The following FAQs are organized into groups by topic. Please contact the GMM office for additional questions or concerns at: FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov.

FEMA Grants

What is a grant and what are grant programs?

Grants are the principal funding mechanism FEMA uses to commit and award federal funding to eligible State, Local, Tribal, Territorial, certain private non-profits, individuals and institutions of higher learning.

Grants programs refers to the various functions or initiatives and authorized FEMA offices, branches, and programs that FEMA provides financial assistance, including either cash or non-cash contributions, to non-federal entities, individuals, or households to carry out a public purpose through. Grants programs exclude programs that provide subsidies, loans, or insurance.

How many FEMA grants programs are there?

FEMA has over 40 active grant programs including both disaster and non-disaster programs. The following grant programs have been grouped into 12 categories below.

Mitigation: Community Assistance	Preparedness: Homeland Security
Mitigation: Earthquake	Preparedness: Standards
Mitigation: Hazards	Preparedness: Training
Mitigation: Risk Analysis	Recovery: Non-Federal Governments/Organizations Assistance
Preparedness: Chemical	Recovery: Individual Assistance
Preparedness: Fire	Response: Urban Search and Rescue

Who receives FEMA grants?

FEMA grants Recipients and Sub-Recipients fall into the following different categories:
- States and territorial governments
- Tribal governments
- Local governments and communities
- Private or nonprofit organizations
- Associations, institutes, academies, and universities
- Individuals

Development

Why is GMM starting with the AFG system?

The AFG system was identified as a good place to start development for FEMA GO for the following reasons:
- The AFG system provides grants functionality to three grant programs in the category *Preparedness: Fire*
- These grants use multiple cross-cutting business functions that relate to other FEMA grants
- The business functions used cover all phases of the grants lifecycle (Pre-Award, Award, Post-Award, Closeout, and Post-Closeout)

What systems and/or grants programs are scheduled to be addressed after AFG for development?

Staffing for Adequate Fire Emergency and Response (SAFER), Fire, Prevention & Safety (FP&S), Mitigation and Individual Assistance (IA) are the grants programs currently scheduled for integration into FEMA GO. The GMM team is continuously gathering business requirements across all grants programs to feed GMM system development efforts.

Will the other FEMA systems undergoing modernization efforts be compatible with FEMA GO?

Yes, there are currently two other, major IT modernization efforts underway within FEMA—the Financial Systems Modernization (FSM) and the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Modernization (commonly referred to as "Pivot"). The FSM Program is modernizing IFMIS, or FEMA's financial management system. Due to the interrelated functions and needs for each of these efforts, the GMM Program stays connected with both modernization programs and actively works in concert with their respective Program Management Offices (PMOs) to ensure seamless integration and compatibility between these systems as each one moves towards a new solution. Ultimately, this means end users will experience enhanced functionality and greater overall satisfaction with the administration of their grants, and any connection or transfer of data between these modernized systems should be invisible to the end user.

What planned capabilities will be built into FEMA GO?

FEMA GO is being built to perform all business functions that fall within all five phases of the Grants Management Lifecycle: Pre-Award, Award, Post-Award, Closeout and Post-Closeout. Essentially, any functionalities that are needed to complete grant work will fall within the scope of this initiative.

GMM Program

What is GMM? What is its purpose?

The Grants Management Modernization (GMM) Program is a FEMA-wide initiative that began in 2015 to modernize and consolidate existing FEMA grants management systems, business processes, and manual workarounds into one single IT Platform and one common grants management lifecycle using an iterative approach to better support the agency's mission.

The current various grant processes rely on multiple systems operating on multiple platforms, each utilizing different technologies that are non-standard, and many of the platforms are no longer supported by the vendors. The capabilities and data elements are also duplicated multiple times. The individual systems have continued to evolve independently. The current grants management processes and systems do not provide data transparency and require users to create spreadsheets and ad hoc tools or workarounds to get the required views.

The new IT Platform (also known as FEMA Grants Outcomes, or FEMA GO) is targeted towards the entire grants' community of users, including FEMA personnel and grant recipients and sub-recipients across States, Local Governments, Tribal and Territorial partners.

The purpose of GMM is to transform the way FEMA manages grants, strengthening FEMA's ability to execute its mission through a user-centered, business-driven approach.

What are the expected outcomes of GMM?

The goal of GMM and FEMA GO is to transform the way FEMA manages grants, strengthening FEMA's ability to execute its mission through a user-centered, business-driven approach. The following are key objectives:

- **Simplify** the grants life cycle process.
- **Improve** the **timeliness** of funding to support survivors and facilitate community resiliency.
- Improve the allocation of grant funds across the emergency management community.
- **Streamline** and improve **business performance** by improving business processes and supporting decision-making.
- Improve **business intelligence** and decision-making by increasing access to data.
- **Facilitate compliance** with regulations and statutes.
- **Reduce** overall **sustainment costs** by consolidating legacy systems into a single grants management IT platform.
- **User-centered, business-driven** approach to grants transformation founded on active engagement with all grants stakeholders.

How will GMM impact the State, Local, Tribe & Territories (SLTT) user?

The SLTT community uses internal systems as well as FEMA systems, and GMM will continue to work with them to ensure that requirements and needs are considered in the development of FEMA GO with the intention of SLTT users primarily using this system over their internal systems.

What additional information is available about the GMM program?

Yes, there is a GMM SharePoint site available to FEMA stakeholders that can be found HERE. External stakeholders that do not have access to FEMA internal systems may send requests for information via email to the GMM Mailbox, FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov, or visit GMM's public-facing site HERE.

Stakeholder Engagement

How does GMM engage with its stakeholders?

GMM facilitates multiple working groups, user research interviews, and outreach sessions that all keep stakeholders informed and include them in the planning efforts around the development of FEMA GO. For more information or to get involved with the planning efforts, please email: FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov

Transition

What is happening to the other Grants systems? How is GMM socializing this transition?

The previous Grants systems' functionalities and business processes will be modernized and developed in FEMA GO and the systems will be decommissioned once FEMA GO is at full operating status. GMM will help inform and transition all FEMA personnel and stakeholders from the legacy systems to the new system, FEMA GO in close collaboration with programs impacted.

Will the continual updating of the Agile methodology occur just in development of FEMA GO or will it be an inherent feature of the program?

GMM is adopting the Agile methodology of continual improvement at the programmatic level. A change control process will be implemented where users can submit change requests that will be monitored, tracked, and executed based on developed criteria. Changes will likely be made on an incremental basis with maximum transparency to avoid any major disruption for users.

Will FEMA GO provide resources to guide applicants through the grants application process?

Yes. To successfully transition all FEMA grant recipients, applicants, and users to FEMA GO, GMM in close coordination with program areas, will develop aides and varying training methods to create a more user-friendly and customer-centric experience.

Will training for FEMA GO be provided?

Yes. The goal is to make FEMA GO user-friendly and intuitive to eliminate or reduce the need for extensive training. GMM will continue to work with both the Grant Programs and solution developers to provide training following the initial deployment for each functionality or program, then regularly for a short-period of time, and then on an as-needed basis.