



# HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM DR-4481 Announcement

Washington State Military Department

Emergency Management Division

Camp Murray, WA 98430

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program: DR-4481 HMGP Application Round

**Pre-Application Form submission deadline: November 30, 2021**

A new Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) round is now available in Washington State through the federal Major Disaster Declaration DR-4481-WA (*COVID-19 Pandemic*). This grant opportunity was [announced by the White House](#) on August 05, 2021, and is intended to fund HMGP-eligible activities that reduce the impacts of climate change. WA State Emergency Management Division (WA EMD) is responsible for coordinating with FEMA to administer this grant round.

HMGP provides cost-share grants to eligible entities for cost-effective mitigation projects, new Hazard Mitigation Plans and/or Plan updates. Local jurisdictions, special-purpose districts, qualified non-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribes are encouraged to submit Pre-Application Forms to WA EMD expressing their interest in applying for grant funding under this unified round.

In addition to the below information, the following linked documents provide essential HMGP details:

- [HMGP Pre-Application Form \(Word\)- attached](#)
- [WA EMD's DR-4481 HMGP website](#)
- [FEMA's HMGP website](#)
- [FEMA's Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance](#) and [Addendum](#)

### **Eligibility Criteria for Sub-Applicants**

Eligible sub-applicants for HMGP include local governments, special purpose districts, state agencies, private non-profits providing essential government services, and federally recognized Tribal Nations. The DR-4481 HMGP round is open to all eligible entities in Washington.

There are two main types of HMGP grants: mitigation project grants and mitigation planning grants. To be eligible for a project grant, sub-applicants (other than private non-profits) must have, or be formally annexed to, a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. Sub-applicants that do not have FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans are only eligible for mitigation planning grants to create new Hazard Mitigation Plans or update expired Plans.

In some cases, entities already in the process of updating an expired (or expiring) Hazard Mitigation Plan may be able to submit an HMGP application for funding consideration prior to final Plan approval. WA EMD will provide further guidance on this topic on a case-by-case basis.

### **Available Funding and Cost-Shares**

Washington's available funding amounts for the DR-4481 grant round are as follows:

75%: Federal Share	25%: Non-Federal Share		100%: All Shares
FEMA-Provided	State- 12.5% <sup>1</sup>	Local- 12.5%	FEMA + State + Local
\$ 70,890,618.00	\$ 11,815,103.00	\$ 11,815,103.00	\$ 94,520,824.00

<sup>1</sup> While WA EMD does not currently anticipate any changes or revisions to the availability of this state share, the funding is contingent upon Legislature's continued support and approval.

All HMGP grants have a 25 percent (minimum) non-federal match requirement, which Washington State will split equally with the local grant recipient. The maximum available federal share is 75 percent of the total approved project expenses.

All HMGP funds are provided on a reimbursement basis during the approved Period of Performance. Any project implementation work conducted prior to grant award is not eligible for reimbursement (limited exceptions apply to eligible *pre-award* costs as defined in [FEMA's Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance](#)).

In addition to the amounts shown in the above table, federal HMGP funds are also available to entities who receive a grant to help cover their eligible *Subrecipient Management Costs*, up to 5% of their total subaward (all shares). Eligible Management Costs are administrative expenses incurred by a subrecipient to manage their HMGP subgrant, which are different from costs directly related to managing or implementing their mitigation activities. Subrecipient Management Costs are provided during the subgrant's Period of Performance on a reimbursement basis and require no local match (that is, they are funded with 100% federal cost-share). More information on Subrecipient Management Costs is available on the WA EMD website and provided to sub-applicants upon invitation to apply.

### **Priorities and Preferred Project Types**

For DR-4481 HMGP, funding priority will be given to eligible mitigation actions (projects, planning efforts, studies) that reduce climate change's long-term risks and impacts on people and property. Therefore, WA EMD seeks proposals that address natural hazards either generated or exacerbated by climate change, such as flooding, wildfires, drought and water scarcity, severe storm events, extreme heat and/or extreme cold events, sea-level rise, and related coastal hazards. WA EMD also encourages climate adaptation proposals that reduce or eliminate risks to critical infrastructure and [community lifelines](#)<sup>2</sup>.

**Furthermore, WA EMD encourages the submission of large-scale [climate resilience](#) project proposals with high dollar values, including those with budgets upwards of \$30 million.**

The following are a few examples of mitigation project types that WA EMD will prioritize for DR-4481 HMGP funding, assuming all HMGP eligibility criteria and programmatic requirements are met:

- **Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Hazards**: projects that address root causes of coastal erosion and reduce or eliminate vulnerability to erosive events and inhibit development in high-risk coastal areas (especially V Zones). Projects that support coastal community relocation efforts in areas especially susceptible to sea level rise impacts.
- **Critical Infrastructure and Facilities**: community lifelines targeted for climate resilience include water, wastewater, powerlines, roadways, public safety facilities (e.g., fire, police, hospitals, 911, etc.), and schools. Projects that correct or eliminate the severe vulnerability of lifelines to wildfire, repetitive flooding, coastal or riverine erosion, extreme heat, or other natural hazards related to climate change.
- **Extreme Heat**: projects that improve community resilience to extreme heat through measures such as proactive planning, green infrastructure and urban design, structural retrofits (including power grids), and cooling shelters.
- **Flood Mitigation**: projects that address root causes of hydrologic flow problems and expand drainage/storage capacity, such as improving stream/river connectivity with floodplains, reducing channelization, reducing impervious surfaces, and removing hydrologic barriers.
- **Wildfire, Smoke, and Post-Wildfire Debris Flow**: projects that address the causes of and/or contributing factors to wildfires (e.g., fuel loads and types), the impacts of wildfire smoke on air quality and public health (e.g.,

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<sup>2</sup> Community Lifelines are the fundamental services in the community that, when stabilized, enable all other aspects of society to function. Mitigating the loss of lifelines improves a community's resilience. See the linked FEMA website for more information.

structural retrofits for indoor air quality), and the causes of and/or contributing factors to post-wildfire debris flows (e.g., hillslope stabilization). *HMGP wildfire project eligibility criteria apply.*

WA EMD will further evaluate all submitted project proposals, whether prioritized or not, based on the qualitative criteria described in the below table.

<b>Mitigation Project Evaluation Criteria</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
The proposed project anticipates impacts on disadvantaged communities (e.g., socially vulnerable populations), especially regarding the <a href="#">Justice40 Initiative</a> , equitable risk-reduction outcomes and whole-community approaches to disaster resilience.					
The proposed project addresses community lifelines and critical infrastructure vulnerability.					
The proposed project has multiple benefits beyond hazard risk reduction, including climate change resilience, sustainable development, and environmental restoration.					
The proposed project is collaborative and promotes shared responsibility, partnerships, and is supported by multiple jurisdictions or agencies.					
The proposed project includes innovative solutions to mitigate natural hazards, such as nature-based solutions when feasible.					
The proposed project has a clear and direct link to a local, FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.					
<b>Total Score</b>					

### **Application Process and Deadlines**

EMD administers the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program using a two-step application process: (1) submission of a Pre-Application Form, and (2) submission of a full Application package (upon invitation). Entities may submit Pre-Applications and, if invited, Full Applications to both DR-4481 HMGP and 2021 BRIC rounds.

**Pre-Application Form submission DEADLINE: November 30, 2021.** All potential applicants must submit their Pre-Application Forms to [HMA@mil.wa.gov](mailto:HMA@mil.wa.gov) no later than November 30, 2021, to be considered for funding under the DR-4481 HMGP round. Entities can submit more than one proposal (only one proposal per form).

No previously submitted *Pre-Applications* will be reviewed for these new grant application rounds. Any previously submitted *Pre-Applications* must be resubmitted by November 30, 2021, using the current DR-4481 HMGP form.

**STEP 1: Submit a Pre-Application Form.** The first step is to complete and submit to EMD a Pre-Application Form by the above-noted deadline. Like a letter of intent, this short document provides EMD basic information about applicant eligibility, proposal eligibility, and overall suitability for HMGP. State EMD staff will review submitted pre-application forms and provide direct feedback to the applicant with guidance, and if deemed eligible, offer technical assistance to strengthen the preliminary proposal.

**STEP 2: Submit a Full Application (*by invitation only*).** Only eligible entities that submit Pre-Applications with suitable proposals will be invited to complete a Full Application for the DR-4481 HMGP round. EMD will provide invitees a Full Application packet, guidance and supporting documents, and a specific deadline to submit their completed application package. Invitees typically receive about 12 weeks to develop and submit their final application packages. For planning purposes, we anticipate the deadline for invitees to submit their Full Applications will be on/around April 14, 2022.

### **Eligible HMGP Mitigation Activities: Plans and Projects**

Planning grants fund efforts to create new FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans or update existing FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plans. Project grants, on the other hand, help put Mitigation Plans into action by funding site-specific scopes of work that reduce or eliminate a community's risk from future natural hazards. Eligible project and planning activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

#### Projects:

- Aquifer storage and recovery
- Flood risk reduction projects (e.g., culvert upsizing, storm-drainage revisions, flood diversion & storage)
- Generators for essential facilities and critical infrastructure
- Property acquisition and structure demolition/elevation/relocation projects (flood- or erosion-prone properties)
- Soil stabilization and/or erosion control projects
- Structural and non-structural seismic retrofits (especially essential facilities and critical infrastructure)
- Tsunami mitigation projects (vertical evacuation)
- Wildfire defensible space and home-hardening projects (only in Wildland-Urban Interface areas)

#### Planning and Scoping:

- Advance Assistance (targeted funds to develop initial grant proposals for complex mitigation projects)
- Creating or updating a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Hazard mitigation-related mapping and data collection (limited funding and eligibility)
- Hazard mitigation-specific training(s) and targeted public outreach efforts (limited funding and eligibility)

### **Mitigation Grant Program Guidance and Benefit-Cost Analysis Requirements**

FEMA's [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance](#) (2015 edition) covers all programmatic requirements related to the DR-4584/4593 HMGP round (e.g., applicant and proposal eligibility, funding caps, cost-shares, information on specific project types, and other programmatic details). It is available for free download on FEMA's Publications website.

Full HMGP project applications (*not Pre-Applications*) require a complete and credible Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) to demonstrate a project cost-effectiveness ratio of at least 1.0 using [FEMA's BCA Toolkit Version 6.0](#), which is available on their BCA website. Some mitigation project types involve complex BCAs, such as seismic retrofits, and EMD has limited capacity to provide technical BCA assistance. Invitees are encouraged to secure professional BCA and/or other application development assistance as needed from an engineer or other professional services contractors. EMD cannot suggest or recommend professional service contractors but may provide examples of previously submitted BCAs to invitees upon request during the Full Application development phase.