

Adapted from:



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program¹

What is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?

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. Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act and administered by FEMA, HMGP was created to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters. The program enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. For communities without FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans, the program also provides funding to help develop plans.

Who is eligible to apply?

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding is available, when authorized under a Presidential major disaster declaration, in the areas of the State requested by the Governor. At the State's request, HMGP may also be available statewide. Eligible applicants include: State and local governments Indian tribes or other tribal organizations certain non-profit organizations Individual homeowners and businesses may not apply directly to the program; however a community may apply on their behalf.

How much money is available in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program?

The amount of funding available for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) under a particular disaster declaration is limited. The program may provide a state with up to 15 percent of the total disaster grants awarded by FEMA. States that meet higher mitigation planning criteria may qualify for a higher percentage under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. FEMA can fund up to 75 percent of the eligible costs of each project. The state or grantee must provide a 25 percent match, which can be fashioned from a combination of cash and in-kind sources. Funding from other federal sources cannot be used for the 25 percent share with one exception. Funding provided to states under the Community Development Block Grant program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development can be used to meet the non-federal share requirement.

What are the hazard mitigation planning requirements for HMGP eligibility?

In accordance with 44 CFR Part 201, State agencies and federally-recognized tribes applying for HMGP funding must have a FEMA-approved State or Tribal (Standard or Enhanced) Mitigation Plan at the time of the Presidential major disaster declaration and at the time HMGP funding is obligated to the Recipient or subrecipient. Regarding subapplicants, there is no mitigation plan requirement for development of a new mitigation plan. All subapplicants for HMGP must have a FEMA-approved local or Tribal Mitigation Plan at the time of obligation of grant funds for mitigation projects.

State agencies are eligible subapplicants under HMGP, and a State Mitigation Plan under 44 CFR Part 201 is required as a condition of the State agencies receiving assistance as defined in 44 CFR Section 201.4. State agencies with assets identified in the State Mitigation Plan meet the mitigation planning requirement. PNP subapplicants are eligible for HMGP but do not have mitigation plan requirements as a condition of subapplicant eligibility.

¹ Federal Emergency Management Agency. *Hazard Mitigation Grant Program*. June 24, 2016. <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program> (accessed August 10, 2016).

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, i.e. the State?
- Does your application meet the environmental requirements?
- Does your project solve a problem independently?
- Is your project cost-effective?

How are potential projects selected and identified?

The state's administrative plan governs how projects are selected for funding. However, proposed projects must meet certain minimum criteria. These criteria are designed to ensure that the most cost-effective and appropriate projects are selected for funding. Both the law and the regulations require that the projects are part of an overall mitigation strategy for the disaster area. The state prioritizes and selects project applications developed and submitted by local jurisdictions. The state forwards applications consistent with state mitigation planning objectives to FEMA for eligibility review. Funding for this grant program is limited and states and local communities must make difficult decisions as to the most effective use of grant funds.

How long will it take to get my project approved?

It is important for applicants to understand the approval process. Once eligible projects are selected by the state, they are forwarded to the FEMA Regional Office where they are reviewed to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulations. One such law is the National Environmental Policy Act, passed by Congress in 1970, which requires FEMA to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of each proposed project. The time required for the environmental review depends on the complexity of the project.

Why didn't I receive Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds when some of my neighbors did?

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is administered by the state, which prioritizes and selects project applications developed and submitted by local jurisdictions. The state forwards applications consistent with state mitigation planning objectives to FEMA for eligibility review. Although individuals may not apply directly to the state for assistance, local governments may sponsor an application on their behalf. Funding for the grant program is limited and states and local communities must make difficult decisions as to the most effective use of available grant funds.

Will I be forced to sell my home if my community is granted funding for a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program acquisition project?

Acquisition projects funded under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) are voluntary and you are under no obligation to sell your home. Communities consider other options when preparing projects, but it may be determined by state and local officials that the most effective mitigation measure in a location is the acquisition of properties and the removal of residents and structures from the hazard area. Despite the effectiveness of property acquisitions, it may not make you or your family whole again. Acquisition projects are based on the principle of fair compensation for property. Property acquisitions present owners with an opportunity to recoup a large part of their investment in property that probably has lost some, if not most of its value due to damage. But, it will not compensate you or your family for your entire emotional and financial loss.