The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is available to the State of Washington following a Presidential declaration of a major disaster. This state-administered program is authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Section 404 of Public Law 93-288, as amended. HMGP funds mitigation planning initiatives and mitigation projects designed to reduce or eliminate the effects and costs of future disaster damage.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

-State Government - Special Districts - Certain Private Nonprofit Organizations providing Government Services and Facilities
-Local Government - Indian Tribes - Like-Government Services and Facilities

Applicants must be jurisdictions that are participating in and in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program, and in compliance with State Growth Management Act requirements, or located in a community that is.

FUNDING CONSTRAINTS

The grants are available to eligible applicants on a competitive basis with the following cost share: 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal (applicant and state may split this share, based on legislative approval). The amount available for the HMGP is based on a percentage of FEMA expenditures on disaster assistance, which may limit the size of projects and grant awards. All mitigation project proposals will be evaluated against federal and state program criteria and they must be must be cost-effective.

APPLICATION & FUNDING PROCESS

1. Potential applicants submit pre-applications to participate in the program.
2. Following review of pre-applications, the State Emergency Management Division (State EMD) provides application packets to eligible applicants with potentially eligible projects.
3. State EMD reviews submitted applications for eligibility, with site visits conducted as necessary.
4. A state-local review committee evaluates and scores the applications.
5. State EMD recommends projects to FEMA for funding based upon scores and available funds.
6. FEMA makes grant awards following its review, which includes environmental and historic preservation considerations, as required.
7. Upon notification of approval and funding, State EMD prepares a grant funding agreement with the applicant and provides a notice to proceed.

ELIGIBLE PLANS & PROJECTS

Among the eligible mitigation projects are (see FY 2015 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program Guidance, page 33):

- Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition
- Property Acquisition and Structure Relocation
• Structure Elevation
• Mitigation Reconstruction
• Dry Flood-proofing of Historic Residential Structures
• Dry Flood-proofing of Non-Residential Structures
• Generators (for critical facilities/infrastructure)
• Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects
• Non-localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects
• Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings
• Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities
• Safe Room Construction
• Wind Retrofit for One- and Two-Family Residences
• Infrastructure Retrofit (utility systems, roads, bridges)
• Soil Stabilization
• Wildfire Mitigation
• Post-Disaster Code Enforcement
• 5% Initiative Projects
• Climate Resilient Mitigation (Aquifer Storage and Recovery; Floodplain and Stream Restoration; Flood Diversion and Storage; and Green Infrastructure. See FEMA Fact Sheets for more information on these newly eligible activities

(*) Miscellaneous/Other

(*) Any proposed action will be evaluated on its own merit against program requirements. Eligible projects will be approved provided funding is available. There is an emphasis on projects that address Climate Change and Resilience.

NOTE: Applicants must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation plan in order to be eligible to apply for project grant funds.

INELIGIBLE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

Among the ineligible mitigation projects are (see FY 2015 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program Guidance, pages 42-44):

• Projects that do not reduce the risk to people, homes, neighborhoods, structures, or infrastructure
• Projects dependent on a contingent action to be effective and/or feasible (i.e., not stand-alone)
• Projects with the sole purpose of open space acquisition of unimproved land
• Property acquisition projects that are not compatible with open space and do not maintain open space for the conservation of natural floodplain functions or properties that include encumbrances that may allow for horizontal drilling or fracking
• Non-localized flood risk reduction projects specific to FMA
• Flood control projects related to the repair or replacement of dams or flood control structures and repair of dams for the purpose of regular pre-scheduled or damage-induced maintenance
• Projects for which actual physical work such as groundbreaking, demolition, or construction has occurred prior to grant award
• Projects for preparedness activities or temporary measures (e.g., sandbags, bladders, geotubes)
• Projects that create revolving loan funds
• Activities required as a result of negligence or intentional actions that contributed to the
conditions to be mitigated; activities intended to remedy a code violation; or the reimbursement of legal obligations, such as those imposed by a legal settlement, court order, or State law

- All projects located in Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) Units, other than property acquisition and structural demolition or relocation projects for open space under HMA
- Projects located in an OPA that require flood insurance after project completion
- Activities on Federal lands or associated with facilities owned by another Federal entity
- Projects related to beach nourishment or re-nourishment
- Projects for hazardous fuels reduction in excess of 2 miles from at-risk buildings and structures
- Projects that address unmet needs from a disaster that are not related to mitigation
- Retrofitting facilities primarily used for religious purposes, such as places of worship (or other projects that solely benefit religious organizations)
- Activities that only address manmade hazards
- Projects that address, without an increase in the level of protection, the operation, deferred or future maintenance, rehabilitation, restoration, or replacement of existing structures, facilities, or infrastructure (e.g., dredging, debris removal, replacement of obsolete utility systems or bridges)
- Landscaping for ornamentation (e.g., trees, shrubs)
- Site remediation of hazardous materials (with the exception of eligible activities)
- Water quality infrastructure projects
- Projects that address ecological issues related to land and forest management
- Prescribed burning or clear-cutting
- Creation and maintenance of fire breaks, access roads, or staging areas
- Irrigation systems
- Preparedness measures and response equipment (e.g., response training, electronic evacuation road signs, interoperable communications equipment)
- Studies not directly related to the design and implementation of a proposed mitigation project
- Information dissemination activities that exceed 10 percent of the total planning application
- Limited plan revisions that do not result in comprehensive hazard mitigation plan update

CONTACTS:

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