

FEMA Mitigation Funding Opportunity Advance Assistance/Project Scoping

Overview

- FEMA's mitigation grant programs provide early funding opportunities to accelerate the identification and implementation of mitigation activities. This is offered under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as Advance Assistance and under the Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) program as Project Scoping activities.
- Recipients and sub-recipients may use Advance Assistance/Project Scoping to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select and develop complete mitigation 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. FEMA has funding available to assist in identifying and formulating complete grant applications to mitigate wildfire risk and other hazards.

Eligible Activities

Note: This list presents potential advance assistance / project scoping activities. This list is not exhaustive. Recipients and sub-recipients may have needs that extend beyond what has been included here.

- Scoping and developing hazard mitigation projects, including engineering design, feasibility studies and project alternatives analysis.
- Conducting meetings, outreach, and coordination with potential sub-applicants and community residents to identify potential future mitigation projects, including for ignition resistant construction retrofits and defensible space.
- Evaluating facilities or areas to determine appropriate mitigation actions.
- Incorporating environmental planning and historic preservation considerations into project planning activities.
- Collecting data for benefit-cost analyses, environmental compliance, and other program requirements.
- Conducting hydrologic and hydraulic studies for unmapped flood zones or other areas where communities propose to submit hazard mitigation projects.
- Coordinating, scoping, and developing regional or multi-community hazard mitigation projects that require coordination to cohesively address resiliency and sustainability goals.
- Utilizing third-party cost estimation services for project budgeting across sub-applications.



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- Contracting services to address data consistency needs for other project application categories, such as environmental planning and historic preservation, cost-sharing mechanisms, and work schedules.

Overall Complexity

Application	Environmental	Legal
Low	Low	Low

Application Requirements

- Must be a local government, Tribe, or Private Nonprofit (PNP*).
- Must have a FEMA approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).
- Must fulfill appropriate FEMA and Recipient application requirements including, scope of work, budget, schedule, etc.
- 25 percent non-federal match required (Under the BRIC program, small and impoverished communities are eligible for a 10 percent non-federal match).
- Must include narrative discussion of the benefits of the project (no formal benefit- cost analysis is required).
- Funding limits are set by FEMA and the Recipient.

* PNPs are eligible only under HMGP and are not required to have an HMP.

Environmental Requirements

While the planning and development of a mitigation project doesn't have any specific environmental concerns in of itself, this should include an evaluation of all considered alternatives and how environmental laws may be affected by these alternatives.

Requests for Advance Assistance / Project Scoping should include a detailed budget for expected needs, such as potential permitting (CWA, EO 11988), surveys and consultation (NHPA), and/or assessment documents (NEPA, ESA, MSA).