



FEMA

MITIGATION DIRECTORATE

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

BUILDING STRONGER AND SAFER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States, local governments, and Indian tribes for long-term hazard mitigation projects following a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property in future disasters by funding mitigation measures during the recovery phase of a natural disaster.

HMGP LEADS TO LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS

HMGP funds can be used to make improvements to public or private property. To be eligible, a project must provide a long-term solution to a specific risk. Examples are:

- Elevating flood-prone homes or businesses. The structure is raised to have a higher first floor that allows floodwater to flow under the house rather than through it.
- Acquisition of (and either demolishing or relocating) flood-prone homes from willing owners and returning the property to open space. The local government becomes the new owner of the property.
- Retrofitting buildings to minimize damage from high winds, flooding, earthquakes, and other hazards. FEMA and other organizations have worked to develop model code requirements and building guides to aid in the process.
- Floodwall systems to protect critical facilities.

HMGP FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY STATES

During the recovery phase of a disaster, local jurisdictions select projects that could reduce property damage from future disasters, and submit grant applications to the State. Indian tribes and certain non-profit organizations can also

apply, and local governments can apply on behalf of individual property owners. The States administer the HMGP program. They establish mitigation priorities for the State, facilitate the development of applications, and submit applications to FEMA based on State criteria and available funding. They can also set limits on grant amounts.

FEMA conducts a final eligibility review to ensure compliance with Federal regulations. HMGP projects must comply with Federal environmental laws and regulations, be cost-effective, and be technically feasible.

HMGP GRANTS AVAILABLE TO COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY DISASTERS

Total grant funding: HMGP funding is allocated using a "sliding scale" formula based on the percentage of the funds spent on Public and Individual Assistance programs for each Presidentially-declared disaster. For States with a Standard State Mitigation Plan, the formula provides 15 percent of the first \$2 billion of estimated aggregate amounts of disaster assistance; 10 percent for the next portion of amounts between \$2 billion and \$10 billion; and 7.5 percent for the next portion of amounts between \$10 billion and \$35.333 billion.

Funding formula: FEMA pays up to 75 percent of the project cost. Either the State or the applicant(s) covers the remaining 25 percent, although it need not be in cash. In-kind services and materials can be used.



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Federal law requires States and local jurisdictions to have a mitigation plan prior to receipt of HMGP funds. The plan must identify hazards, assess community needs, and describe a community-wide strategy for reducing risks associated with natural disasters.

PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS: REMOVING PEOPLE AND PROPERTY FROM HARM'S WAY

The acquisition of property can be an effective way to move people and property away from high-risk areas. An acquisition can apply to a single piece of property or an entire neighborhood.

Acquisition projects funded through the HMGP are voluntary and homeowners are never forced to sell their property. The decision to buy damaged property is made by the local government and the property owners, not FEMA. Once an acquisition project is approved by the State and FEMA, the community uses Federal funds to purchase the home or building, and the land is restricted to open space, recreation, or wetlands in perpetuity.

ADDITIONAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program assists States, Indian tribes, and local governments with cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive mitigation program. The program provides applicants with an opportunity before disasters strike to raise risk awareness and reduce disaster losses through planning and project grants. Potential activities range from plan development to structural retrofits, acquisitions of property in high-risk areas, and safe room construction.

PDM applicants compete for funding on a national basis. Public colleges and universities can apply as sub-applicants through a State or local government. In addition, State or local governments can apply on behalf of private non-profit organizations and institutions. The program operates on an annual cycle and is subject to Congressional appropriations.

FEMA's Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) is a pre-disaster program that provides project, planning, and technical assistance grants to States and communities to help reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage. Mitigation projects must address buildings and structures that are insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The States set mitigation priorities and award grant applications.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional HMGP resources and information, visit <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/hmgp/index>.