

# Summary of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs

---

FEMA [Hazard Mitigation Assistance](#) grant programs provide funding for eligible activities that reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from future disasters. These activities are referred to as hazard mitigation. Eligible applicants of these grants include states, local, tribal and territorial governments.

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments so they can rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future natural disaster losses in their communities. It is authorized by Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ([Stafford Act](#)).

HMGP funding is authorized with a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. A governor or tribal chief executive may request HMGP funding throughout the state, tribe or territory when submitting a disaster declaration. The amount of funding made available to the applicant is generally 15% of the total federal assistance amount provided for recovery from the presidentially declared disaster and is determined by the FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan. Refer to the “Eligible Applicants and Subapplicants” section for more information. Additional information and resources can be found on FEMA’s [website](#). Search for “Hazard Mitigation Assistance” or “HMA”.

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire

This [HMGP Post Fire](#) program provides funding to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures focused on reducing the risk of harm from wildfire. HMGP Post Fire funding is authorized under Sections 404 and 420 of the Stafford Act, as amended, and provides hazard mitigation grant funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments in areas receiving a [Fire Management Assistance Grant \(FMAG\)](#) declaration.

A Presidential Disaster Declaration is not required to activate funding. The funding amounts are determined by FEMA and are based on a national aggregate calculation of the historical FMAG declarations from the past 10 years. This amount is recalculated at the beginning of each fiscal year (October 1-September 30). Awards provided by HMGP Post Fire are aggregated for the fiscal year to lessen the administrative burden and increase funding amounts under one grant.

Eligible project types include defensible space initiatives, ignition-resistant construction, hazardous fuels reduction, erosion control measures, slope failure prevention measures and flash flooding prevention



# FEMA

measures. For additional information, read the HMGP Post Fire [Fact Sheet](#). Examples of wildfire mitigation activities are listed under Section 404 of the Stafford Act in “Use of Assistance”.

## Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

For Fiscal Year 2020, FEMA implemented the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) competitive grant program which supports state, local, tribal and territorial government as they implement hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks from disasters and natural hazards. BRIC replaced FEMA’s legacy Pre-Disaster Mitigation program for new pre-disaster awards. This new grant is authorized by Section 203 of the Stafford Act, as amended by [Section 1234](#), National Public Infrastructure Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation, of the [Disaster Recovery Reform Act](#) (DRRA) of 2018.

The BRIC program aims to categorically shift the federal focus away from reactive disaster spending and toward proactive investment in community resilience. FEMA funds BRIC with a 6% set-aside from federal post-disaster grant funds, such as public assistance and Individuals Assistance grants. As a competitive grant program, applicants must apply on a yearly basis.

BRIC encourages public infrastructure projects, projects incorporating nature-based solutions, and the adoption and enforcement of modern building codes. In addition, this includes projects that mitigate the risk to one or more [Community Lifelines](#) that enable continuous operation of critical government and business functions that are essential for human health and safety or economic security. Additional information and resources can be found on FEMA’s [website](#). Search for “Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities” or “BRIC.”

## Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

[Flood Mitigation Assistant \(FMA\)](#) grants provide funding to states, local communities, tribes and territories to mitigate flood-damaged properties with the goal of reducing or eliminating claims under the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) (NFIP). It is authorized by Section 1366 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968.

FEMA distributes funds annually to develop community or individual flood mitigation projects. These grants address community flood risk for the purpose of reducing National Flood Insurance Program flood claim payments and to mitigate the risk of flooding to individual flood insured structures. In addition, funding is also used for technical assistance and flood hazard mitigation planning.

Typically, federal funding, called federal cost share, is 75% of the eligible activity costs. However, FEMA may contribute up to 100% of the federal cost share for NFIP-insured properties meeting the criteria of being severely or repetitively damaged. The program is a competitive grant program and applicants must apply on a yearly basis. Additional information and resources, including information on topics such as eligibility criteria, application and funding deadlines, can be found on FEMA’s [website](#). Search for “Flood Mitigation Assistance” or “FMA”.

## Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

This pre-disaster grant program is now replaced by the Building Resilient and Infrastructure Communities program for new funding beginning in Fiscal Year 2020 and is authorized by Section 203 of the Stafford Act, as amended. Grant awards made in FY 2019 and earlier will continue to be managed under Pre-Disaster

Mitigation. Additional [information](#) can be found on FEMA's [website](#) . Search for “Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program” or “PDM”.

## Governing Authorities

Hazard mitigation grant programs are authorized by the following laws. Visit FEMA's [website](#) to see additional “Laws and Regulations” which govern several of its programs.

- 1968: [National Flood Insurance Act](#)
- 1979: Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ([the Stafford Act](#))
- 2000: [Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000](#)
  - This includes FEMA-approved mitigation plans a requirement to receive certain FEMA assistance and authorized the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program.
- 2018: [Disaster Recovery Reform Act \(DRRA\)](#)
  - This amended the Stafford Act and expanded the grant-eligible mitigation activities for FEMA's grant programs including HMGP Post Fire and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities.

## Hazard Mitigation Assistance

### A Common Goal

The shared goal of Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs is to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural hazards.

### General Requirements

All mitigation projects must be cost-effective, technically feasible and effective, and compliant with the [National Environmental Policy Act \(NEPA\)](#) and any other applicable requirements outlined in federal, state, territorial, federally recognized tribal and local laws.

Additionally, all applicants and subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan.

### Program Comparisons for Cost Share

Through its grant programs, FEMA typically funds the [federal cost share](#) for 75% of eligible activity costs. In certain cases, FEMA may provide up to 90 or 100%. Refer to the Table 1 for additional information. Applicants and subapplicants must pay for the remaining 25%, non-federal costs share, of eligible activity costs with non-FEMA sources.

In general, the non-federal cost share requirement may not be met with assistance from other federal agencies. However, exceptions include funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's [Community Development Block Grants](#) funds. Federal assistance that is used to meet a non-federal cost share requirement must meet the eligibility and compliance requirements of both federal source

programs. More information on cost share strategies can be found in the [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Cost Share Guide](#).

This table below outlines the federal and non-federal cost-share requirements.

**Table 1: Cost Share Requirements**

Program	Mitigation Award Activity (percent of federal/ non-federal cost share)
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	75/25
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire	75/25
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	75/25
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Small Impoverished Communities	up to 90/10
Flood Mitigation Assistance (Community Flood Mitigation, Project Scoping, individual mitigation of insured properties, and planning grants)	75/25
Flood Mitigation Assistance – Repetitive Loss Property	90/10
Flood Mitigation Assistance – Severe Repetitive Loss Property	100/0

### Eligible Applicants and Subapplicants

States, territories, and federally recognized tribal governments are eligible grant applicants. Each entity designates one agency to serve as the applicant for each Hazard Mitigation Assistance program. All interested subapplicants must apply to the designated applicant, who will then submit application(s) (including selected subapplications) to FEMA for a specified grant program.

Homeowners, business operators, and certain non-profit organizations cannot apply directly to FEMA for a grant, but they can be included in a subapplication submitted by an eligible subapplicant. The tables below identify, in general, eligible applicants and subapplicants.

**Table 2: Eligibility for Application Submission for Applications/Subapplicants**

Applicants	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	Flood Mitigation Assistance
State agencies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Federally recognized Tribes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Subapplicants	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	Flood Mitigation Assistance
State agencies	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Federally recognized Tribes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Local governments/ communities*	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Private nonprofit organizations	Yes	Yes	No	No

\* Local governments/communities may include non-federally recognized tribes consistent with the definition of local government in 44 CFR 201.2, including any federally recognized Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization, or Alaska Native village or organization that is not federally recognized per Title 25 of the United States Code Section 479a et seq.

## National Flood Insurance Program Eligibility and Participation



### Subapplicant Eligibility:

To apply for and to receive a Flood Mitigation Assistance grant, all subapplicants must be participating and in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program. For example, regional flood control districts or county government must belong to a community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program and provide zoning and building code enforcement or planning and community development professional services for that community.

### Project Eligibility:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities subapplications containing projects sited within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) are eligible only if the jurisdiction in which the project is located participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. If subapplications contain projects located outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area, participation in the program is not required.

### Property Eligibility:

Properties included in a project subapplication for Flood Mitigation Assistance must be have an NFIP flood insurance policy at the time of the grant application opening date. For all Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, flood insurance must be maintained through completion of the mitigation activity and for the life of all structures that remain in a Special Flood Hazard Application. For the program, flood insurance must be maintained for the life of the structure, regardless of the flood zone.

## FEMA Review and Selection of Applications

FEMA reviews all subapplications for eligibility and completeness, cost-effectiveness, technical feasibility and effectiveness, compliance with Environmental and Historic Preservation and any other program requirements. FEMA cannot fund subapplications that do not meet the program’s requirements. FEMA will notify applicants of the status of their subapplications and will work with them on subapplications identified for further review.

**Table 3: Eligible Activities for Mitigation Projects and Capability and Capacity Building Grants**

	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Post Fire	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities	Flood Mitigation Assistance
<b>1. Mitigation Projects</b>				
Property Acquisition	•	•	•	•
Structure Elevation	•	•	•	•
Mitigation Reconstruction	•	•	•	•
Flood Risk Reduction Measures	•	•	•	•
Stabilization	•	•	•	•
Dry Floodproofing Non-Residential Buildings	•	•	•	•
Tsunami Vertical Evacuation	•	•	•	
Safe Rooms	•	•	•	
Wildfire Mitigation	•	•	•	
Retrofitting	•	•	•	•
Generators	•	•	•	
Earthquake Early Warning Systems	•	•	•	
Innovative Mitigation Projects	•	•	•	•
<b>2. Capability and Capacity Building</b>				
New Plan Creation and Updates	•	•	•	•
Planning-Related Activities	•	•	•	•
Project Scoping/Advance Assistance	•	•	•	•
Financial Technical Assistance				•

# Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs Application Process

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire

Applications are processed through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) system (formerly known as National Emergency Management Information System or NEMIS). Applicants must apply using the Application Development Module of the HMGP system. When doing so, they can create project applications and submit them to the appropriate [FEMA Region Office](#) within 12 months of a Presidential Disaster Declaration. For Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire, project applications may be submitted until March 31 of the next fiscal year in which the Fire Mitigation Assistance Grant event occurred.

## Flood Mitigation Assistance and Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

New applications for BRIC and FMA are being processed through FEMA’s new Grants Outcomes ([FEMA GO](#)) grants management system beginning with Fiscal Year 2020. Learn more about the FEMA GO system, including user guides, templates, and instructional videos by visiting the FEMA GO [webpages](#). Search for “FEMA GO”.

## Mitigation eGrants

Existing applications for the [Pre-Disaster Mitigation](#) grant program are managed by the legacy Mitigation eGrants system for FY 2019 and previous year grants. Details about the grant application process are available in the 2015 [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance](#) on FEMA’s [website](#). Search for “2015 HMA Guidance”)

## Contact Information

An applicant can contact a [State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#) or [FEMA Region Office](#) for general questions about hazard mitigation grant programs.

## Program Resources

	Email	Toll-free number
FEMA Go Helpline	<a href="mailto:femago@fema.dhs.gov">femago@fema.dhs.gov</a>	1-877-585-3242
Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Helpline	<a href="mailto:BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov">BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov</a>	1-855-540-6744
Feasibility and Effectiveness Helpline	<a href="mailto:FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov">FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov</a>	
Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation	<a href="mailto:EHPHelpline@fema.dhs.gov">EHPHelpline@fema.dhs.gov</a>	1-866-222-3580
Hazard Mitigation Assistance Helpline		1-866-222-3580

## FEMA Announcements

Get the latest Hazard Mitigation Assistance announcements and grant information by email. [Subscribe](#) today.