



FEMA

Eligibility of Flood Risk Reduction Measures under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Programs

Fact Sheet

FEMA's policy titled "[Eligibility of Flood Risk Reduction Measures under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance \(HMA\) Programs](#)," dated June 27, 2014 clarifies FEMA's [HMA Unified Guidance](#) concerning the types of physical flood risk reduction projects FEMA may fund under its HMA programs. FEMA's HMA programs include the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDM) and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program. FEMA's HMA programs are one way FEMA supports mitigation against flooding and other natural disasters.

Flood risk reduction measures are aimed at minimizing potential flood-related damages to structures, includes home and businesses, and infrastructure such as roads and critical water, power, emergency response and health services. FEMA's HMA programs supports flood risk reduction in a number of ways. Two primary approaches FEMA uses are property acquisition or structure elevation, which involve removing residential structures or office buildings from areas subjected to repetitive flooding or elevating these structures above the reach of flood waters.

The policy focuses on measures that, in addition to property acquisition and structure elevation, FEMA may use to provide flood protection. Examples of other flood protection measures include stormwater management through drainage enhancements (such as the installation of culverts or retention or detention basins), vegetation management and other slope stabilization measures along shorelines and coast lines to prevent erosion-based flooding. Such measures are generally aimed at individual structures or neighborhood-level groups of structures.

Another approach to reducing flooding risk to lives and property is through protective flood barriers such as dams, dikes, levees, floodwalls, seawalls, groins, jetties or breakwaters, as well as large-scale channelization projects. Such measures may be aimed at individual structures or broader, community level protection. FEMA's new flood risk reduction policy supersedes current guidance by stating that such measures are eligible under the HMGP and PDM, which are authorized by the Stafford Act to provide broad protections against flooding and other natural disasters. However, such measures must continue to be prohibited under the FMA program,



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because the NFIA and FEMA regulations at 44 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Part 79 specify that these project types are not eligible for FMA funding.

FEMA's policy also clarifies situations where FEMA may not fund flood risk reduction projects due to a prohibition against Duplication of Programs (DOP), which occurs when Congress has specifically directed another federal agency to perform a project being proposed to FEMA for funding. All projects involving construction in a wetland and/or the 100-year floodplain must continue to follow the review process described in 44 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.), Part 9, Floodplain Management and the Protection of Wetlands and Part 10, Environmental Considerations or superseding FEMA National Environmental Policy Act implementing procedures. For complex flood risk reduction projects where additional resources are needed to provide complete engineering feasibility or environmental information for the eligibility review, applicants are encouraged to use a phased project approach (see Unified HMA Guidance, Part IX, A.10, Phased Projects).

For more information about FEMA's HMA programs, visit <http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance-policy>