



HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Following a Presidential Disaster Declaration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides disaster response and recovery assistance under the authority of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act). The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is authorized by Section 404 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5170c.

The Stafford Act describes the declaration process, types and extent of assistance that may be provided, and fundamental eligibility requirements. Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Section 206.430 provides specific information regarding the regulations for the administration of the HMGP.

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The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), also known as 404 Mitigation, is funded by FEMA and administered by the Texas Division of Emergency Management for the state of Texas. While the program is associated with Presidential Disaster Declarations, the HMGP is not a disaster relief program for individual disaster victims or a recovery program that funds repairs to public property damaged during a disaster. The key purpose of HMGP is to ensure that the opportunity to take critical mitigation measures to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters is not lost during the reconstruction process following a disaster. The HMGP is specifically designed to:

- Prevent or reduce future loss of lives and property through the identification and funding of cost-effective mitigation measures.
- Minimize the costs of future disaster response and recovery.

HMGP can fund mitigation measures that protect both public and private property, so long as the measures fit within the overall mitigation strategy for the disaster area, are cost effective, and comply with all federal and state program guidelines.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

HMGP provides federal funds for up to 75% of the costs associated with appropriate hazard mitigation projects. Eligible applicants include state, local, and tribal governments, as well as certain non-profit organizations and institutions. Selected sub-recipients must contribute at least 25% of the project costs. This 25% match can be made in a variety of ways, including, cash, force account labor, force account equipment, and “in kind” services.

Federal funding is limited and there are usually more requests than dollars. Awards are competitive, with only the most effective projects selected.

PLEASE NOTE: HMGP project applications are competitive. Consideration is given only to eligible projects that have hazards specifically identified in the sub-recipient’s Mitigation Action Plan.

Eligibility to participate in the HMGP for disasters declared after November 1, 2004, requires jurisdictions have:

1. A FEMA approved Mitigation Action Plan (MAP) for all applications, with the exception of MAP planning grants, which address the hazard the submitted project mitigates.
2. A project that meets the following general requirements:
 - Solves a problem by preventing or substantially reducing hazard consequences and future risks.
 - Has a beneficial impact by providing long-term meaningful and definable risk reduction benefits.
 - Is cost effective with a project cost that is less than the loss from potential future damages.
 - Is environmentally sound, creating no negative impacts on the environment, impoverished or minority populations, or surrounding communities.
 - Complies with all state and federal laws, rules, and administrative requirements.
3. Current participation in the NFIP for all projects located in a mapped special flood hazard area. Sub-applicants are not eligible if under a sanction or suspension by the NFIP.

STATE STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES

Following a Presidential Disaster Declaration for the state of Texas, the HMGP is open to participation from eligible applicants throughout Texas. Priorities for HMGP funding include projects submitted by subapplicants within the jurisdictions most impacted by the disaster, projects that address the vulnerabilities associated with the disaster event, and those that are most beneficial in terms of cost-effectiveness and population served by the project.

The Texas Division of Emergency Management continuously works towards identifying vulnerabilities associated with natural hazards and directs available mitigation funding toward the protection of Texas citizens and their property from future losses due to those hazards.

TYPES OF PROJECTS CONSIDERED FOR FUNDING

Projects to protect either public or private property are eligible for HMGP funding. Examples of projects include:

- Acquisition/demolition/elevation of flood-prone structures.
- Community and individual safe room programs.
- Retrofitting facilities (flood proofing, high wind, seismic, etc.).
- Small scale structural hazard control/protection projects.
- Emergency generators.
- Wildfire Mitigation projects.
- Post disaster code enforcement.

Limited funding is available for the following:

- Initiative projects such as public awareness, enhanced hazard information systems, enhanced warning capabilities, etc.
- Development of state and local mitigation action plans (MAPs), including studies to enhance a community's understanding of risk (examples: dam inundation studies, flood studies, wildfire studies).

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) administers the HMGP for the state of Texas and acts as the program recipient.

All eligible jurisdictions/organizations are encouraged to develop proposed eligible mitigation projects and seek funding through HMGP. The state has determined that HMGP will be available statewide for each Presidential Disaster Declaration. State priorities are disaster specific, such as special attention given to those jurisdictions impacted by the current disaster or projects addressing the cause of the current disaster.

Notification of HMGP funding availability will be accomplished with a notice posted in the Texas Register and local applicant briefings held for jurisdictions within the declared area. All eligible applicants are invited to complete and submit a formal application for HMGP funds. Applications must be received by TDEM no later than the posted application deadline. The Hazard Mitigation Unit will facilitate the review of applications and advance eligible projects for consideration for funding and submission to FEMA. Pre-award costs must be identified and included in the approved project budget to be eligible for reimbursement under the management pass, or used as a 25% match source.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the comprehensive application review process, and federal program requirements, the approval by FEMA of more complex HMGP projects can take a substantial amount of time – **DO NOT BEGIN YOUR PROJECT PRIOR TO FEMA APPROVAL.**

SUB-APPLICANT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Sub-applicants must submit a complete and accurate application to TDEM for participation, and commit to meeting the 25% cost-share requirement.
- The senior elected official (county judge or mayor) or Chief Executive Officers must authorize the individuals working with the state on all aspects of the project.
- The Primary Project Officer serves as the point of contact with TDEM, and is responsible for coordinating application and project implementation activities 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 \(CFR\)](#) and the [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance](#) that are 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 the [TDEM website](#). If additional assistance is needed please contact:

TDEM Mitigation Unit: TDEM-Mitigation@tdem.texas.gov

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For additional information or help completing the Benefit-Cost Analysis, engineering, and/or environmental assessment please email one of the following helplines:

- Benefit Cost Analysis Toolkit: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/179903>
- BCA: bchelp@dhhs.gov
- Engineering: enghelp@dhhs.gov
- Environmental: ehhelp@dhhs.gov