



FACT SHEET

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

Washington State Military Department

Emergency Management Division

Camp Murray, WA 98430

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is available to the State of Washington following a Presidential declaration of a major disaster. This state-administered program is authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Section 404 of Public Law 93-288, as amended.

HMGP funds projects designed to reduce or eliminate the effects and costs of future disaster damage. Unlike the Federal Emergency Management Agency's more familiar public agency disaster assistance program that helps pay for permanent repair and restoration of existing facilities, the HMGP goes beyond fixing the damage. The HMGP— within the limits of federal and state program guidelines – helps fund a wide range of new projects that reduce hazard vulnerability and the potential of damage or used to develop or update a local or tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

State Government
Local Government

Certain Private Nonprofit Organizations providing
Like-Government Services and Facilities

Special Districts
Indian Tribes

Applicants must be jurisdictions that are participating and in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program and in compliance with State Growth Management Act requirements, or located in a community that is.

FUNDING CONSTRAINTS

The grants are available to eligible applicants on a competitive basis on the following cost share: 75 percent federal and 25 percent non-federal (applicant and state normally split this share). The amount available for the HMGP is based on a percentage of FEMA expenditures on disaster assistance, which may limit the size of projects and grant awards. All mitigation project proposals will be evaluated against federal and state program criteria and they must be cost-effective

APPLICATION, FUNDING PROCESS

1. Potential applicants submit “Letters of Intent” (LOI) to participate in the program.
2. Following review of LOI’s, State Emergency Management Division (EMD) provides application packets to eligible applicants with potentially eligible projects.
3. EMD reviews submitted applications for eligibility, with site visits conducted as necessary.
4. A review committee of state and local representatives evaluates and scores the applications. Local representatives are from outside the declared disaster area(s), if possible.
5. EMD recommends projects to FEMA for approval and funding based upon score and available funds.
6. FEMA makes grant awards following its review, to include environmental and historic preservation considerations, as required.
7. Upon notification of approval and funding, EMD prepares a grant funding agreement with the applicant and provides a notice to proceed.

ELIGIBLE PLANS, PROJECTS:

Following are examples of activities that the HMGP can fund:

- Development or revision of Hazard Mitigation Plans using 44 CFR 201 criteria.
 - **NOTE:** Applicants must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation plan in order to be eligible to apply for project grant funds.
- Structural hazard control, such as debris basins and retention ponds;
- Retrofitting structures such as water storage tanks, schools and bridges from seismic, flood or wind hazards.
- Acquisition, elevation or relocation of structures in areas of high hazard.
- Construction activities resulting in protection from hazards, such as rerouting or placing utility lines underground, and upgrading storm drainage and culverts.

Generally, projects should:

- Present the most practical, effective, and environmentally sound alternative;
- Provide cost-effective protection over the expected project life;
- Substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering from a major disaster;
- Conform with federal floodplain, wetland, and environmental regulations;
- Conform to the goals of the Growth Management Act; National Flood Insurance Program; and
- Solve a problem, or part of a problem when there is assurance that the whole project will be completed;
- Address a problem that is repetitive or that poses a significant risk if left unsolved;
- Contribute substantially to the problem's long-term solution;
- Have manageable future maintenance requirements;
- Have the documented support of the local community.

Among reasons previous projects were ineligible for funding:

- Project application failed to meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements for adequate public involvement in the development of the alternatives.
- Project is for operation and maintenance or deferred maintenance.
- Facility benefiting from the project falls under the authority of another federal agency such as the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- FEMA benefit-cost methodology determines project is not cost-effective.
- When HMGP project is part of a larger effort, applicant made no assurance that the entire project will be completed.

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