



HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)



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.

While disaster Recovery programs seek to repair damages, and return to pre-disaster conditions, the single focus of the HMGP is to provide a means to fund long-term hazard mitigation actions specifically designed to eliminate or reduce the consequences of future disasters. HMGP goals are:

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

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.

The HMGP can fund mitigation measures that protect public or private property, so long as the measures fit within the overall mitigation strategy for the disaster area, and the measures comply with all Federal and State program guidelines.

Eligibility Requirements

The HMGP may provide federal funds up to 75% of the cost of appropriate hazard mitigation projects. Eligible applicants, who include 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.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN HMGP INCLUDE:

- **A current State approved emergency management plan that meets the requirements for a basic level of planning preparedness as defined in the Preparedness Standards for Texas Emergency Management (DEM-100), and;**
- **A State and FEMA approved mitigation action plan is required (disasters declared after November 1, 2004) for all applications except planning grants PLEASE NOTE: HMGP project applications are competitive and those projects meeting all other requirements that are specifically identified in the sub grantee’s mitigation action plan will have the best chance of selection.**

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 by and included in the disaster declaration.

Flooding represents the highest continuing hazard to Texans. The majority of the people and property throughout the State of Texas are vulnerable to flash flooding and riverine flooding. Recognizing this fact, the state strategy gives priority for the use of HMGP funds to reduce long-term risks from flooding, specifically, the voluntary acquisition of structures from mapped floodplain areas. Acquisition provides one of the best opportunities for the effective and permanent land use changes that are needed to eliminate the flooding vulnerabilities of the people and property in Texas.

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;
- Community and individual storm shelter programs;
- Retrofitting critical facilities (flood proofing, high wind, seismic, etc.);
- Small scale structural hazard control/protection projects;
- Limited funding is available for initiative projects such as public awareness, enhanced hazard information systems, enhanced warning capabilities, etc.
- Limited funding is available for the development of State and local mitigation action plans (MAPs);

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Governor's Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) 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 all 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 invited to complete and submit a Notice of Interest (Hazard Mitigation Team Report) describing their prospective project(s). All eligible applicants submitting NOIs with eligible projects selected by the State will then be requested to complete and submit a formal application for HMGP funds. Applications must be received by GDEM no later than the posted application deadline. The State Hazard Mitigation Team will review each application and recommend to the Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR), those projects that should be sent to FEMA for funding. Once projects are approved by FEMA, up to 75% of eligible project costs can be reimbursed to applicants.

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the comprehensive application process, and federal program requirements, the approval of HMGP projects by FEMA can take several months once submitted to FEMA.

Applicant Responsibilities

- Applicants (Sub grantees) must submit a complete and accurate application to GDEM for participation, and commit to meeting the 25% cost-share requirement.
- The senior elected official (County Judge or Mayor) or Chief Executive Officers, must appoint an individual to serve as the Primary Project Officer.
- The Primary Project Officer serves as the single point of contact with GDEM, 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 the revised Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in effect at the time of the disaster declaration.

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:

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