space that provides protection to people during a tornado. It can be constructed/installed in one of several places in the home: in the basement, beneath a concrete slab-on-grade foundation or garage floor, or in an interior room on the first floor. A safe room may also be buried in the yard or be a stand-alone structure near your home.

Residents selected for the program are eligible for a rebate up to 75 percent of the cost to install or construct a safe room – up to a maximum of \$4,875. The Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program will use a computerized random selection process to select applicants. A priority list of applicants will be created from the selected applicants. Chosen homeowners will be notified by e-mail of their position on the priority list on or after March 22, 2018. Ohio EMA anticipates grant funding will become available this year and having a list of participants who meet program requirements will expedite the rebate process.

Hamilton County EMSHA encourages homeowners to apply for the Ohio Safe Room Rebate Program using the Ohio EMA website:

<https://sharpp.dps.ohio.gov/SafeRoom2016/AnnualSafeRoomPages/AnnualHomePage.aspx>. Interested homeowners have until 5 p.m. on March 19, 2018 to submit their applications.

For more information, please call Dan Clevidence, at 614-799-3533.

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