

Fiscal Year 2021 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, FEMA will competitively award \$12 million to eligible states and local governments to close known preparedness capability gaps, encourage innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents, and build upon existing regional preparedness efforts, including pandemic preparedness. Applicants must submit completed applications to FEMA no later than 5 p.m. Eastern on July 16, 2021.

Overview

The FY 2021 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP), as appropriated by the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2021* (Pub. L. No. 116-260), provides funding to close known capability gaps, encourages innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents, and builds on existing regional preparedness efforts. The purpose of the RCPGP is to build regional capacity to manage catastrophic incidents by improving and expanding collaboration for catastrophic incident preparedness.

The [National Response Framework \(4th edition, 2019\)](#) defines a catastrophic incident as any natural or manmade incident, including terrorism, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, or government functions. Effective prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery activities require a cohesive regional approach to catastrophic planning.

Regional pandemic preparedness remains a program objective this year, with a specific focus on addressing the [Community Lifelines](#) and [Core Capabilities](#) that are essential to pandemic preparedness. In addition, recognizing the value of all-hazards emergency preparedness planning, and consistent with the objectives of the FY 2021 RCPGP, applicants may continue to consider projects that improve capability levels in the Food, Water, and Sheltering Community Lifeline as measured in the Housing or Logistics and Supply Chain Management core capabilities reported through the [Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment \(THIRA\)/ Stakeholder Preparedness Review \(SPR\)](#).

Eligible applicants are advised to thoroughly review the FY 2021 RCPGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for detailed instructions and other important information prior to submitting their application. The FY 2021 RCPGP NOFO is located online at [fema.gov/grants](https://www.fema.gov/grants) as well as on [Grants.gov](https://www.Grants.gov).



FEMA

Funding

In FY 2021, FEMA will competitively award \$12 million in RCPGP funds to assist states and local governments to develop innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents. This is an increase of \$2 million over FY 2020 RCPGP funding levels.

Eligibility

States, as defined by [2 C.F.R. § 200.1](#) (this definition includes territories), and local governments, as defined by [2 C.F.R. § 200.1](#), are eligible to apply. The following eligibility restrictions for these groups apply:

- A state or territory is eligible to apply if one or more of the 100 most populous [Metropolitan Statistical Areas \(MSAs\)](#) per the [Census Bureau's 2019 Population Estimates](#) (as listed in Appendix B of the FY 2021 RCPGP NOFO) is located within the state or territory.
- Local governments must be located within one of the 100 most populous MSAs. FEMA will accept no more than **one application** per MSA.

Additional guidance on RCPGP-specific eligibility is available in the NOFO at www.fema.gov/grants.

Application Process

Applying for an award under the RCPGP is a multi-step process. Applicants are encouraged to register early as the registration process can take four weeks or more to complete. Registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the applicant's ability to meet required submission deadlines. Please refer to Section D in the FY 2021 RCPGP NOFO for detailed information and instructions.

Eligible applicants should submit their initial application **at least one week prior** to the application deadline at 5 p.m. Eastern on July 16, 2021 through the Grants.gov portal at www.grants.gov. Applicants needing Grants.gov support should contact the customer support hotline (1-800-518-4726) 24 hours per day, 7 days per week except federal holidays.

Eligible applicants will be notified by FEMA and asked to proceed with submitting their complete application package in the [Non-Disaster \(ND\) Grants System](#) by the July 16 application deadline.

Funding Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated using a scoring rubric, a summary of which is provided below. New for FY 2021, the needs of socially vulnerable populations are factored into the scoring criteria. The full criteria can be found in Appendix D of the FY 2021 RCPGP NOFO, which details the specific criteria aligned to each of the project narrative requirements and the maximum number of points an application can receive for each criterion. The four base criteria earn up to 100 total possible points. The bonus criterion brings the total to 115 possible points.

- **Need:** The applicant demonstrates a need for grant funds, including identifying their current capability and a gap/need for a project to build beyond current capability within the core capability of interest. (Possible Points: 0 – 20 max)
- **Project Design:** The applicant demonstrates an effective and sustainable project approach for building their current capability within the 36-month period of performance, including the specific project implementation, project management, and regional collaboration approaches. (Possible Points: 0 – 35 max)
- **Impact:** The applicant demonstrates the proposed project’s regional impact, including how the project will build the applicant’s capability, performance measures the project is expected to achieve, and how the project can be scaled or replicated to benefit national preparedness. (Possible Points: 0 – 25 max)
- **Budget:** The applicant demonstrates a reasonable and cost-effective budget (based on the budget detail worksheet and project narrative), including explanation of reasonable project costs across the requested categories, the project’s relative cost effectiveness and sustainability, and the applicant’s ability to manage federal grants. (Possible Points: 0 – 20 max)
- **Bonus:** Bonus points will be applied to project proposals that:
 - Address regional pandemic preparedness, including Housing or Logistics/Supply Chain Management projects that address pandemic preparedness considerations.
 - Benefit multiple states or more than one of the top 100 most populous MSAs.
 - Commit to a 10 percent or greater cost share in the proposal.

See **Appendix D: Evaluation Criteria and Scoring** in the FY 2021 RCPGP NOFO for additional details on scoring, including how bonus points will be applied.

For More Information

There are a variety of resources available to address programmatic, technical, and financial questions, which can assist with RCPGP:

- The FY 2021 RCPGP NOFO is located online at www.fema.gov/grants as well as www.grants.gov.
- FEMA Regional Offices issue, manage, and close out RCPGP awards. This includes conducting cash analysis, financial and programmatic monitoring, and audit resolution. The Regional Offices also provide technical assistance to RCPGP recipients. FEMA Regional Office contact information is available at fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts.
- Applicants needing technical support with the ND Grants System should contact ndgrants@fema.dhs.gov or (800) 865-4076, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern.

Contact Us

- The FEMA Program Office provides support in addressing specific programmatic questions regarding the FY 2021 RCPGP. The Program Office can be reached by e-mail at: FEMA-RCPGP@fema.dhs.gov.
- For additional program-specific information, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) help line at (800) 368-6498 or AskCSID@fema.dhs.gov; hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday.
- For support regarding financial grants management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the FEMA Award Administration Help Desk via e-mail at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.