

# National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program State Assistance Grant Program

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The [National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program](#) (NEHRP) is the federal government's coordinated approach to addressing earthquake risks. The NEHRP's premise is that, while earthquakes may be inevitable, earthquake disasters are not. FEMA is responsible for the majority NEHRP's general implementation activities. In this role, FEMA translates the results of research and technology development into effective earthquake risk reduction plans and activities.

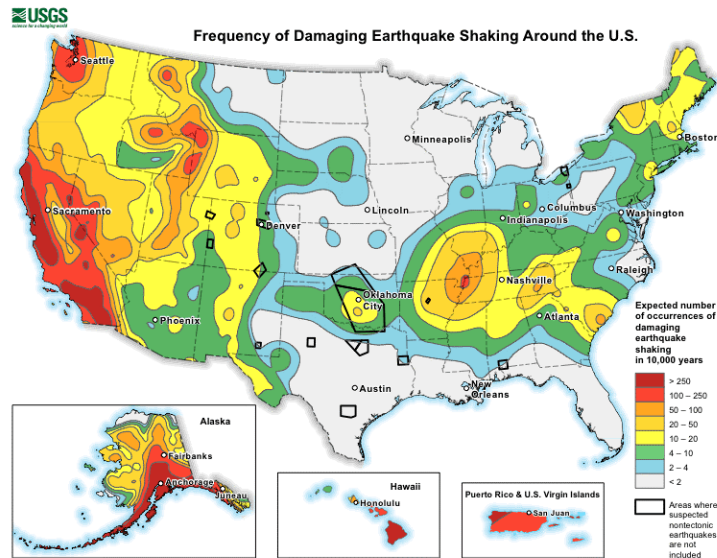
## FEMA NEHRP Responsibilities

- Operate a program of grants and assistance to enable states to develop and implement earthquake risk mitigation activities.
- Support implementation of a comprehensive earthquake education, outreach, and public awareness program.
- In conjunction with the National Institute of Standards and Technology, (NIST) and other federal agencies, support the preparation, maintenance and dissemination of seismic resistant design guidance on building codes, standards and practices for new and existing buildings and lifelines.
- Work with states, local jurisdictions and other federal agencies to establish demonstration projects on earthquake hazard mitigation.
- Support the director of NIST in the completion of programmatic goals.



**FEMA**





**Figure 1. Years of research has determined that all 50 states and U.S. territories are at risk from earthquakes. However, 24 states and U.S. territories have a high to very high risk. These states and territories are eligible for FEMA NEHRP state assistance.**

## State Assistance Grant Program

The FEMA NEHRP [State Assistance Grant Program](#) is designed to increase and enhance the effective implementation of earthquake risk reduction at the regional, state and local level, by making funding available through annual, non-competitive grants for individual states and territories. FEMA also provides grant funding to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education for multi-state and national earthquake assistance.

### Allowable Activities

For detailed information on allowable activities, [click here](#). Generally, funding is provided to:

- Support seismic mitigation planning
- Develop inventories and conduct seismic safety inspections of critical structures and lifeline infrastructure
- Update building codes, zoning codes and ordinances to enhance seismic safety
- Increase earthquake awareness and education
- Participate in earthquake exercises
- Promotion of earthquake insurance
- Provide assistance to multi-state groups

### **About the 25% Cost Share**

The National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2018, Public Law No. 115 -307 requires states and territories to provide a 25% non -Federal cost share for state assistance.

As of Fiscal Year 2019, third party in kind contributions are now acceptable.

Definition: Code of Federal Regulations 2, Part 200, Section 200.96

Third party in kind contributions as the value of non-cash contributions (i.e., property or services) that

(a) Benefit a federally assisted project or program

(b) Are contributed by non -federal third parties, without charge, to a non -federal entity under a federal award

## **Types of Funding Opportunities**

To support individual states and territories, the FEMA NEHRP state assistance program utilizes two types of funding opportunities; *Individual State Earthquake Assistance (ISEA)* grants and *Multi-State and National Earthquake Assistance (MSNEA)* competitive grants.

### **Individual State Earthquake Assistance**

This funding opportunity is provided to those states and territories that have been determined to be at a high to very high risk of earthquakes.

This determination is made and published annually by FEMA as the State Assistance Target Allocation Plan. The plan is based on the Seismic Design Category (SDC) per American Society of Civil Engineers and Structural Engineering Institute (ASCE/SEI) 7-10 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures and the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC) SDC maps.

In addition, states and territories must meet the statutory 25% cost share requirement, and they must ensure that they have the staffing capacity to manage their anticipated level of involvement in FEMA-funded NEHRP projects and activities.

Funding is provided to eligible states and territories through non-competitive grants that are managed by FEMA regional earthquake program management staff.

### **Multi-State and National Earthquake Assistance**

This funding opportunity is designed to facilitate the development and implementation of FEMA-funded, multi-state and National NEHRP projects and activities. An example is support for [ShakeOut](#) events.

Funding is provided to nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education through competitive grants. Unlike Individual State Earthquake Assistance, these grants are managed by FEMA headquarters earthquake program management staff.

## How Funding Opportunities are Made Available

Each year FEMA publishes a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for both Individual State Earthquake Assistance and Multi-State and National Earthquake Assistance. The NOFOs are posted on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) and are available for public review.

## Additional Information and Resource Links

- [National Earthquake Reduction Program \(NEHRP\)](#)
- [Earthquake Publications available](#) at FEMA
- For information about [federal earthquake grants](#)

Questions for FEMA Headquarters NEHRP program management staff can be emailed to: [FEMA-NEHRP@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-NEHRP@fema.dhs.gov)