

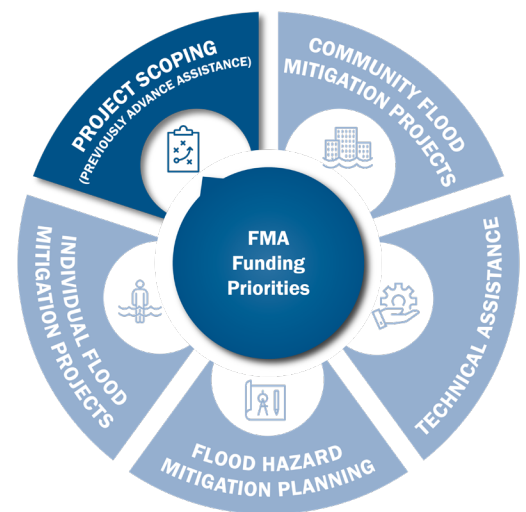
Flood Mitigation Assistance Project Scoping Activities

FEMA makes funds available through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program to state, local, tribal and territorial governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This fact sheet provides detailed information on Project Scoping activities eligible for Flood Mitigation Assistance funding.

Overview

Project Scoping is one of five program priorities for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 grant application cycle. For the purposes of the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, Project Scoping is defined as follows:

Activities designed to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete applications in a timely manner that result in either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project.



FY21 Flood Mitigation Assistance Funding Priorities

Project Scoping – Up to \$10 million available nationwide

FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for Project Scoping from each applicant not to exceed \$300,000 total in federal cost share for scoping an individual flood mitigation project or \$900,000 total federal cost share for scoping a community flood mitigation project. Project Scoping can be used to obtain data and to prioritize, select, and develop community flood mitigation projects and/or individual flood mitigation projects for future funding based on current FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plans. Project Scoping subapplications will be evaluated to ensure that the end result will lead to an eligible project subapplication that will provide benefits to the National Flood Insurance Program.

Consideration of Project Scoping early in the decision-making process can help facilitate the development of a viable project, as well as aid project implementation. However, project scoping activities that are funded in the FY 2021 application cycle are not eligible to also receive FY 2021 funding for a community flood mitigation project or an individual flood mitigation project. If Project Scoping is awarded, there is no guarantee for future FEMA funding.



FEMA

Subapplication Eligibility Requirements

All Project Scoping subapplications within the FEMA Grants Outcomes (GO) application system must meet the following requirements:

- Use the **Project Scoping** subapplication type within FEMA GO
- Be designated as a Project Scoping activity in the subapplication title “Project Scoping for X”
- Prove that the proposed project benefits NFIP-insured properties by submitting a map and associated geospatial file(s) (e.g., Shapefile, KML/KMZ, geodatabase, or other geographic information system [GIS]-enabled document) delineating:
 - Estimated area benefitting from project

For more information on developing a benefitting area map, please consult the Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria Job Aid at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_geospatial-eligibility-criteria-flood-mitigation-grant-applications.pdf.

Eligible Project Scoping Activities

Project Scoping can be used to obtain data and to prioritize, select, and develop the following projects for future funding based on a current FEMA-approved mitigation plan:

- Community flood mitigation projects
- Individual flood mitigation projects

The following list represents eligible Project Scoping activities that benefit NFIP-insured buildings, recognizing that applicants and subapplicants may have needs that extend beyond what has been included here. All Project Scoping activities should result in either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project for Flood Mitigation Assistance or another funding opportunity. Project Scoping activities may include:

- Conducting meetings, outreach, and coordination with subapplicants and community residents
- Developing or conducting engineering, environmental feasibility, and/or Benefit-Cost Analyses (BCA)
- Undertaking activities that lead to development of project applications
- Evaluating facilities to identify mitigation actions
- Using staff or resources to develop cost share strategies

Project Scoping Scoring Criteria

For FY 2021, Project Scoping subapplications submitted to Flood Mitigation Assistance will be selected based on the Final Priority Scoring Criteria for Project Scoping.¹ Table 1 outlines the specific criteria with a brief description of each. More information on eligibility and scoring criteria can be found in the [funding opportunity notice](#).

Table 1: Final Priority Scoring Criteria for Project Scoping

Priority	Description	Total Points
NFIP Insured Multiple Loss Communities	Jurisdictions with 50 or more Repetitive Loss (RL) or Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) structures and has received an Individual Assistance declaration for flood in the past 10 years.	200
Private-Partnership Cost Share	Cost share contributed by private organizations. Points will be assigned based on percentage of private cost share invested in the non-federal match, up to 150% of the non-federal match. For example, if a private organization provides 50% of the non-federal cost match the subapplicant would receive 50 points. If the organization provides 100% of the non-federal match, then the project would receive 100 points.	Up to 150
Community Rating System (CRS) Participation	The Community Rating System recognizes and encourages community floodplain-management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards. Depending on the level of participation, flood insurance premium rates for policyholders can be reduced up to 45%. Highest weight will be assigned to class 1 and descending through lower classes. (Graded Scale: 1 = 100, 2 = 90, 3 = 80, 4 = 70, 5 = 60, 6 = 50, 7 = 40, 8 = 30, 9 = 20, 10 = 10)	10-100
Cooperating Technical Partners Program (CTP) Participation	The Cooperating Technical Partners is a qualified partnership program in which communities commit to collaborate in maintaining up-to-date flood hazard maps and other flood hazard information. Points will be assigned to CTP participating communities.	30
CDC Social Vulnerability Index	Projects that benefit area(s) with an overall Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) score equal to or greater than .75 per CDC's Social Vulnerability Index will be eligible for this point priority. The Benefiting Area map will be used to determine which census tracts will be considered for assessment of these points. In the event multiple census tracts are included in an area benefiting from the project, FEMA will consider the highest SVI score.	200

Period of Performance

Under the FMA program, Project Scoping subawards have a period of performance to achieve project completion of 36 months starting on the date of the recipient's federal award.

¹ In case of a tie, the total dollars in NFIP claims paid in the subapplicant's jurisdiction in the past 5 years will be used as a tiebreaker.

More information on the period of performance and other programmatic requirements can be found in [Fiscal Year 2021 funding opportunity](#) or at the FMA website at <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>.

Project Scoping within FEMA GO

The FEMA GO grants management system is used for the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, and is where applicants and subapplicants will submit, track, and manage all applications. This section provides a brief synopsis on how to submit Project Scoping activity subapplications in FEMA GO, including information on selecting the correct activity type and an overview of the required narrative questions. For more information on navigating the new FEMA GO system and the full application process, please reference the *FEMA GO for Hazard Mitigation Grants* webpage at: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go/hazard-mitigation-assistance-grants>.

The following section offers tips on selecting and submitting a Project Scoping subapplication within FEMA GO.

- *Choose the “Subapplication Type”*: **Select** the “Project Scoping” Subapplication Type within FEMA GO to begin.
- *“Scope of Work” Section*
 - Select the Primary Activity Type that best describes your activity.
 - Select a Primary Community Lifeline; if applicable, select secondary and tertiary lifelines as well.
 - Project Scoping Scope of Work questions are distinct from both project and planning subapplications.
 - Q: “Will it result in a complete project application for future funding opportunities?”
 - Project scoping applications are intended to lead to future mitigation projects or project applications. Describe how your project scoping activity successfully builds toward this outcome.
- *“Cost Effectiveness” Section*: **Select** “Not Applicable”.

Additional Resources

The links below provide additional information related to the FMA Program and resources to assist applicants and subapplicants in their development of FMA projects.

- Flood Mitigation Assistance program website: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods>
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance>
- Job Aid: New Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria in Flood Mitigation Grant Applications: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_geospatial-eligibility-criteria-flood-mitigation-grant-applications.pdf