



Fact Sheet

Washington State Hazard Mitigation Assistance is available 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. The competitive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds mitigation planning initiatives and mitigation projects designed to reduce or eliminate the effects and costs of future disaster damage.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- State Governments
- Local Governments
- Special Purpose Districts
- Federally-recognized Tribes
- Private Non-profits Providing Essential Government Services

FUNDING GUIDELINES

The maximum available federal share for HMGP grants is 75% of the total approved project expenses. Each grant has a 25% non-federal match requirement, which the state splits equally with the local grant recipient (12.5% state, 12.5% local, with limited exceptions).

The amount available for the HMGP round is based on a percentage of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) expenditures on disaster assistance, which may limit the size of projects and grant awards. All mitigation project proposals must be cost-effective and will be evaluated against federal and state program criteria.

APPLICATION & FUNDING PROCESS

1. Potential applicants submit a Pre-Application to express interest in the program or funding round.
2. Following review of Pre-Applications, the Washington State Emergency Management Division (EMD) invites eligible applicants with potentially eligible projects to complete a full application package.
3. EMD grant coordinators review the submitted applications for eligibility, conducting site visits as necessary.
4. EMD recommends projects to FEMA for funding based on eligibility and available funds.
5. Following thorough reviews, FEMA makes grant awards.
6. Upon notification of eligibility and funding, EMD staff prepares a grant funding agreement with the applicant, provides a notice to proceed, and assists the applicant through the lifecycle of the grant.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

For a comprehensive list of eligible activities, please see FEMA's HMA Mitigation Activity Chart:
<https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-mitigation-activity-chart>

Examples of eligible mitigation activities are:

- Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition or Relocation
- Structure Elevation
- Dry Flood-proofing of Historic Residential Structures
- Dry Flood-proofing of Non-Residential Structures
- Generators (for critical facilities/infrastructure)
- Hazard Mitigation Plans and Plan Updates (Planning grant)
- Infrastructure Retrofit (utility systems, roads, bridges)

- Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects
- Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities
- Soil Stabilization
- Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Miscellaneous/Other (Any proposal will be evaluated on its own merit against program requirements.)

NOTE: Applicants must have a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan to be eligible to apply for project grant funds (with limited exceptions). See the “Eligible Activities” section of FEMA’s [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance](#) for more information.

INELIGIBLE MITIGATION ACTIVITIES

Certain types of activities will be ineligible for HMGP grant funds. Examples of ineligible mitigation activities are:

- 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 Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants
- 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 Otherwise Protected Area (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 human-made 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

- 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 proposed budget
- Limited plan revisions that do not result in comprehensive hazard mitigation plan update

For more information regarding Hazard Mitigation Assistance, please contact the WA EMD HMA staff at HMA@mil.wa.gov.