

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM)

FACT SHEET

I. HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)

What is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?

HMGP is authorized by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended (the Stafford Act), Title 42, United States Code (U.S.C.) 5170c. The key purpose of HMGP is to provide the opportunity to take critical mitigation measures to reduce future loss of life and property during the reconstruction process following a disaster.

HMGP is available, when authorized under a Presidential major disaster declaration, in the Tribe or areas of the State requested by the Governor. The amount of HMGP funding available is based upon the estimated total Federal assistance provided by FEMA for disaster recovery under the Presidential major disaster declaration.

Who is eligible to apply?

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding is only available to applicants that reside within a Presidentially declared disaster area. Eligible applicants are

- State and local governments
- Indian tribes or other tribal organizations
- Certain non-profit organizations

What types of projects can be funded by the HMGP?

HMGP funds may be used to fund projects that will reduce or eliminate the losses from future disasters. Projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem, for example, elevation of a home to reduce the risk of flood damages as opposed to buying sandbags and pumps to fight the flood. In addition, a project's potential savings must be more than the cost of implementing the project. Funds may be used to protect either public or private property or to purchase property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage. Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of real property for willing sellers and demolition or relocation of buildings to convert the property to open space use
- Retrofitting structures and facilities to minimize damages from high winds, earthquake, flood, wildfire, or other natural hazards
- Elevation of flood prone structures
- Safe room construction
- Development and initial implementation of vegetative management programs
- Minor flood control projects that do not duplicate the flood prevention activities of other Federal agencies
- Localized flood control projects, such as certain ring levees and floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities
- Post-disaster building code related activities that support building code officials during the reconstruction process

What are the minimum project criteria?

There are five issues you must consider when determining the eligibility of a proposed project.

- Does your project conform to your State's Hazard Mitigation Plan?
- Does your project provide a beneficial impact on the disaster area i.e. the State?
- Does your application meet the environmental requirements?
- Does your project solve a problem independently?
- Is your project cost-effective?

II. **PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (PDM)**

What is the Pre-Disaster Mitigation competitive grant program?

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) competitive grant program provides funds to State, Tribal, and local governments for pre-disaster mitigation planning and projects primarily addressing natural hazards. Cost-effective pre-disaster mitigation activities reduce risk to life and property from natural hazard events before a natural disaster strikes, thus reducing overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. Funds will be awarded on a competitive basis to successful applicants for mitigation planning and project applications intended to make local governments more resistant to the pacts of future natural disasters.

Who can apply for a PDM competitive grant?

Eligible PDM competitive grant applicants include state and territorial emergency management agencies, or a similar office of the State, District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and Federally-recognized Indian Tribal governments.

- ✓ Eligible Sub-applicants include State agencies; Federally-recognized Indian Tribal governments; and local governments (including State recognized Indian Tribal governments and Alaska native villages).
- ✓ Applicants can apply for PDM competitive grant funds directly to FEMA, while Sub-applicants must apply for funds through an eligible Applicant.
- ✓ Private non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for PDM but may ask the appropriate local government to submit an application for the proposed activity on their behalf.

What are eligible PDM projects?

Multi-hazard mitigation projects must primarily focus on natural hazards but also may address hazards caused by non-natural forces. **Funding is restricted to a maximum of \$3M Federal share per project.** The following are eligible mitigation projects:

- ✓ Acquisition or relocation of hazard-prone property for conversion to open space in perpetuity;
- ✓ Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities (including designs and feasibility studies when included as part of the construction project) for wildfire, seismic, wind or flood hazards (e.g., elevation, flood proofing, storm shutters, hurricane clips);
- ✓ Minor structural hazard control or protection projects that may include vegetation management, Stormwater management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins), or shoreline/landslide stabilization; and,
- ✓ Localized flood control projects, such as certain ring levees and floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and that do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system.

Mitigation Project Requirements

Projects should be technically feasible (see Section XII. Engineering Feasibility) and ready to implement. Engineering designs for projects must be included in the application to allow FEMA to assess the effectiveness and feasibility of the proposed project. The project cost estimate should complement the engineering design, including all anticipated costs. FEMA has several formats that it uses in cost estimating for projects. Additionally, other Federal agencies' approaches to project cost estimating can be used as long as the method provides for a complete and accurate estimate. FEMA can provide technical assistance on engineering documentation and cost estimation (see Section XIII.D. Engineering Feasibility).

Mitigation projects also must meet the following criteria:

1. Be cost-effective and substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering resulting from a major disaster, consistent with 44 CFR 206.434(c)(5) and related guidance, and have a Benefit-Cost Analysis that results in a benefit-cost ratio of 1.0 or greater (see Section X. Benefit-Cost Analysis). **Mitigation projects with a benefit-cost ratio less than 1.0 will not be considered for the PDM competitive grant program;**
2. Be in conformance with the current FEMA-approved State hazard mitigation plan;
3. Solve a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a solution where there is assurance that the project as a whole will be completed, consistent with 44 CFR 206.434(b)(4);
4. Be in conformance with 44 CFR Part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, and 44 CFR Part 10, consistent with 44 CFR 206.434(c)(3);
5. Not duplicate benefits available from another source for the same purpose, including assistance that another Federal agency or program has the primary authority to provide (see Section VII.C. Duplication of Benefits and Programs);
6. Be located in a community that is participating in the NFIP if they have been identified through the NFIP as having a Special Flood Hazard Area (a FHBM or FIRM has been issued). In addition, the community must not be on probation, suspended or withdrawn from the NFIP; and,
7. Meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local laws.

What are examples of Ineligible PDM Projects?

The following mitigation projects are ***not*** eligible for the PDM program:

- ✓ Major flood control projects such as dikes, levees, floodwalls, seawalls, groins, jetties, dams, waterway channelization, beach nourishment or re-nourishment;
- ✓ Warning systems;
- ✓ Engineering designs that are not integral to a proposed project;
- ✓ Feasibility studies that are not integral to a proposed project;
- ✓ Drainage studies that are not integral to a proposed project;
- ✓ Generators that are not integral to a proposed project;
- ✓ Phased or partial projects;
- ✓ Flood studies or flood mapping; and,
- ✓ Response and communication equipment.