



# Flood Preparedness & Awareness Audit

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Austin City Auditor's Office | March 2026



# Background



**Located in Flash Flood Alley**



**History of flood emergencies**



**New study shows heavier rainfall**



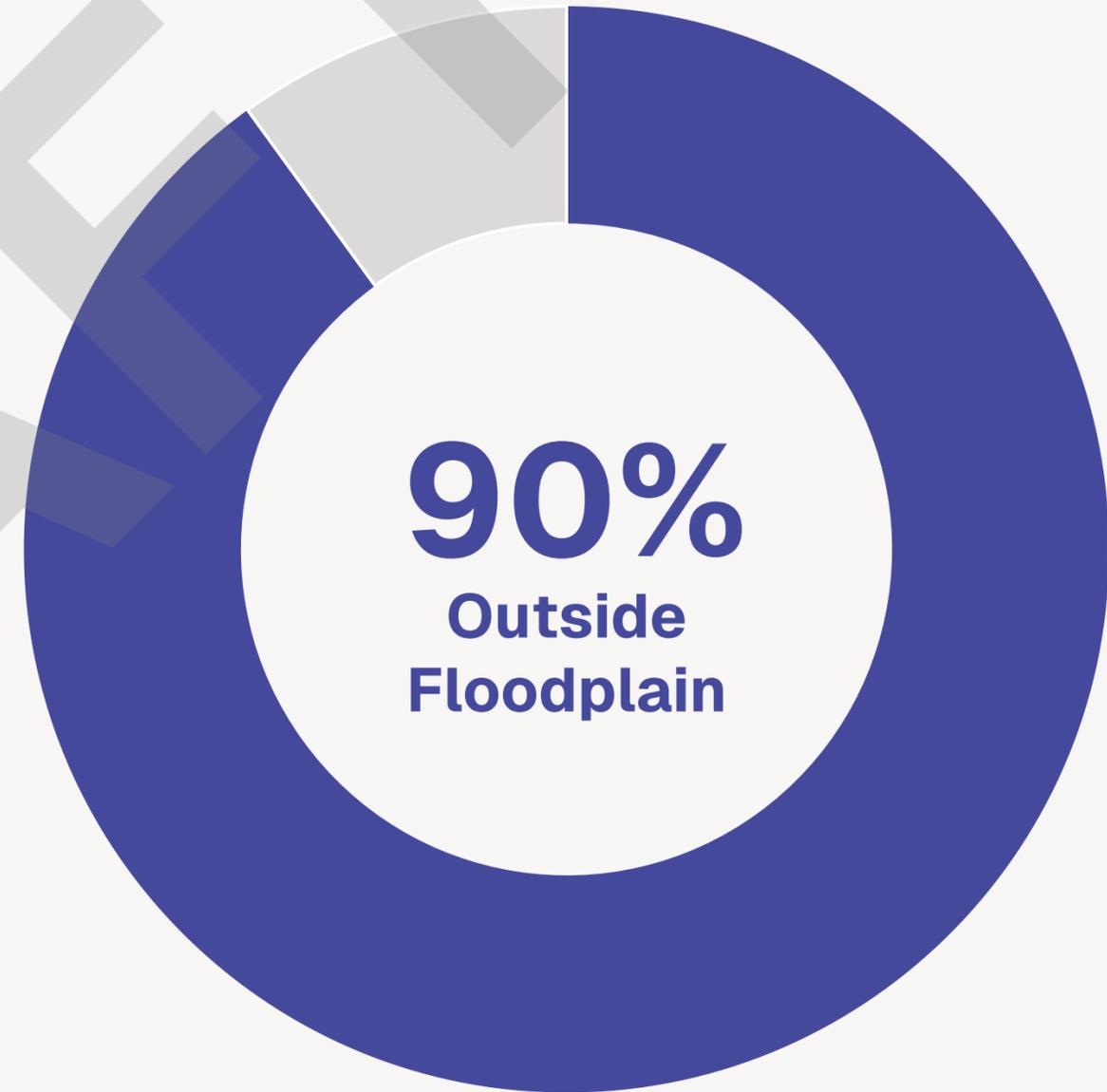
**Floodplain has expanded**



# Flooding is a Citywide Concern

## Flood risk comes from:

- **Creek flooding**
- **Localized street and drainage flooding**





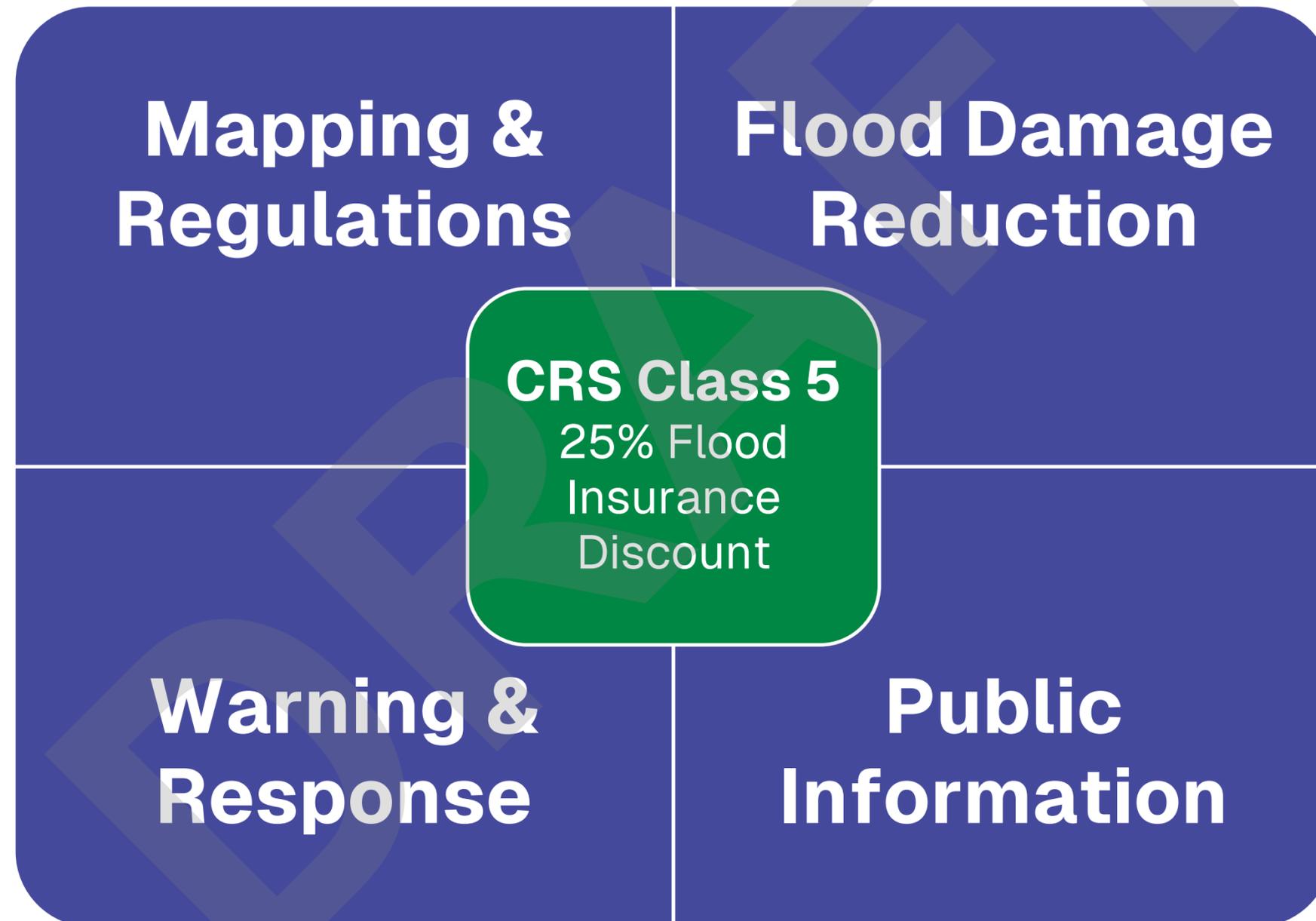
# Finding 1:

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**Austin Watershed Protection (AWP) has a robust approach to flood preparedness.**



# Flood Preparedness Strategy



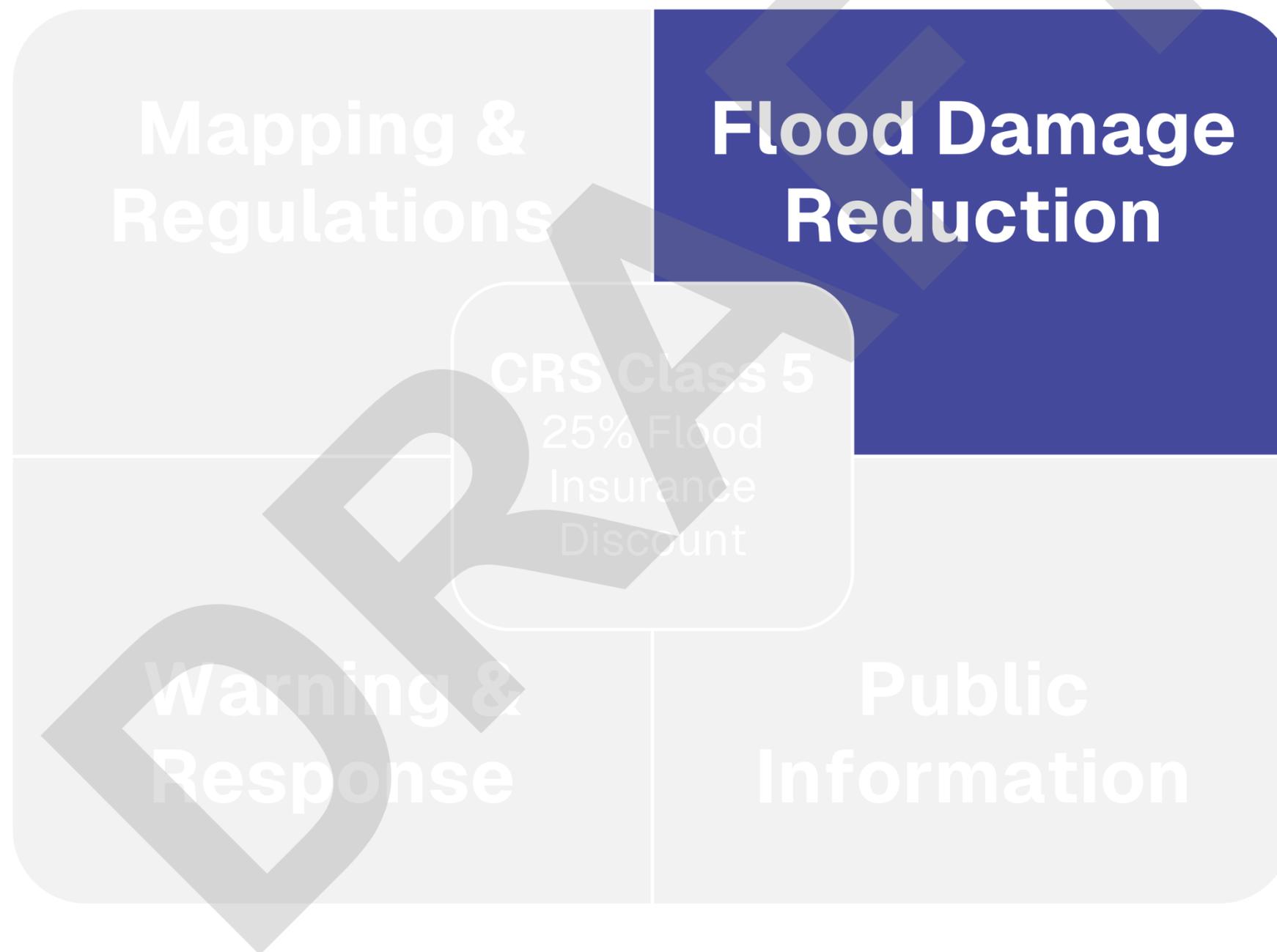


# Flood Preparedness Strategy





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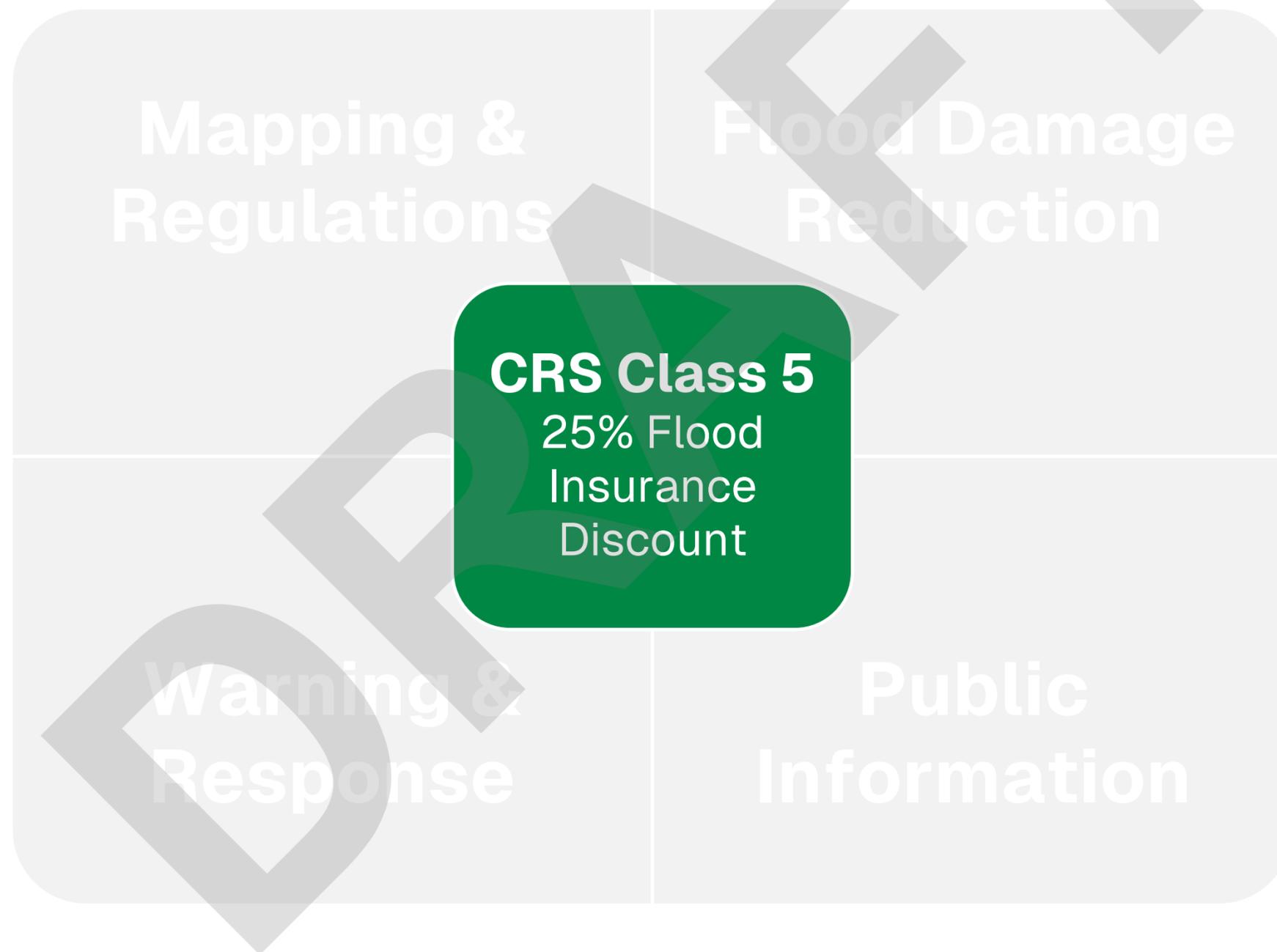


# Flood Preparedness Strategy





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## **Finding 2:**

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**Opportunities exist to improve public outreach and the department's data.**



# Education & Awareness

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**Clear  
Language**



**Vulnerable  
Populations**



**Consistent  
Messaging**



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# Education & Awareness

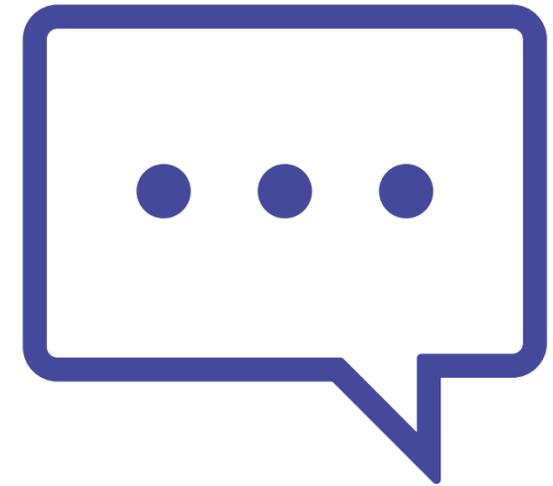
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# Data Limitations



## Localized flooding relies on 3-1-1



Minor data issues may impact AWP's ability to:

- Measure progress
- Identify trends
- Prioritize their work

# Data Limitations



**Localized flooding relies on 3-1-1**



**Minor data issues may impact AWP's ability to:**

- **Measure progress**
- **Identify trends**
- **Prioritize their work**



# Recommendations:

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- 1. AWP should work with the City Manager to ensure residents and visitors receive clear and consistent messaging about flood risks and what to do in the event of a flood.**
- 2. Strengthen the consistency, reliability, and use of data that informs flood-risk prioritization.**