



KENTUCKY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Andy Beshear
Governor

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Jeremy C. Slinker
Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Potential Applicants

FROM: Geni Jo Brawner, State Hazard Mitigation Officer

DATE: May 26, 2023

RE: Availability of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds

On April 10, 2023, Kentucky received Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4702-DR-KY as a result of Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides occurring between March 3 and 4, 2023, which affected 88 counties.

In conjunction with this declaration, federal funds are now available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for eligible projects which will reduce damages from future events.

FEMA HMGP funds will cover 75% of the eligible costs of an approved project with the non-federal share typically split between the state (12%) and the local applicant (13%). The local share may be general funds, in-kind services directly related to the project, or funds received from other sources which can be used to match federal funds.

HMGP projects must demonstrate a permanent reduction in future disaster damages, pass a benefit cost analysis (if required), and avoid negative impact to the project's environmental and historical surroundings.

Typical types of **REGULAR** eligible projects include the acquisition/demolition or elevation of flood-prone or landslide-prone structures, engineered storm water control projects, community tornado safe-rooms, flood-proofing of non-residential buildings, seismic retrofits, and utility protective measures.

Up to 10% of the HMGP funding may be used for **INITIATIVE** projects for which a benefit cost analysis is difficult or impossible to conduct. Typically, this category of funding has been awarded for outdoor warning sirens, NOAA weather radios, other types of warning systems, generators, and mitigation educational outreach projects.

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Also, up to 7% of the available HMGP funding may be awarded for **MITIGATION PLANNING** projects. This funding can be used for both the development and updating of the State Hazard Mitigation Plan and Local Hazard Mitigation Plans.

HMGP funding received after a disaster declaration may be spent on eligible projects statewide. However, the current State Hazard Mitigation Plan gives first priority to funding projects in the declared areas.

Eligible applicants for HMGP project funds include state agencies, counties, cities, and certain quasi-governmental and non-profit agencies. Individual citizens are not eligible to apply for these funds.

Eligible applicants must also have a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. Hazard Mitigation Plans have been developed in each Area Development District for use by mitigation grant applicants. Applicants that have not developed their own plan are encouraged to contact their Area Development Districts for assistance and additional information.

The Kentucky Division of Emergency Management requires interested applicants to complete a *Mitigation Action Form (MAF)* using the *Community Hazard Assessment and Mitigation Planning System (CHAMPS)* to declare their interest in applying for HMGP funds and submit the completed MAF in CHAMPS no later than **Monday, July 10**. If you need assistance with logging into CHAMPS please contact Pratiba Pawar, pratiba.pawar.nfg@army.mil.

All applicant and sub-applicant communities must be participants in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) if they have been mapped through the NFIP with a Flood Hazard Boundary Map (FHBM) or a Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and have been identified as having a Special Flood Hazard Area. In addition, communities must be in good standing with the NFIP. Applicants and sub-applicants in communities which are not mapped under the NFIP are eligible.

If you have any questions about the HMGP program please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at (502) 607-5797 or by email at geneva.j.brawner.nfg@army.mil.