

## Notice of Funding Availability- Supplemental Information

### **Minimum Program Eligibility**

*Eligible Applicants:* According to the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 44 §206.434(a), the following parties are eligible to apply for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funds:

- State and local governments who have an approved Local Mitigation Strategy (LMS) in accordance with 44 CFR 201.6, prior to receipt of HMGP subgrant funding for projects;
- Private non-profit organizations or institutions that own or operate a private non-profit facility as defined in §206.221(e); and
- Indian tribes or authorized tribal organizations.

However, be advised that all project applications must go through the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group (LMSWG) of the county where the project will take place. Any application sent to the Division without a signed endorsement letter, from either the Chair or Vice-Chair of an LMSWG, will be denied.

*Eligible Activities:* Activities include mitigation projects that will result in protection of public or private property from natural hazards. Activities for which implementation has already been initiated or completed are not eligible for funding. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Acquisition or relocation of hazard-prone structures;
- Retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities that will result in increased protection from hazards;
- Elevation of flood-prone structures;
- Infrastructure protection measures;
- Stormwater management improvements;
- Minor structure flood control;
- Flood diversion and storage;
- Aquifer storage and recovery;
- Floodplain and stream restoration;
- Residential and community safe room construction;
- Generators for a critical facility, provided they are cost-effective, contribute to a long-term solution to the problem that they are intended to address, and meet other project eligibility criteria as required by 44 CFR §206.434(c); or generators that are an integral part of a larger eligible project.

*Ineligible Activities:* The state will **not** consider funding requests for the following:

- Construction of new facilities (Nevertheless, the cost associated with above-code upgrades to new facilities may be considered);
- Equipment such as emergency pumps, vehicles, and communication devices;
- Stand-alone studies, design, and planning-related activities;
- Tree removal, debris removal, and other forms of maintenance; or
- **Projects already in progress** (*Construction may not begin until the contract between the State and subrecipient is executed and the project has met requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act*).

*Eligibility Criteria:* All projects submitted must meet *minimum criteria* to be considered for funding. An eligible project must:

- Conform to the requirements stated in this Notice of Funding Availability;
- Conform to the Florida State Hazard Mitigation Plan and the respective community's LMS;
- Conform to the funding priorities for the disaster, as established in the appropriate LMS;
- Demonstrate cost-effectiveness;
- Be technically feasible;
- Benefit the designated disaster area;
- Conform to all applicable environmental laws and regulations, as well as Executive Orders;
- Solve a problem independently or constitute a functional part of a solution;
- Benefit a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating community that is not on probation or suspended from the NFIP; and
- Meet all applicable State and local codes and standards.

### **Cost-Share Requirements**

Under the HMGP, FEMA will contribute up to 75 percent of the total amount approved under the grant award to implement eligible, cost-effective mitigation measures. The applicant must provide the remaining 25-percent non-federal share. Contributions, cash, and in-kind services are acceptable as part of the non-federal share.

Requirements for in-kind contributions can be found in 2 CFR §200.306. In-kind contributions must be directly related to the eligible project cost and are those personnel, materials, equipment and supplies owned, controlled, and operated by the applicant or a third party contributor.

Applicants may use the Global Match concept as part of the 25-percent non-federal share. Global Match permits a potential applicant to meet the non-federal share match by receiving credit for state and/or local government funds that were committed to a

similar type of project(s). These similar, **non-federally** funded projects must meet all of the HMGP eligibility requirements. This means that if Global Match is approved, the applicant may receive up to 100 percent federal share.

### **Pre-Award Costs**

Prior to receiving a grant award, pre-award costs may be requested. Pre-award costs include items such as engineering, environmental study, permitting, and other "soft" costs associated with a construction project. *Construction activities are not considered pre-award costs.* Pre-award costs must be requested in writing. Guidelines for pre-award costs are included on the website linked below.

### **Project Management**

Administrative costs are eligible and available upon request. The amount requested must be included as a line item in the project budget of the project application and labeled as "administrative." Be advised that the inclusion of administrative costs will affect your overall benefit-costs score.

### **County Funding Allocation**

Funding under HMGP Post-Fire is based on a national aggregate calculation based on an average of historical Fire Management Assistance designations from the last 10 years. The total amount for HMGP for states and tribal applications with standard state or tribal hazard mitigation plans is \$425,008.00 for each Fire Mitigation Assistance declaration, and \$566,667.00 for applicants with enhanced state or tribal hazard mitigation plans. Florida is an enhanced state.

Funding from multiple events are aggregated into one grant under the first declaration. For FM-5178, there were three, FM-5178 (Florida 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Fire), FM-5179 (Florida Lehigh Acres Fire), and FM-5180 (Florida Indian Lake Estate Fire). The state will divide the aggregated funding amounts evenly among the declared counties.

HMGP Post-Fire funding is available only to those counties that have a current FEMA-approved LMS. Project applications will be considered only if:

- (1) The application is accompanied by an endorsement by the LMS Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson stating that the project is included in the current LMS; and,
- (2) If more than one project is submitted, the endorsement indicates the prioritization. A sample project submission letter can be provided upon request.

## **Technical Assistance**

The Division will provide technical assistance throughout the application process. This includes assistance with the application process, Benefit Cost Analysis, Engineering Feasibility and Environmental/Historical Preservation Compliance. If there are any questions regarding the allocation of funds or the project review and selection criteria, please call Bureau staff at one of the following numbers:

Program Eligibility: (850) 815-4503 or (850) 815-4537

Environmental: (850) 815-4575

Engineering and Technical Feasibility: (850) 815-4573

For additional information and technical assistance, please refer to FEMA's *Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance* document available at <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/103279>

To assist you in submitting qualified project applications, the *Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application* and other required documents are located on the Division's website at

<https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>