



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION
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To Potential Hazard Mitigation Grant Applicants:

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are pleased to announce the availability of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** funding. This post-disaster mitigation grant funding is available as a result of the federal disaster declarations for the June 2011 Tornadoes and Tropical Storm Irene events and the grant application period is now officially "open". This HMGP funding is available to all communities in the Commonwealth that meet the sub-applicant and project eligibility requirements.

Why should this information be important to you? These federally-funded hazard mitigation grant programs provide significant opportunities to reduce, minimize or eliminate potential damages to public and private infrastructure from natural hazard events. Funding for hazard mitigation plans and projects can reduce overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal disaster assistance for disaster recovery.

- *Who's eligible to apply?* State & local governments, tribal organizations and certain private non-profits.
- *What type of work is eligible?* Storm-water, drainage and culvert improvements, property acquisition, slope stabilization, infrastructure protection, seismic and wind retrofits, structure elevations, etc.
- *What is the grant cost share?* Funding reimbursement is typically 75% federal share, 25% non-federal match of eligible project costs (in most cases); 'in-kind' services are allowable as part of the non-federal match.
- To be eligible for FEMA HMGP hazard mitigation project grants, applicants must have a locally-adopted and FEMA-approved Local Natural Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201) at the time of official FEMA grant award.
- Formal grant briefings & technical assistance opportunities are available prior to application deadline.
- The State-established deadline for complete, full HMGP grant applications is 3:00pm Monday April 2, 2012.

FEMA's hazard mitigation grant programs are not intended as a source of funding for repair, replacement or deferred maintenance activities, but are designed to assist sub-applicants to develop long-term, cost-effective improvements that will reduce or eliminate risk/damage to people and property from the effects of natural hazards. Projects that address operation, deferred or future maintenance, repairs or replacement (without a change in the level of protection provided) of existing structures, facilities, or infrastructure (e.g., dredging, debris removal, replacement of obsolete utility systems, bridges and facility repair/rehabilitation) are not eligible mitigation grant activities.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) co-administer these grant programs on behalf of FEMA in the Commonwealth and encourage you to consider applying for grant funding to mitigate natural hazards that may impact your jurisdiction. For your

information, this grant notice has been sent to the local chief elected and/or administrative official, conservation commission, building official, planning official, public works director and emergency manager in your community. Communities are encouraged to coordinate local project applications with other local officials.

To assist potential sub-applicants considering applying for FEMA HMGP mitigation funding, MEMA/DCR will be hosting a series of future grant program briefing(s) and will also be offering application related training and workshops (Benefit-Cost Analysis [BCA] training, technical assistance meetings, etc.). The grant program briefings will provide an overview of the HMGP program, available funding and relevant application process/deadlines. Interested sub-applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of these briefings as details regarding the grant program will be described and discussed in detail. Details regarding the grant program briefings are located below and will also be published on the 'Disaster Recovery & Mitigation' section of the MEMA website (www.mass.gov/mema) in the near future.

The official FEMA program guidance for the multi-hazard post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is incorporated into FEMA's 'Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance' dated June 1, 2010. This guidance document is available in the FEMA Library and applies to this HMGP application funding cycle. The complete program guidance is available from the FEMA website at: <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4225>

Interested applicants are encouraged to coordinate with MEMA/DCR early in the application development process to ensure that proposed mitigation projects are FEMA-eligible activities. Communities can submit multiple grant applications but each project must demonstrate cost-effective hazard mitigation benefits independent of other applications (no phased projects).

MEMA is the conduit for all applications and FEMA funding, and is required to review and rank all the individual local sub-applications that are ultimately submitted to FEMA for funding consideration. To allow sufficient time for this review and evaluation process the **State has established a deadline for complete, full grant applications for 3:00pm Monday April 2, 2012.** The post-disaster HMGP program requires submission of paper/hardcopy applications to MEMA (not via FEMA's eGrants system). It is important that each applicant understand that these grant programs are competitive and FEMA may not be able to fund all project requests submitted for funding consideration.

Some grant program requirements to be aware of (please attend the grant briefing and refer to the HMA Program Guidance for more specific sub-applicant and project eligibility requirements):

- **Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Requirement:** To be eligible for HMGP project grants, applicants must have a locally adopted and FEMA-approved Local Natural Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201) at the time of FEMA grant award;
- **Non-Federal Cost Share Requirement:** Sub-applicants must commit to the non-federal share of the proposed application cost; for HMGP this is 25% (or more) of the total estimated project cost.
- All proposed project applications must include a formal Benefit-Cost Analysis (using FEMA-approved methodology/software) to document the project's cost-effectiveness. Planning and HMGP '5% Initiative' applications do not have a BCA requirement.
- Community participation in the **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**, may also be a requirement for sub-applicant and project eligibility (see Part III, Section D.7 of the FEMA Guidance for additional details).

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Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Briefing Schedule

Please do not contact these facilities directly with questions about the briefings.

Grant Program Briefing & Overview
Thursday January 5, 2012 (9:30am ~11:30am)
MEMA Region 1 Office – Operations Room
(Tewksbury State Hospital Grounds)
365 East Street
Tewksbury, MA 01876

Grant Program Briefing & Overview
Tuesday January 10, 2012 (9:30am ~11:30am)
UMASS Amherst Campus Police Station
Conference Room
585 East Pleasant Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Grant Program Briefing & Overview
Tuesday February 7, 2012 (9:30am ~11:30am)
Plymouth Emergency Operations Center
(Co-located with Fire Station)
2209 State Road (Route 3A)
Plymouth, MA 02360

Grant Program Briefing & Overview
Wednesday February 15, 2012 (9:30am ~ 11:30am)
MA Emergency Management Agency Headquarters
Training Room
400 Worcester Road
Framingham, MA 01702

Please do not contact these facilities directly with questions about the briefings. Please RSVP your attendance to:

Kathryn Fatherley, MEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistant
(508) 820-1425, or via email at: Kathryn.Fatherley@state.ma.us

RSVP's are required so that we can notify participants in the event that the briefing logistics (date/time/location) must be changed or postponed due to weather or other events.

Note: Please monitor the Disaster Recovery & Mitigation section of the MEMA website (www.mass.gov/mema) for additional training opportunities and updated and/or revised mitigation grant related information.