

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

FACT SHEET

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

What is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?

Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act and administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to states and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration. The purpose of the program is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster.

Who Is Eligible to Apply?

HMGP funding is only available to applicants in a Presidentially declared disaster area. Eligible applicants are:

- State and local governments
- Indian tribes or 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 losses from future disasters. Projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem (e.g., elevation of a home to reduce the risk of flood damage, rather than purchase of sandbags and pumps to fight the flood). 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. Projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition of real property from willing sellers and demolition or relocation of buildings to convert the property to open space
- Retrofitting structures and facilities to minimize damage from high winds, earthquake, flood, wildfire, or other natural hazards
- Elevation of flood-prone structures
- Development and initial implementation of vegetative management programs
- Minor flood control projects that do not duplicate flood prevention activities of federal agencies
- Localized flood control projects, such as 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?
- Does your application meet the environmental requirements?
- Does your project solve a problem independently?
- Is your project cost-effective?

PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

What is the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program?

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) 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. They reduce overall risk to the population and structures while reducing reliance on funding under actual disaster declarations.

Funds are awarded on a competitive basis for planning and projects intended to make local governments more resistant to impacts of natural disasters. The maximum federal share per project is \$3 million.

Who Can Apply for a PDM Competitive Grant?

Eligibility is defined as follows:

- **Eligible applicants** for PDM grants are emergency management or similar agencies of a U.S. state or territory or a federally recognized Indian Tribal government.
- **Eligible sub-applicants** for PDM grants are state agencies, federally recognized Indian Tribal governments, and local governments (including state-recognized Indian Tribal governments and Alaska native villages).

Eligible applicants can apply directly to FEMA for PDM competitive grant funds; eligible sub-applicants must apply for funds through an eligible applicant. Private non-profit organizations are not eligible to apply for PDM but may ask an eligible local government to submit an application for a proposed activity on their behalf.

What are Eligible PDM Projects?

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 (e.g., elevation, floodproofing, storm shutters, hurricane clips) of existing facilities for wildfire, seismic, wind or flood hazards (including designs and feasibility studies when included as part of the construction project)
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects that may include vegetation management, stormwater management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins), or shoreline/landslide stabilization

- Local 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.

Projects should be technically feasible 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, but other federal agencies' approaches to cost estimating may be used as long as they provide a complete and accurate estimate. FEMA can provide technical assistance on engineering documentation and cost estimation.

Mitigation projects also must meet the following criteria:

- 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 ratio of 1.0 or greater.
- Be in conformance with a current FEMA-approved state hazard mitigation plan
- Solve a problem independently or constitute a 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))
- 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))
- 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
- Be in a community that is participating in the NFIP (and is not on probation, suspended or withdrawn) if the NFIP has identified a Special Flood Hazard Area in the community (has issued a FHBM or FIRM).
- Meet the requirements of federal, state, and local laws.

Projects that address multiple hazards must focus primarily on natural hazards but may also address hazards caused by non-natural forces.

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
- Response and communication equipment.