

Planning-Related Activities

Using Hazard Mitigation Grant Program 7% Funding

To strengthen hazard mitigation across the country, FEMA supports a variety of planning-related activities through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and HMGP Post-fire. In addition to hazard mitigation planning grants, the HMGP offers funding for planning-related activities and provides state, tribal and local governments with the flexibility to reduce risk and integrate hazard mitigation principles into their planning for resilience.

The funding for planning-related activities falls under Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 201.3(c)(4). This states that up to 7% of a recipient's HMGP funding can be used for mitigation planning in accordance with 44 CFR Section 206.434. Within this percentage, there are no limits on the dollar value of the planning-related activity or the number of planning activities that can be submitted on behalf of a community.

A state, tribal or local government with a current FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan is eligible to apply for planning-related activities grants. The grant application will need to describe the deliverable for the proposed activity. The following list provides examples of planning-related activities that may be eligible.

1. Updating or enhancing sections of the current FEMA-approved mitigation plan, such as:

- Enhancing the risk and vulnerability assessment based on new information, including supporting studies, such as economic or Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning (Risk MAP) analyses.
- Strengthening the mitigation strategy by incorporating actions to reduce vulnerabilities over the long term, as well as linking proposed actions to available funding, such as Public Assistance (PA), Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA), U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) loans and funds, state assistance and/or private investments.
- Incorporating green building, smart growth principles, housing, infrastructure, historic preservation, habitat protection or cultural resource considerations into the risk assessment and/or mitigation strategy.
- Incorporating diverse and/or underserved populations that have unique needs into the planning process, risk assessment and/or mitigation strategy.
- Incorporating information into the mitigation plan to gain certification under the Emergency Management Accreditation Program.
- Integrating mitigation planning with flood management planning to gain credit under the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS).

2. Integrating information from mitigation plans, specifically risk assessment or mitigation strategies, with other planning efforts, such as:

- Pre- or post-disaster recovery strategies, preparedness, or response plans; including disaster recovery plans to protect local cultural, artistic and historic resources.



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- Comprehensive (e.g., land use or master) plans.
- Capital improvement or economic development plans.
- Resource management/conservation (e.g., stormwater, open space) plans.
- Other long-term community planning initiatives (e.g., transportation, housing, recreation, landmark and heritage, redevelopment, drought, and/or wildfire).

3. Building capability through delivery of technical assistance and training by:

- Introducing officials, leaders, staff, residents, cultural stewards, and other stakeholders to hazard mitigation and disaster recovery planning, including train-the-trainer activities.
- Increasing people's understanding of financial tools that can be used to implement mitigation measures and develop a financing strategy (e.g., tax increment financing, coordinated infrastructure financing, or historic tax credits).
- Helping communities incorporate nature-based/green approaches into mitigation actions.
- Providing communities with information on viable adaptation approaches to prevent future losses to homes, businesses and infrastructure and to preserve historic and cultural resources.

4. Evaluating the adoption/implementation of codes and ordinances that reduce risk and/or increase resilience to future hazards by:

- Promoting flexibility and adaptation approaches to protect historic and cultural resources.
- Evaluating the current and future built environment to assess risks and vulnerabilities.
- Determining if building codes are consistent with hazard-resistant provisions in International Code Series, state-model or state-mandated building codes.

Resources and Additional Information

Hazard Mitigation Planning: Information is available on the Hazard Mitigation Planning website. Find more information on planning requirements in the [State, Tribal](#), and Local Mitigation Plan Review Guides, as well as the [Local Mitigation Planning Handbook](#). Additional resources include [Plan Integration: Linking Local Planning Efforts \(2015\)](#) and [Integrating Hazard Mitigation Into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for Community Officials \(2013\)](#).

Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA): [HMA](#) provides information on grant policy and resources that can help users develop planning grant applications and *planning-related activities*. See the [Application Development](#) page and [HMA Guidance](#).

Building Science: Additional resources are available on FEMA's [Building Science](#) page

NFIP: Visit the [NFIP](#) website to view a variety of resources related to flood insurance, flood mapping and flood mitigation. More information on the requirements related to CRS is available from the [National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System](#) website

Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation: Additional resources are available on FEMA's [Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation](#) page.