

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application Period Extension Rule

On Aug. 15, 2024, FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) final rule took effect and changed its application procedures. The rule extends the application period and allows the reopening of closed application periods under certain circumstances, enabling applicants to maximize available funding for hazard mitigation plans and rebuilding efforts. HMGP provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces or mitigates future disaster losses in their communities.

Summary of Changes

- On Aug. 14, 2024, FEMA published a final rule that extends and adds additional flexibilities to the application procedures for HMGP. The final rule is effective for major disasters declared on or after Aug. 15, 2024.
- The updated rule makes the following changes to the HMGP application period:
 - Extends the application period from 12 months to 15 months from the date of the disaster declaration.
 - Increases FEMA Regional Administrators' authority to grant application period extensions in 30 to 120-day increments, for a total application period extension of up to 240 days.
 - Provides clear authority for FEMA to extend the application period beyond 240 days for extenuating circumstances outside of the applicant's control. FEMA is developing additional guidance regarding this.
 - Authorizes FEMA to re-open the HMGP application period for two circumstances: 1) if additional funding becomes available because of a recalculation in the amount of HMGP assistance, or 2) if an appeal on an application period extension denial is granted after the application period closes.
- This rule applies to HMGP awards made under major disaster declarations on or after Aug 15, 2024. **It does not apply to the HMGP Post Fire program.** For application procedures related to the HMGP Post Fire program, applicants should refer to the [2024 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).



FEMA

Table 1: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application Procedure Changes

Prior Regulation	New Regulation
Application period is 12 months from the date of the major disaster declaration	Application period is 15 months from the date of the major disaster declaration
Regional Administrators can extend the application period up to 180 days, in 30 to 90-day increments	Regional Administrators can extend the application period up to 240 days, in 30 to 120-day increments
The prior regulation did not provide FEMA Headquarters clear authority to extend the application period	FEMA Headquarters can extend the application period beyond 240 days for extenuating circumstances outside of the applicant's control
The prior regulation did not provide FEMA with the authority to reopen the application period	FEMA has the authority to reopen application periods for up to 180 days, in limited circumstances

Benefits

- The application procedure changes will help our partners address risks to natural disasters and reaffirms FEMA's commitment to reducing barriers to participate in HMGP.
- The application deadline extension will allow communities more time to complete applications. Based on an analysis of application period extension requests under the previous regulation, 74% of applicants requested an extension beyond the 12-month application period and nearly 27% requested extensions beyond the Regional Administrator's authority to extend up to 18 months.
- This rule responds to numerous comments regarding the length of the application period and the inability to reopen it once it has closed.