

Notice of Funding Opportunity for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants

Fiscal Year 2020 Flood Mitigation Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) makes federal funds available through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program to states, local communities, tribes and territories (SLTTs) to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The FMA grant program strengthens national preparedness and resilience and supports the mitigation mission area through FEMA's strategic goal of building a culture of preparedness.

Each year, FEMA publishes a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the FMA grant program. The Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) FMA NOFO can be accessed at www.Grants.gov. FEMA encourages reviewing the FMA NOFO before applying, as it provides detailed program information and other grant application and administration requirements.

Available Funding

For FY20, FEMA will distribute up to \$200 million¹ through the FMA grant program in the following manner:

1. Up to \$4 million for **Project Scoping (previously Advance Assistance)** to develop community flood mitigation projects and/or individual flood mitigation projects that will subsequently reduce flood claims against the NFIP.
2. Up to \$70 million for **Community Flood Mitigation Projects** to address community flood risk for the purpose of reducing NFIP flood claim payments.

Remaining funding will be used for the following:

3. **Technical Assistance** to maintain a viable FMA program over time. To be eligible to apply, the applicant must have received a Fiscal Year 2019 FMA Award of at least a \$1 million federal share.
4. **Flood Hazard Mitigation Planning** to plan subapplications for the flood hazard component of SLTT's hazard mitigation plans and updates to plans.
5. **Individual Flood Mitigation Projects** that mitigate the risk of flooding to individual NFIP insured structures. FEMA may rank subapplications higher in each of the above priorities where the average elevation federal cost share is less than \$250,000 for all single-family dwelling units and the average acquisition federal cost share is less than \$750,000 for all single-family dwelling units.

¹ The amount of funding for the FY20 FMA NOFO published on August 4, 2020 has increased an additional \$40 million as a result of the identification of recovered funds – available funds for projects from previous grant cycles that were completed under budget or were not implemented, which can now be made available.



FEMA

FEMA will select eligible individual flood mitigation project subapplications on a competitive basis in the following prioritized order²:

- **Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) (B)(ii):** Projects that will mitigate flood damage to at least 50 percent of structures included in the subapplication that meet the definition of an SRL property: At least two separate NFIP claim payments have been made with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the insured structure.
- **Repetitive Loss (RL):** Projects that will mitigate flood damage to at least 50 percent of structures included in the subapplication that meet the definition of a RL property: Property has incurred flood-related damage on two occasions, in which the cost of the repair, on the average, equaled or exceeded 25 percent of the market value of the structure at the time of each such flood event.
- **SRL (B)(i):** Projects that will mitigate flood damage to at least 50 percent of structures included in the subapplication that meet the statutory definition of an SRL property: Four or more separate NFIP claims payments have been made with the amount of each claim exceeding \$5,000, and with the cumulative amount of claims payments exceeding \$20,000.



FUNDING CAPS

The \$200 million available under the FY20 FMA Grant Program may be used to fund the traditional FMA grant program priorities as well as the community flood mitigation priorities (both projects and project scoping).

The funding caps (federal share) for the FMA program are as follows:

- \$600,000 per Applicant for all for Project Scoping subapplications
- \$30,000,000 cap per community flood mitigation project subapplication

² For project subapplications in the priority categories, FEMA will prioritize projects as follows: the highest percentage of structures that meet the definition from 100 to 50 percent; the largest number of structures that meet one of the above definitions; the highest percentage of structures determined Substantially Damaged by the community within two (2) years of the application submission deadline with a verification letter attached to the application; the lowest percentage of structures that are listed as non-primary residences on their NFIP policy declarations page; and the projects with the highest FEMA-validated Benefit-Cost Ratio.

- \$50,000 per Applicant for all Technical Assistance subapplications, for Recipients to which FEMA obligated an FY 2019 FMA Award of at least \$1 million federal share
- \$100,000 per Applicant for flood hazard mitigation planning with maximums of \$50,000 for state flood hazard mitigation planning and \$25,000 for local flood hazard mitigation planning

A maximum of 10 percent of the total Application budget can be submitted for Applicant management costs and a maximum of 5 percent of the total subapplication budget can be submitted for subapplicant management costs, per [HMA Guidance](#).

COST SHARE

Federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of the eligible activity costs. However, FEMA may contribute the following federal cost share for properties that are insured under the NFIP at the time of application and meet the following definitions:

- Severe Repetitive Loss Bi or Bii (up to 100 percent)
- Repetitive Loss (up to 90 percent)

Application and Funding Deadlines

To apply for funding made available for FY20 through the FMA program, Applicants must adhere to the following Application and funding deadlines:

Application Opening: **September 30, 2020**

- Eligible Applicants must apply for funding using the new FEMA Grants Outcome (FEMA GO), which is now the management system for FMA. The development of FEMA GO was a multi-year effort to modernize and transform the way FEMA conducts grants management. FEMA GO will streamline the process to apply for, track, and manage FEMA grants.
- To apply, please visit <https://go.fema.gov/>.

Application Deadline: January 29, 2021 (3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time)

New system-related issues addressed until **January 27, 2021 (3:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time)**. Applicants experiencing technical problems outside of their control must notify FEMA by this deadline.

Pre-Award Selection Notice: **June 2021**

Period of Performance **Start Date:** Date of the Recipient's federal Award
End Date: **36 months** from start date for all other subapplications
48 months from start date for community flood mitigation projects

Eligibility Information

When applying for FY20 funding available through the FMA program, the applicants and subapplicants identified below must have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for project, Project Scoping, and Technical Assistance subapplications:

APPLICANTS

- States, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories, and Indian tribal governments (federally recognized)
- Each state, territory, the District of Columbia, and Indian tribal government (federally recognized) shall designate one agency to serve as the Applicant for FMA funding. Each Applicant's designated agency may submit only one FMA grant application to FEMA.
- Applicants must have a FEMA-approved State or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the Application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for project, Project Scoping, and Technical Assistance subapplications.

SUBAPPLICANTS

Local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and Indian tribal governments (including federally recognized tribes who choose to apply as subapplicants), are considered subapplicants and must submit subapplications to their state/territory/tribal applicant agency.

- Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan by the Application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds for project, Project Scoping, and Technical Assistance subapplications.

Subapplicants must be participating in the NFIP, and not be withdrawn, on probation, or suspended.

- Structures identified in the subapplication must have an NFIP policy in effect at the FMA Application start date and must maintain it through completion of the mitigation activity and for the life of the structure.

NFIP community status can be verified at <https://www.fema.gov/national-flood-insurance-program-community-status-book>.

- For additional information on eligibility, view the full FY20 FMA NOFO, accessible at www.Grants.gov.

FY20 Changes

Important changes introduced in the FY20 FMA program are provided below:

PROJECT SCOPING

- Changed from "Advance Assistance" to align with the purpose of this project type

- Available for project development activities associated with individual property mitigation (acquisition, elevation, relocation, & reconstruction)
- Increase in funding caps for Community Flood Mitigation Project Scoping subapplications:
For FY20, \$600,000 per applicant (\$400,000 increase over FY19)

COMMUNITY FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS

- Increase in funding caps for Community Flood Mitigation Project subapplications:
For FY20 \$30 million cap per project subapplication (\$20 million increase over FY19)

GRANTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

- All FY20 FMA grants must be applied for using the new FEMA Grants Outcome (FEMA GO), which is now the FMA grants management system.
- The development of FEMA GO was a multi-year effort to modernize and transform the way FEMA conducts grants management.

FEMA GO will streamline the process to apply for, track, and manage FEMA grants.

COMPETITIVE FUNDING PRIORITIZATION FOR ALL INDIVIDUAL FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS (IN PRIORITY ORDER)

- Projects with lower federal funding needed;
- Structures that have been determined Substantially Damaged; and
- Primary residences over non-primary residences

Additional Resources

The resources below provide additional information about the FMA program and can also be found at the [FMA webpage](#):

- FMA Community Flood Mitigation Project Fact Sheet
- FMA Community Flood Mitigation Benefitting Area Map Development
- FMA Project Scoping Fact Sheet
- FY20 FMA Notice of Funding Opportunity
- Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance & Addendum
- Property Elevation and Acquisition Job Aides

For general questions about the FMA program can be directed to the appropriate [State Hazard Mitigation Officer \(SHMO\)](#) or [FEMA Regional Office](#) on FEMA.gov. The HMA Helpline is available by telephone at (866) 222-3580.