



DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Texas Department of Public Safety
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HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) FACT SHEET

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The HMGP (authorized by Section 404 of the Stafford Act) is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and administered by the State of Texas following a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. The HMGP is not a disaster relief program for individual disaster victims, nor is it a recovery program that funds repairs to public property damaged during a disaster.

The HMGP provides a means to fund long-term hazard mitigation actions specifically designed to eliminate or reduce the consequences of future disasters. Disaster Recovery programs seek to repair damages, and return to pre-disaster conditions. The HMGP's single focus is to make conditions better than they were before the disaster occurred, and:

- To prevent future losses of lives, property damages, and costs from hazards;
- To implement State and local hazard mitigation action plans;
- To enable mitigation measures to be implemented during immediate recovery from a disaster; and
- To provide funding for previously identified but unfunded cost-effective mitigation measures.

Mitigation projects may also be identified and funded through FEMA's Public Assistance Program (PA) after a disaster declaration. The PA program (authorized by Section 406 of the Stafford Act) provides funds to allow existing public facilities damaged by the disaster to incorporate/include mitigation measures during repairs, if the measures are cost-effective or are required by current building codes. FEMA, the State, or local applicants can identify these potential measures. For public property damaged in the disaster, it is now a requirement to include appropriate mitigation measures in the PA Project worksheet before applying to the HMGP.

The HMGP can fund any mitigation measures that protect public or private property, so long as the measures fit within the overall mitigation strategy for the disaster area, and comply with program guidelines. Section 407 of the Stafford Act also authorize the use of PA Program funds for demolition of certain structures purchased as part of buyouts funded by HMGP.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The HMGP may provide federal funds up to 75% of the cost of appropriate hazard mitigation projects. Eligible applicants, who are state and local governments, certain non-profit organizations and institutions, and Indian tribes or authorized tribal organizations, must contribute at least 25% of the cost of their projects. This 25% match can be made in a variety of ways to include “in kind” matches.

Federal funding is limited, and there are usually more requests than there are dollars. Awards are made on a competitive basis, with only the most effective projects that provide the most long term risk reduction benefits being funded. All projects, to be considered, must be consistent with state and local hazard mitigation plans and strategies and:

- Solve a problem (prevent or substantially reduce hazard consequences and future risk);
- Have a beneficial impact (provide long-term meaningful and definable risk reduction benefits);
- Be cost effective (cost less than potential future damages);
- Be environmentally sound (positive rather than negative impacts);
- Comply with applicable laws, rules, and administrative requirements.

(NOTE: A FEMA approved mitigation Action Plan is required for eligibility to participate in the HMGP for all disasters declared after November 1, 2004).

STATE STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

Upon activation following a major disaster declaration, the HMGP is open to participation from eligible applicants throughout Texas. State strategy, however, gives priority to applicants located in the counties affected and included in the disaster declaration.

Flooding presents the highest continuing hazard risk to Texans. The majority of people and property throughout the state are vulnerable to flash and riverine flooding. Recognizing this fact, the state strategy gives priority for use of HMGP funds to reduce long –term risks from flooding, specifically, the voluntary acquisition of structures from flood prone areas. Acquisition provides the best opportunity for effective permanent land use changes and permanent elimination of flood risks and vulnerability.

Types of Projects Considered for Funding

The HMGP can be used to fund projects to protect either public or private property. Example of projects include:

- Acquisition/demolition/elevation of flood-prone structures
- Development of state and local mitigation action plans (MAPs);
- Retrofitting facilities (flood proofing, high wind, seismic, etc.);
- Small scale structural hazard control/protection projects;
- Development of state and local codes/mitigation standards, and

- Initiative projects (public awareness, enhanced hazard information systems, enhanced warning capabilities, etc.).

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Division of Emergency Management (DEM) serves as the Grantee and administers the HMGP for the State of Texas.

All eligible jurisdictions/organizations are encouraged to develop proposed eligible mitigation projects and seek funding through the HMGP. Priority will be to fund eligible projects within counties affected by declared disasters; however, if HMGP funds are available, eligible projects from other areas of the state will be considered.

All jurisdictions within all-counties included in a major disaster declaration will be notified of their eligibility to seek HMGP funding and will be requested to complete and submit a Notice of Interest (Hazard Mitigation Team Report) describing their prospective project(s). All jurisdictions with eligible projects will be invited to complete and submit a formal application for HMGP funds. Applications must be received by DEM by announced due date. All applications will be reviewed and scored by the State Hazard Mitigation Team and the ones that provide the best opportunity for long-term mitigation will be recommended and submitted to FEMA for final approval and awarding of project funds. Once approved, projects are implemented and up to 75% of eligible project costs will be reimbursed to applicants. **(Please Note: Because of limited funds, the comprehensive application process, and federal program requirements, the approval of HMGP projects by FEMA may take several months. It is possible however for expedited approval of Mitigation Action Planning grants and accelerated buyout project grants in declared counties.)**

APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Applicants (Sub grantees) must submit a complete and accurate application to DEM for participation, and commit to meeting the 25% cost-share requirement;
- County Judges, Mayors, and as applicable, Chief Executive Officers, must appoint an individual to serve as the local Project Officer.
- The local Project Officer serves as a single point of contact with DEM, and is responsible for administering the HMGP at the local level in accordance with all-applicable laws, regulations, and administrative requirements.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE

Regulations for the HMGP are published in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 206, Subpart N. Please use the Mitigation Team Report and Instructions (Appendix 2 and 3 of the local Hazard Mitigation Annex) to develop a mitigation project and for submission of a Notice of Interest to apply for HMGP funding. All required forms as well as fact sheets, job aids, and guidance materials are available on line at www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem. If additional assistance is needed please contact Mr. Greg Pekar of the DEM Mitigation Section at (512) 424-2454 or gregory.pekar@txdps.state.tx.us.