FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs

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Hazard Mitigation Grant Basics

- FEMA HMA grants are *pass-through* grants
  - FEMA awards the money to the State, who in turn awards it to the county, city, other State agency, etc.
- The State is the grant applicant, the county/city/state agency is the subapplicant
  - What does this actually mean?
    - The subapplicant works directly with the State who helps prepare and submit the application, and in turn awards the money to the subapplicant
    - The State works directly with your local FEMA office to get the award, answer any Requests for Information (RFI), sends any correspondence (such as closeout documentation)
FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)

**HMGP** – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
   - Post-Disaster – allocated to single State or Tribe

**PDM** – Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
   - Nationally competitive - Annual funding cycle appropriated by congress

**FMA** – Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
   - Funded by National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
   - Nationally competitive – Annual funding cycle
HMA Project Criteria

• Hazard Mitigation Plan compliance
  – State, Tribe, and Community must all have FEMA-approved HM Plans
  – Project must be “in” the Plan or “consistent” with the Plan
• Project must be “cost-effective” (done using a FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis tool)
• Project must have sound engineering & technically feasible
• Project must provide a long-term solution and be functionally independent
• Project must comply with Environmental requirements
• Must reduce risk
Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)

- To find if a project is cost effective (BCR over 1.0)
- Must use the FEMA’s BCA software
- BCA has modules for standard hazards (floods, tornado, drought, etc) and then a multi-hazard Damage-Frequency Assessment (DFA) module
- Don’t forget to attach documentation!
- [https://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis](https://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis)
- Helpline: bchelpline@fema.dhs.gov
Green Infrastructure (GI)

**Examples**
- Rain Gardens
- Bio-retention Areas
- Bio-swales
- Green Roofs
- Green Streets
- Porous Pavement
- Stream Buffer Restoration
- Constructed Wetlands
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- Floodplain and Stream Restoration
- Flood Diversion and Storage

**Benefits**
- Improved air & water quality
- Local water supply
- Local flood control
- Groundwater replenishment
- Energy reduction
- GHG reduction
- Urban heat island reduction
- Increased open space
- Increased recreation
- Increased/improved habitats
- Deferment of grey infrastructure
- Green jobs
- Public education

*Image Source: www.biocycle.net*
Sea Level Rise (SLR)

- Since 2013, FEMA pays for including Sea Level Rise in the design of HMA Projects
- The extra cost to build to protect for the design life of the structure are ELIGIBLE COSTS for the HMA grant
- The extra damages posed by Sea Level Rise are ALSO included in the Benefit Cost Analysis
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- Only available following Presidential Disaster Declaration (authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act)

- 15% (Standard State Plan) or 20% (Enhanced State Plan) of Total Federal Disaster Costs

- Cost share is 75% federal share, 25% local share
  - Some States will pay the 25%, while others will pass it to the subapplicant
  - Management cost applications are for the States only and is up to 4.89%
    - This means subapplicants won’t get reimbursed for costs such as grant reports, etc.
Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

- Funding from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
  - Community must participate in the NFIP
- Annually appropriated
- Cost share depends on properties or project
  - Plans and Insured Properties: 75% federal share, 25% local
  - Repetitive Loss Properties: 90% federal share, 25% local
  - Severe Repetitive Loss Properties: 100% federal share
- Types of Projects:
  - Elevations
  - Property acquisition/demolition, property relocation
  - Community Flood Mitigation
  - Flood planning
Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDMC)

- Nationally competitive unlike HMGP
  - $235 million has been appropriated for this year's funding cycle
  - Priorities are listed every year in the NOFO on grants.gov
- Large scale of projects - from home relocations to seismic retrofits to stream restorations to Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Applicant (State) can receive up to 10% in management costs, subapplicant (community) can receive up to 5%
- Cost share is 75% federal share, 25% local
  - Can be 90% federal, 10% local if community meets Small & Impoverished Status
    - 3,000 or under in population
    - Residents with annual per capita income 80% or less of national per capita
    - Local unemployment rate that exceeds national by 1 percentage point
FY2018 PDM Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

- Posted Friday, August 3rd on grants.gov
- Application Dates: 10/1/2018 to 1/31/2019
- $235 Million
  - Maximum $4 million federal share for Mitigation Projects
  - Maximum $10 million federal share for Resilient Infrastructure Projects (protective measures for infrastructure, utilities, water/sanitary systems)
  - Maximum $400,000 for new plans ($150,00 for single jurisdiction updates)
How to Move Forward

- Contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO)
  - What funding type is right for your project?
  - When can you apply?
  - How is your project ranked by the State?
- Start looking into what projects would be right for your community
  - *Mitigation Ideas* has a lot of good project suggestions
- Participate in FEMA HQ’s webinars on the FY2018 PDM grant!
  - See schedule for dates and times
  - Recommend calling 10-5 minutes before to make sure you can get on the phone line
Resources

Hazard Mitigation Planning site
https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-planning

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Site
https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance

Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Guidance
https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/103279

Mitigation Ideas publication
https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/30627