

# Mitigation Grants

Resources for mitigation item/project requests as well as grants and their requirements are found at: <https://www.fema.gov/application-development-1>.

FEMA requires state, tribal, and local governments to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects. Jurisdictions must update their hazard mitigation plans and re-submit them for FEMA approval every five years to maintain eligibility.

Through the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants, and Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants), FEMA offers planning grants that support state, tribal, and local governments in developing and updating mitigation plans. The table below summarizes how FEMA’s mitigation plan requirement applies to states and federally-recognized tribal governments applying directly to FEMA for assistance as applicants, and to local or tribal governments (federally-recognized or non-federally-recognized) applying for FEMA assistance through a state as sub-applicants.

<b>Mitigation Plan Requirement for State, Tribal, and Local Governments Applying for Certain FEMA Grants</b>			
<b>Enabling Legislation</b>	<b>FEMA Assistance Program</b>	<b>Is a Mitigation Plan Required?</b>	
		<b>State / Tribal Applicant</b>	<b>Tribal / Local Sub-applicant</b>
<b>Stafford Act</b>	<a href="#">Individual Assistance (IA)</a>	No	No
	<a href="#">Public Assistance (PA)</a> Categories A and B (e.g., debris removal, emergency protective measures)	No	No
	<a href="#">Public Assistance (PA)</a> Categories C through G (e.g., repairs to damaged infrastructure, publically owned buildings)	Yes	No
	<a href="#">Fire Mitigation Assistance Grants (FMAG)</a>	Yes	No
	<a href="#">Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)</a> planning grant	Yes <sup>+</sup>	No
	<a href="#">Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)</a> project grant	Yes <sup>+</sup>	Yes <sup>++</sup>

Please refer to FEMA for all grant information, fact sheets, and guidelines: <https://www.fema.gov/>.

Mitigation Grant Descriptions and Activities

	<a href="#">Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)</a> planning grant	No	No
	<a href="#">Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)</a> project grant	Yes*	Yes**
<b>National Flood Insurance Act</b>	<a href="#">Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)</a> planning grant	Yes*	No
	<a href="#">Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)</a> project grant	Yes*	Yes**
<b>Notes</b>	<p>+ At the time of the Presidential major disaster declaration and at the time of obligation of HMGP grant funds.</p> <p>++ At the time of obligation of HMGP grant funds for mitigation projects.</p> <p>* By the application deadline and at the time of obligation of the PDM or FMA award.</p> <p>** By the application deadline and at the time of obligation of PDM or FMA grant funds for mitigation projects.</p>		

FEMA grant programs for hazard mitigation assistance include:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants (FMA)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants (PDM)

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## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

- Key program points
  - HMGP funding is limited; therefore, recipients and local government officials must make difficult decisions as to the most effective use of grant funds.
  - Not all projects may be selected.
  - “Think about the end at the beginning” – upon start of the funded project, the recipient and sub-recipient should be mindful of the Period of Performance (POP) and federal close-out requirements.
- **Examples of mitigation projects that can be funded through HMGP** include, but are not limited to:
  - **Acquisition and Structure Demolition/Relocation** – the community purchases and permanently removes, with FEMA funding, a flood-prone property from the individual.
  - **Dry Flood-proofing of Historic Residential Structures** – the home is protected with barriers to prevent floodwater from entering.
  - **Elevation** – the home is raised so that potential floodwaters may flow underneath the home.
  - **Hazard Mitigation Plan** – HMGP funding can also be used for mitigation planning activities. FEMA requires state, tribal, and local governments to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for HMA mitigation projects. Visit FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Plan Requirement page for more information.
  - **Mitigating Flood and Drought Conditions** – aquifer storage and recovery, floodplain and stream restoration, flood diversion and storage, or green infrastructure methods may support communities in reducing the risks associated with the impacts of flood and drought conditions.
  - **Mitigation Reconstruction** – the existing home is demolished and a new (similar in size) elevated home is constructed.
  - **Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings** – enhancements are made to a home to make it more resistant to floods and earthquakes.
  - **Residential and Community Safe Rooms** – a safe room is constructed inside a home or in a nearby community location close to the home to provide safety from strong winds, such as those experienced during a tornado.

## Mitigation Grant Descriptions and Activities

- **Wildfire Mitigation** – fire-resistant materials are used on the exterior of the home and trees or brush are cleared to remove flammable materials from around the home.
- **Wind Retrofit** – enhancements are made to strengthen the roof, walls, doors, and windows and minimize damage caused by high winds.
- **To be considered for funding under HMGP, a project must:**
  - Conform with the approved state and local mitigation plan
  - Benefit the disaster area
  - Conform with environmental regulations
  - Solve a problem and be technically feasible
  - Meet all applicable state and local codes and standards
  - Demonstrate cost-effectiveness
  - Consider a range of alternatives
- An additional consideration is if the project is located in an area known as the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), the community must be a participating member of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in good standing (not on probation, suspended, or withdrawn) in the NFIP.

## Flood Mitigation Assistance

- Key points
  - FMA provides funding to states, territories, federally-recognized tribes and local communities for projects and planning that reduces or eliminates long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). FMA funding is also available for management costs. Funding is appropriated by Congress annually.
- Application process
  - Sub-applicants submit mitigation planning and project sub-applications to their state during the open application cycle. After reviewing project and planning applications to determine if they meet the program's requirements, the states, territories, or federally-recognized tribal governments prioritize and forward the applications to their FEMA Regional Office.
  - Planning sub-applications submitted for consideration for FMA funding must only be used to support the flood hazard portion of state, tribal, or local mitigation plans to meet the requirements outlined in 44 CFR Part 201 Mitigation Planning. Funds are only available to support communities participating in the NFIP.
  - Projects submitted for consideration for FMA funding must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the current, FEMA-approved state or tribal (Standard or Enhanced) hazard mitigation plan along with the local or tribal hazard mitigation plan for the jurisdiction in which the activity is located.
- Evaluation Criteria (**Monetary figures in this section represent FY17 and do not necessarily reflect future application figures**)
  - Community Flood Mitigation Activities – up to \$70,000,000 available in FY17
    - Advance Assistance – Applicants in FY17 are eligible to receive up to \$100,000 federal share to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop viable community flood mitigation projects.
    - Community Flood Mitigation Projects – FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible community flood mitigation subapplication from each Applicant up to \$10,000,000 federal share based on final priority scoring criteria (see table below) and that benefit communities with high participation and favorable standing in the NFIP.
      - Eligible project activities include:

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## Mitigation Grant Descriptions and Activities

- Infrastructure protective measures
- Floodwater storage and diversion
- Utility protective measures
- Stormwater management
- Wetland restoration/creation
- Aquifer storage and recovery
- Localized flood control to protect critical facility
- Floodplain and stream restoration
- Water and sanitary sewer system protective measures
- Technical Assistance
  - FEMA will select eligible technical assistance subapplications up to \$50,000 Federal share for Applicants who received FMA awards totaling at least \$1,000,000 Federal share in FY 2016.
- Flood Mitigation Planning
  - FEMA will select eligible planning subapplications up to \$100,000 Federal share per Applicant with a maximum of \$50,000 Federal share for State mitigation plan updates and \$25,000 Federal share for local mitigation plans. FEMA may reduce the Federal share of any planning subapplication that exceeds the regulatory maximums.
- Competitive funding for property flood mitigation projects.
  - FEMA will select eligible flood mitigation project subapplications on a competitive basis as follows:
    - Projects that will mitigate flood damage to at least 50 percent of structures included in the subapplication that meet definition 42 U.S.C. 4104c(h)(3)(B)(ii) of a Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) property: At least two separate NFIP claim payments have been made with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the insured structure.
    - Projects that will mitigate flood damage to at least 50 percent of structures included in the subapplication that meet the definition of a Repetitive Loss (RL) property: Have incurred flood related damage on two occasions, in which the cost of the repair, on the

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average, equaled or exceeded 25% of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event.

- Projects that will mitigate flood damage to at least 50 percent of structures included in the subapplication that meet definition 42 U.S.C. 4104c(h)(3)(B)(i) of a SRL property: four or more separate NFIP claims payments have been made with the amount of each claim exceeding \$5,000, and with the cumulative amount of claims payments exceeding \$20,000.

## Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grants

- Key points
  - PDM grants are funded annually by Congressional appropriations and are awarded on a nationally competitive basis.
  - Project sub-applications submitted for consideration for PDM funding must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the current, FEMA-approved state or tribal (Standard or Enhanced) hazard mitigation plan along with the local or tribal hazard mitigation plan for the jurisdiction in which the activity is located.
- Application process
  - Sub-applicants (i.e., local governments) submit mitigation planning and project sub-applications to their state during the open application cycle. After reviewing planning and project applications to determine if they meet the program's requirements, the applicants (i.e., states, territories, or federally-recognized tribal governments) prioritize and forward the planning and project applications in a PDM grant application to FEMA. Locals should contact their State Hazard Mitigation Officer or federally-recognized tribal/local government official to obtain detailed information on the PDM application process.
  - Once FEMA reviews planning and project applications for eligibility and completeness, FEMA makes funding decisions based on the agency's priorities for the most effective use of grant funds and the availability of funds posted in the Notice of Funds Opportunity announcement on Grants.gov. The PDM program is a highly competitive grant program.
- Competitive mitigation activities:
  - Multi-State/Tribal mitigation initiatives
  - Mitigation planning sub-applications from Applicants that have less than \$400,000 HMGP planning funds available
  - Projects from Applicants that have less than \$4 million HMGP project funds available in the following order:
    - Non-flood hazard (e.g., seismic, wildfire, landslide, wind and drought) mitigation projects
    - Flood mitigation activities except acquisition, elevation, or mitigation reconstruction (e.g., stormwater management and flood control measures)

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## Mitigation Grant Descriptions and Activities

- Acquisition, elevation and mitigation reconstruction projects
- Generators for critical facilities
- Planning activities from Applicants that have \$400,000 or more HMGP planning funds available
- Projects from Applicants that have \$4 million or more HMGP project funds available in the following order:
  - Non-flood hazard mitigation projects
  - Flood mitigation activities except acquisition, elevation, or mitigation reconstruction
  - Acquisition, elevation and mitigation reconstruction projects
  - Generators for critical facilities