

**Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management  
2015 Fire Season – Basic Application and Program Information  
FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance**

**Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) - Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Pilot Program**



**Purpose:**

In order to advance risk reduction after Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations, FEMA recently announced a pilot program to provide HMGP assistance from fires declared during the 2015 Fire Season. The Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) is able to offer this HMGP-FMAG Pilot Program, on a jurisdictional competitive basis, for the following 2015 Alaska fire season events:

- FMAG-5084, June 15, 2015, Matanuska Susitna Borough – Sockeye Fire
- FMAG-5085, June 16, 2015, Kenai Peninsula Borough – Card Street Fire

**Authority:**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) places a high priority on supporting expeditious wildfire recovery through the use of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). In order to advance risk reduction after Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations, FEMA announced a Pilot to provide HMGP assistance. Section 570 of the Fiscal Year 2015 DHS Appropriations Act authorizes FEMA to provide HMGP assistance as a result of a FMAG declaration. It reads: "Notwithstanding section 404 or 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c and 5187), until September 30, 2015, the President may provide hazard mitigation assistance in accordance with such section 404 in any area in which assistance was provided under such section 420."

**Cost Share:**

75% Federal and 25% State (State agencies provide their own 25% match)

**Eligible Applicant/Sub-applicants:**

2015 Alaska FMAG Declarations and FMAG-HMGP Eligibility

- FMAG-5084, June 15, 2015, Matanuska Susitna Borough – Sockeye Fire
- FMAG-5085, June 16, 2015, Kenai Peninsula Borough – Card Street Fire

FEMA specifically encourages the mitigation of the burn impacted area to reduce the increased risk for wildfire, flood, or erosion post event. However, the FMAG-HMGP Pilot is available for the mitigation of any hazard in the burn impacted area (funding earmarked to the FMAG-designated boroughs and project funds will be competitive within each area).

- State Agencies
- Local Governments
- Tribal Governments/Communities - Indian tribes or authorized non-profit tribal organizations, and Alaska native villages or organizations

Note - Individuals or businesses may not apply directly to the State or FEMA; however, eligible local governments may apply on their behalf.

**Available Funding:**

The FMAG-HMGP Pilot funding is calculated and offered using metrics different from the traditional HMGP "lock-in" calculation. FEMA will provide a national aggregate calculation based on an average of historical FMAG designations from the last five years. The total amount available for the Alaska FMAG-HMGP for states, boroughs or tribal applicants with standard state, local or tribal hazard mitigation plans is \$331,166 for each FMAG.

**Eligible Activities:**

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

Examples of projects include:

- Voluntary acquisition of real property (i.e. structures and land, where necessary) for open space conversion;
- Relocation of public or private structures;
- Elevation of existing public or private structures to avoid flooding;
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting (e.g., storm shutters, hurricane clips, bracing systems) of existing public or private structures to meet/exceed applicable building codes;

- Seeding and Erosion control (Fire related - water diversions, sediment traps, erosion control mats, seeding/hydro-seeding with mulch, planting, etc.);
- Vegetation management for natural restoration, wildfire, or snow avalanche;
- Protective measures for utilities (e.g. electricity, gas); water and sanitary sewer systems and/or infrastructure (e.g. roads and bridges);
- Storm water management projects (e.g., culverts, retention basins) to reduce or eliminate long-term risk from flood hazards; and,
- Localized flood control projects (certain ring levees, bank stabilization, floodwall systems) that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and that do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system;
- Natural Hazards Mitigation planning per 44 CFR Section 201.6 (new plans and/or plan updates: up to 7% of the FMAG-HMGP). This category would also include updating natural hazard risk assessments that can help guide the implementation of mitigation project implementation.
- Some mitigation activities are difficult to evaluate using FEMA-approved benefit-cost analysis (BCA) methodologies. Up to 5 percent (5% Initiative) of the HMGP funding allocation may be set aside to consider such activities. For example, this could include the use, evaluation, demonstration, and/or application of new, unproven mitigation techniques, technologies, methods, procedures, or products. The amount of funding for the 5% Initiative is extremely limited and highly competitive and explained further in this Basic Application. This category also includes warning systems and, potentially, LiDAR-based surveying/analysis of the burned area.

#### **Management Costs:**

Direct Administrative Expenditures are allowed and must be included as a line item in the FMAG-HMGP Application.

#### **General Requirements:**

Applicants must have a FEMA-approved local mitigation plan in accordance with 44 C.F.R. Parts 201.6 and 206.434(b) to be eligible to receive project grant funding. All activities submitted for consideration must be consistent with the Grantee's State/Tribal standard hazard mitigation plan and the Applicant's local or tribal hazard mitigation plan for the local jurisdiction in which the activity is located.

#### **Mitigation Plan Requirement:**

State Agencies, Local Governments and Tribal Governments/Communities

#### **Application Process:**

The primary responsibility for selecting and administering mitigation activities resides with the State. The State sets mitigation priorities and selects project applications that are developed and submitted by local jurisdictions. Although individuals may not apply directly to the State for assistance, local governments may sponsor an application on their behalf. After its eligibility review, the State forwards applications consistent with State mitigation planning objectives to FEMA for review and approval.

#### **Application Deadlines:**

FEMA requires the FMAG-HMGP Applications submit within 12 months following the FMAG disaster declaration.

**FMAG-HMGP Applications are due to the State (DHS&EM) electronically and hard copy NLT COB: March 16, 2016**

Applicants must submit an HMGP Project or Planning Intent to Apply Form, which can be found on the DHS&EM website below, prior to completing or submitting the HMGP Project or Planning Application.

#### **FEMA/State Review and Selection:**

Eligibility and Completeness Review, including Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA), Engineering Feasibility and Mitigation Planning requirements, Environmental and Historic Preservation Reviews.

#### **Contact Information:**

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#### **Links:**

Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHS&EM) – Mitigation Section

<http://www.ready.alaska.gov/Grants/HMGP>

FEMA FY 2015 Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Unified Guidance

<http://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/103279>