



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Disaster Funds Availability Announcement

State of Alaska

Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM)

DR-4672: September 2022 West Coast Storm

Submission deadline for HMGP Applications is: September 17, 2024

FM-5473: HMGP Post 2023 Lost Horse Creek Fire

Submission deadline for HMGP Applications is: June 29, 2024

DR-4730: 2023 Spring Floods

Submission deadline for HMGP Applications is: August 23, 2024

The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM), as the designated State of Alaska grantee, announces available statewide sub-grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for DR-4672, DR-4730, & FM-5473. The HMGP grants shall be awarded on a statewide competitive basis and are funded at 75% federal share and 25% state share basis.

Eligible Applicant / Sub-applicants:

State-level agencies, state and federally recognized Indian tribal governments, local governments, Alaska native villages, public and tribal colleges and universities may apply as sub-grant applicants for project or planning funds. Private Non-profit Organizations (PNP) and private colleges and universities are eligible. All sub-grant applicants must have a FEMA approved and community adopted Local All-Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting the requirements of 44 CFR Part 201 and 206.434(b) to submit HMGP Project Applications.

Eligible Mitigation Activities Include:

The HMGP can be used to fund projects to protect either public or private property, as long as the project fits within State and local government mitigation strategies to address areas of risk and complies with program guidelines.

- Voluntary property acquisition (structure demolition or relocation for open space in perpetuity)
- Structure elevation (existing public or private structures to avoid flooding)
- Dry flood proofing historical residential and non-residential structures (in compliance with 44 CFR 59.1, 60.3)
- Minor localized flood reduction projects to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from storm water or flood hazards (Culverts, diversions, detention or retention basins, floodwalls, berms, levees, dikes)
- Structural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities (foundations, load-bearing walls, beams, columns, building envelope, structural floors and roofs and connections between these elements)
- Nonstructural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities (bracing, strapping of mechanical, electrical, plumbing, heating, lighting, ceilings windows, parapet walls, contents like equipment, racks, shelves or cabinets)
- Infrastructure retrofit of utilities for protective measures (bury, harden, brace, elevate, seismic shut-off valves)
- Soil stabilization (geo-textiles, stabilization/anchoring, vegetation, rip rap)
- Wildfire mitigation (defensible space, ignition-resistant, hazardous fuels reduction)
- Post-disaster code enforcement (support of future adoption and/or implementation)

- Generator (protects a critical facility, is a component of a larger project, and portable generators)
- 5% “Initiative” projects (public awareness or education about mitigation, equipment and warning systems)
- Developing State, local or tribal hazard mitigation plans (new or update)

HMGP Project Grant Application requirements are intensive and include the following:

- Submission of detailed and thorough scopes of work
- Comprehensive cost estimates with supporting documentation
- Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) with a BC ratio of 1.0 or greater (planning applications do not require a BCA) (see below)
- Demonstration that the project is technically feasible and ready to implement
- Includes and meets environmental/historic preservation plans

Funding

Alaska’s HMGP funding is equal to 15% of the federal disaster assistance dollars provided by FEMA for DR-4672/4730 & FM-5473. FEMA determines a thirty-day estimate, a six-month estimate, and a final twelve-month “lock-in” amount for HMGP funds. HMGP application review, ranking and submission to FEMA for funding is managed by DHS&EM.

HMGP is competitive and open to all eligible entities in Alaska, regardless of whether they were specifically named in the Disaster Declarations.

Mitigation Grant Program Guidance and Benefit-Cost Analysis Requirements

FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide (2023 edition) covers all requirements related to the DR-4672/4730 & FM-5473 HMGP cycle (e.g., applicant and proposal eligibility, funding caps, cost shares, information on specific project types, and other programmatic details). It is available for free download on FEMA’s Publications website.

A Notice of Interest will need to be submitted to DHS&EM prior to filling out an application. Full HMGP project applications (not pre-application forms) require a complete and credible Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) to demonstrate a project cost-effectiveness ratio of at least 1.0 using FEMA’s BCA software, version 6.0, which is available on their BCA website (<https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/benefit-cost-analysis>). Some mitigation project types involve complex BCAs, such as seismic retrofits, and DHS&EM has limited capacity to provide technical BCA assistance. Invitees will be encouraged to secure professional BCA and/or other application development assistance as needed from an engineer or other professional services contractors. DHS&EM cannot suggest or recommend professional service contractors but may provide examples of previously submitted BCAs to invitees upon request during the full-application development phase.

Contact Information:

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us toll free at:

- Garrett Brooks – State Hazard Mitigation Officer, 907-428-7085. Email: mvamitigation@alaska.gov
- Kim Barenburg – HMGP Manager, 907-428-7045. Email: mvamitigation@alaska.gov

Links:

HMGP application forms and other key aspects of the program are available on-line at:

- DHS&EM – Mitigation: <https://ready.alaska.gov/Mitigation>
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance>