

Water for Texas

Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

The Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program, under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program, assists states and communities by providing federal funds for cost-effective measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to repetitive and severe repetitive loss buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program. The Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program was created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (42 United States Code 4101) with the goal of reducing or eliminating claims under the National Flood Insurance Program through mitigation activities. The Biggert-Water Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 eliminated the Repetitive Flood Claim and Severe Repetitive Loss grant programs and incorporated their functions into the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program. The Texas Water Development Board administers the Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program for the State of Texas on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Two types of grants are available under the program—planning and project.

Applicant Eligibility

Any political subdivision, including any Indian or authorized tribal or native organization, that has zoning and building code jurisdiction over a particular area having special flood hazards, and that is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, is eligible to apply for a Flood Mitigation Assistance grant. A community applying for a project grant must have an approved and adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 44 § 201.6.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Planning Grants

Planning grant funding is limited to \$25,000 and is intended only for those activities that develop or update the flood hazard component of the jurisdiction's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which must

meet the planning requirements under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 44 Part 201.

Flood Mitigation Assistance Project Grants

Project grants are designed to reduce flood losses to structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program. Project grant funding can be used for

- ▶ acquisition and demolition or acquisition and relocation of residential structures;
- ▶ structure elevation,
- ▶ mitigation reconstruction (only when traditional elevation cannot be implemented);
- ▶ minor localized flood reduction projects;
- ▶ dry floodproofing of non-residential properties and historic residential properties;
- ▶ non-structural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities;
- ▶ infrastructure retrofit; and
- ▶ soil stabilization.

Eligible Properties and Cost Share Requirements

Severe Repetitive Loss Properties

A severe repetitive loss property is a structure that is covered under a contract for flood insurance made available under the National Flood Insurance Program; and

- ▶ has incurred flood-related damage for which four or more separate claim payments have been made under flood insurance coverage with the amount of each such claim (including building and contents) exceeding \$5,000, and with the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeding \$20,000; or

- ▶ for which at least two separate claim payments (building payments only) have been made under such coverage, with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the insured structure.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency may contribute federal funds of up to 100 percent of the total eligible cost for mitigation of severe repetitive loss structures.

Repetitive Loss Properties

A repetitive loss property is a structure covered by a contract for flood insurance available under the National Flood Insurance Program that:

- ▶ has incurred flood-related damage on two occasions, in which the cost of the repair, on average, equaled or exceeded 25 percent of the market value of the structure at the time of each flood event; and
- ▶ at the time of the second incidence of flood-related damage, the contract for flood insurance contains increased cost of compliance coverage.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency may contribute federal funds of up to 90 percent of the total eligible cost for mitigation of repetitive loss structures.

National Flood Insurance Program Insured Property and Planning Grants

A National Flood Insurance Program insured property is a structure covered by a contract for flood insurance available under the National Flood Insurance Program that could have claims/losses associated with the structure, but does not meet the definition of a severe repetitive loss or repetitive loss structure.

Planning grants are only for those activities which develop or update the flood hazard component of the jurisdiction's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan .

The Federal Emergency Management Agency may contribute federal funds up to 75 percent (%) of the total eligible cost for mitigation of insured property or planning grants.

Management Cost

Communities may apply for up to 5% of the total grant application funding request for grant management activities. Management costs are any indirect cost or administrative expense that is reasonably incurred in administering the grant.

A Flood Mitigation Assistance grant application with varying cost-shares requirements, by structure type, can be submitted in one application. Applicants must provide documentation in the project application showing how the final cost share was derived.

Project Grant Eligibility Criteria

A project must, at a minimum, be

- ▶ feasible and effective at mitigating flood hazards within a participating National Flood Insurance Program community;
- ▶ cost beneficial to the National Flood Insurance Fund, yielding a benefit-cost ratio of 1.0 or greater;

- ▶ in compliance with the Environmental Planning and Historical Preservation requirements included in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance (<http://www.fema.gov>);

A project must also conform with

- ▶ the minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program floodplain
- ▶ management regulations;
- ▶ the applicant's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
- ▶ all applicable laws and regulations, such as federal and state environmental standards and local building codes.

Benefit-Cost Analysis

A benefit-cost analysis is a method for quantitatively comparing the benefits and costs of a proposed mitigation project. The end result is a benefit-cost ratio, which is derived from a project's total net present value of benefits divided by the total project cost. Only projects having a ratio of 1.0 or greater will be considered. Applicants must use the Federal Emergency Management Agency's approved benefit-cost analysis (BCA) software to conduct their analyses. For information on the software, visit the following link: <http://www.bchelpline.com>.

For additional information on how to apply for a Flood Mitigation Assistance planning or project grant, including accessing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's electronic grant application system (eGrants), see the Texas Water Development Board at <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/index.asp> or contact:

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