

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is federal assistance to state, tribal, or territorial governments triggered by a [Presidential declaration of a major disaster or a Fire Management Assistance Grant \(FMAG\)](#), pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act ("Stafford Act"). HMGP is funded through the [Disaster Relief Fund](#) (DRF), with the primary purpose of ensuring that repair and reconstruction efforts following a disaster address opportunities to include mitigation measures designed to reduce the loss of life and property from future disasters.

Award funding is available through a state, tribal, or territorial emergency management departments via a formula-based determination and is subject to a sliding scale – for nearly all Presidentially-declared events, HMGP funding available is 15% of projected aggregate response and recovery costs.

All state, local, tribal and territorial governments are required elsewhere in the Stafford Act to develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans to receive funding for relevant hazard mitigation projects. Project eligibility spans four primary areas that include Planning and Enforcement (including post-disaster code enforcement), Flood Protection, Retrofitting, and Construction. States, tribes, and territories can use HMGP funds for any eligible activity for any type of hazard and are not limited to the hazard that resulted in the major disaster declaration or limited to the geographic where the event occurred. Brick and mortar HMGP projects are required to meet one of the two most recent editions of the International Building Code (IBC).

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Presidential disaster declarations were declared in all U.S. states and territories, expanding HMGP eligibility to the largest pool of eligible applicants. HMGP tied to COVID declarations totals \$3.46 billion dollars available, but amounts vary by state, tribe, or territory having received a major disaster declaration.

Code Provisions

- [7-Percent Funding](#): Up to 7-percent of HMGP funding may be used for "planning-related activity" including "evaluating adoption and/or implementation of codes and ordinances that reduce risk and/or increase resilience to future hazards by... [d]etermining if building codes are consistent with hazard-resistant provisions in International Code Series, State-model, or State-mandated building codes."
- [5-Percent Initiative](#): HMGP also provides for a "5 Percent Initiative," which is available for mitigation activities that are difficult to evaluate using FEMA-approved benefit-cost methodologies. The "5 Percent Initiative" specifically permits "[e]valuation of model building codes in support of future adoption and/or implementation." The 5-percent may be increased up to 10-percent so long as the increased funding is used for activities "promoting disaster-resistant codes for all hazards."

Covered Activities

- Post-disaster Code Enforcement,
- Wildfire Mitigation,
- Structural And Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities,
- Wind Retrofits of One- and Two-family Residences, and
- Pre-award Costs and Management Costs.

Grant Logistics

Frequency: Ongoing/rolling – tied to funding dependent on Presidential declarations of “major disasters”

Performance Period: Begins with the opening of the application period following a Presidential declaration of a major disaster and ends no later than 36 months from the close of the application period.

Funding: \$3.46 billion dollars currently available for COVID-19 major disaster declarations; specific amounts vary by state, tribe, or territory. Additional resources may be available for other Presidentially-declared major disasters.

Application Deadline: Check with your [Hazard Mitigation Officer](#)

Applicant: State, tribal, or territory hazard mitigation officer/emergency management agency with a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). If your HMP is under development, you can request to participate as a stakeholder to ensure the inclusion of code activities. Review the appropriate policy guides here: [State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#) (FP 302-094-2) and [Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#) (FP-206-21-0002).

Possible Sub-Applicants: Local government must have a FEMA-approved Mitigation Plan to apply as a sub-applicant.

Non-federal Cost Share: Between 0–25% -- Staff Time and in-kind contributions may count towards the non-federal cost share. Economically disadvantaged communities may not be subject to a local cost share. Exception - FEMA will provide 100% federal funding for applicant and sub-applicant management costs.

Additional information can be found in the [Addendum to the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance](#).