

Fiscal Year 2023 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program Fact Sheet

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Overview

The FY 2023 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP), as authorized and appropriated by the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 \(Pub. L. No. 117-328\)](#), provides funding to close known capability gaps, encourage innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents, and build on existing regional preparedness efforts. The purpose of the RCPGP is to build regional capacity to manage catastrophic incidents by improving and expanding collaboration for catastrophic incident preparedness.

The [National Response Framework](#) defines a catastrophic incident as any natural or manmade incident, including an act of terrorism, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, or government functions. Effective prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery activities require a cohesive regional approach to catastrophic planning.

FEMA is implementing four strategic priorities for the FY 2023 RCPGP: **housing, equity, climate resilience, and readiness**, with an emphasis on the needs of disadvantaged communities. Recognizing the value of all-hazards emergency preparedness planning, and consistent with the RCPGP strategic priorities, the focus areas for the FY 2023 RCPGP are the [Core Capabilities](#) of Housing, Community Resilience, and Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction that improve capability levels as reported through the [Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment \(THIRA\)/Stakeholder Preparedness Review \(SPR\)](#). Additionally, applicants are expected to consider the needs of disadvantaged communities and involve representatives from the affected communities in the development and execution of proposed projects to ensure their needs are sufficiently addressed.



Eligible applicants are advised to thoroughly review the FY 2023 RCPGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for detailed instructions and other important information prior to submitting their application. The FY 2023 RCPGP NOFO is located online at [Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program](#), as well as on [Grants.gov](#).

Funding

In FY 2023, FEMA will competitively award \$12 million in RCPGP funds to assist state and local governments to develop innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents. The maximum award amount is \$3 million.

Eligibility

States, as defined by [2 C.F.R. § 200.1](#) (this definition includes the District of Columbia and territories), and local governments, as defined by [2 C.F.R. § 200.1](#), are eligible to apply. The following eligibility restrictions for these groups apply:

- A state or territory is eligible to apply if one or more of the 100 most populous [Metropolitan Statistical Areas \(MSA\)](#) per the [Census Bureau's 2021 Population Estimates](#) (as listed in Appendix A of the FY 2023 RCPGP NOFO) is located within the state or territory.
- Local governments must be located within one of the 100 most populous MSAs. FEMA will accept no more than **one application** per MSA.

Additional guidance on RCPGP-specific eligibility is available in the [NOFO](#).

Application Process

Applying for an award under the RCPGP is a multi-step process. Applicants are encouraged to register early as the registration process can take four weeks or more to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required submission deadlines. Please refer to Section D in the FY 2023 RCPGP NOFO for detailed information and instructions.



Eligible applicants should submit their initial application **at least three days before** the 5 p.m. ET July 24, 2023, application deadline through the Grants.gov portal at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Applicants needing Grants.gov support should contact the customer support hotline at (800) 518-4726, 24 hours per day, seven days per week except federal holidays.

Eligible applicants will be notified by FEMA within one to two business days and asked to proceed with submitting their complete application package in the [Non-Disaster \(ND\) Grants System](#) by the July 24, 2023, application deadline. Applicants needing technical support with the ND Grants System should contact ndgrants@fema.dhs.gov or (800) 865-4076, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET.

Completed applications must be submitted in the ND Grants system no later than 5 p.m. ET on July 24, 2023.

Funding Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using a scoring rubric, a summary of which is provided below. The needs of disadvantaged communities are factored into the scoring criteria. The full criteria can be found in Appendix C of the FY 2023 RCPGP NOFO, which details the specific criteria aligned to each of the project narrative requirements and the maximum number of points an application can receive for each criterion. The four base criteria earn up to 100 total possible points. The bonus criterion brings the total to 130 possible points.

- **Need:** The applicant demonstrates a need for grant funds, including identifying their current capability and a gap/need for a project to build beyond current capability within the core capability of interest. (Possible Points: 0 – 20 maximum)
- **Project Design:** The applicant demonstrates an effective and sustainable project approach for building their current capability within the 36-month period of performance, including the specific project implementation, project management, and regional collaboration approaches. (Possible Points: 0 – 35 maximum)
- **Impact:** The applicant demonstrates the proposed project's regional impact, including how the project will build the applicant's capability, performance measures the project is expected to achieve, and how the project can be scaled



or replicated to benefit national preparedness. (Possible Points: 0 – 25 maximum)

- **Budget:** The applicant demonstrates a reasonable and cost-effective budget (based on the budget detail worksheet and project narrative), including explanation of reasonable project costs across the requested categories, the project's relative cost effectiveness and sustainability, and the applicant's ability to manage federal grants. (Possible Points: 0 – 20 maximum)
- **Bonus:** Up to 30 bonus points will be applied to project proposals that:
 - Provide education, tools, and training for emergency managers and other key stakeholders to identify and address the emerging risks and future conditions caused by climate change and increase community-level resilience within the identified disadvantaged communities;
 - Provide education, tools, and training for emergency managers and other key stakeholders to support integration of climate change data into local planning, including hazard mitigation, emergency management, and community planning processes;
 - Plan for and develop research-supported, proactive investments in community resilience;
 - Benefit a relatively large number of census tracts that are identified as a disadvantaged community;
 - Benefit multiple states or more than one of the top 100 most-populous MSAs; and/or
 - Are submitted by a new or previously unsuccessful RCPGP applicant.

See **Appendix C: Evaluation Criteria and Scoring** in the FY 2023 RCPGP NOFO for additional details on scoring, including how bonus points will be applied.

For More Information

There are a variety of resources available to address RCPGP programmatic, technical, and financial questions:

- The FY 2023 RCPGP NOFO is located online at [Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program](#) as well as [Grants.gov](#).



FEMA

- FEMA Regional Offices issue, manage, and close out RCPGP awards. This includes conducting cash analysis, financial and programmatic monitoring, and audit resolution. The Regional Offices also provide technical assistance to RCPGP recipients. FEMA Regional Office contact information is available at fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts.
- Applicants needing technical support with the ND Grants System should contact ndgrants@fema.dhs.gov or (800) 865-4076, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. ET.

Contact Us

- The FEMA Program Office provides support in addressing specific programmatic questions regarding the FY 2023 RCPGP. The Program Office can be reached by e-mail at: FEMA-RCPGP@fema.dhs.gov.
- For additional program-specific information, please contact the FEMA Grants Information Desk at fema-grants-news@fema.dhs.gov OR at (800) 368-6498. Hours of operation are from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday.
- For support regarding financial grants management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the FEMA Award Administration Help Desk via e-mail at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.



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