

FY15 HMA Guidance Fact Sheet

Overview

The Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Guidance is a comprehensive document that details the specific criteria of the three HMA grant programs: [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program \(HMGP\)](#), [Pre-Disaster Mitigation \(PDM\)](#), and [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\)](#). The guidance consolidates each program's eligibility information, outlines the common elements and unique requirements among the grant programs so that federal, state, tribal and local officials can easily identify key similarities and differences between the various programs. The following sections provide more details on the key changes included in the FY15 update of the HMA Guidance. These enhancements will promote resilience and streamline the application review, eligibility, project cost, and implementation.

Key Changes:

Climate Change/Resilience Incorporation

- The Guidance encourages communities to become more resilient and to incorporate climate change considerations in their project scoping and development.
- Allows for including the benefits of sea level rise mitigation, green open space and riparian areas in cost effectiveness analysis.
- Applicants and sub-applicants can utilize the additional HMGP 5 percent initiative toward incorporating disaster resistant building codes.
- Promotes the inclusion of mitigation strategies that foster community resilience and smart growth within mitigation plans.

2 CFR Part 200 (Super Circular) updates

- Office of Management and Budget is streamlining the Federal government's Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards into a consolidated set of regulations, also referred to as the Super Circular.
- New terminology has been introduced. Examples include: pass-through entity, Recipient, sub-recipient, non-federal entity, Award and sub-award.
- HMA Federal funds, or funds used to meet HMA cost-share requirements, may not be used as a cost share for other Federal awards, lobbying, or intervention in Federal regulatory or adjudicatory proceedings.

Streamline HMA Program Delivery

- The HMGP lock-in is the amount of HMGP funding available for a given disaster and is determined at 12 months after the disaster declaration. The Guidance includes a greater level of consistency and transparency in the process of requesting a revised lock-in post 12 months.
- The Guidance describes the importance of accurate budgeting and forecasting in the Spend Plan for Presidential major disasters declared after October 30, 2013 for the HMGP.
- Changes to the HMGP Quarterly Progress Report have been incorporated and hard copies are no longer accepted for the HMGP.

- The Period of Performance for the PDM program has increased from 24 to 36 months.
- FMA allows Technical Assistance grants.

Frontloading Enhancements

- FEMA encourages Applicants and sub-applicants to take a comprehensive approach in the early stages of project identification and development.
- Frontloading, or early consideration of critical factors, such as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, leveraging other funding programs, critical actions, and resilience, is key to designing successful projects.
- The significance of early EHP considerations is clearly outlined in the project scoping and development process.

Americans with Disabilities Act

- FEMA encourages Applicants and sub-applicants to consider the needs and requirements of populations with disabilities as HMA projects are scoped and developed.
- Safe room construction should integrate considerations for proximity of location to affected populations and ensuring facilities within the safe room comply with the ADA regulations.

Mitigation Planning

- Mitigation Plan requirements for state-wide projects (e.g. safe room construction) are clarified.
- States are required to update their mitigation plans every five years, not every three years as identified in the Federal Register at 79 FR 22873.
- FEMA promotes mitigation strategies to address climate change and resilience, and smart growth.

Incorporated Policy Memos

- FEMA has developed numerous policy memos that have been incorporated into the HMA Guidance:
 - Incorporated new methodology for the calculation of Benefit Cost Ratio for the acquisition of properties in landslide hazard areas that risk immediate threat of catastrophic slope failure within five years of application development.
 - Developed a new, expedited methodology for residential hurricane wind retrofit projects. If a proposed wind retrofit project costs less than the pre-identified benefits, the project will be considered cost-effective.

Resources and Job Aids

- FEMA developed 23 resources job aids to assist in HMA program delivery