Your FEMA HMGP application development and management partner

35,000+
FEMA-funded projects

10,000+
FEMA and HUD infrastructure grant applications

$63B+
FEMA and HUD funds managed

100+
Entities served

700+
FEMA and HUD experts

20+
Years of experience with FEMA programs

Overview

In August 2021, FEMA authorized $3.46 billion in Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funds for every state, tribe, and territory that received a major disaster declaration in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. HMGP funds offer an opportunity for eligible applicants to not just rebuild after a disaster but to also invest in a wide variety of mitigation projects that make communities more resilient and better able to withstand the impacts of future disasters and climate change. A non-federal cost share is required for all subapplications funded under HMGP with a 75% federal/25% non-federal cost share.

Program administration and eligible activities

FEMA's nationwide authorization for HMGP funds is unique. Each state, tribe, and territory has an established funding allocation based on COVID-19 emergency spending, and each entity must follow their pre-established funding distribution method for HMGP. This distribution method will differ for each state, and each entity will have their own application process and deadlines.

HMGP funding can be used for a wide variety of mitigation planning activities and projects with the overall goal of permanently eliminating future risk to lives and property (public or private) from natural hazards. While HMGP funds allow for flexibility, projects must align with priorities identified in the state, tribal, or local FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan.

Eligible uses of HMGP funding

Cost effective hazard mitigation projects	Advanced assistance	Management and administrative costs	5% initiative
Acquisition/demolition/elevation of hazard prone structures	Applicants can develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select and develop complete HMGP applications in a timely manner	Applicants can request a flat percentage rate of 5% of the projected eligible program management and administrative costs	Applicants can use up to 5% of their total HMGP funding for projects that are difficult to evaluate with a traditional Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) but otherwise meet requirements
Community and individual safe room programs	Advanced Assistance applications can earn higher points for BRIC applications		Can be used for warning systems, outreach and education activities, and other special projects
Structural retrofits to make a buildings, utilities and other infrastructure more resistant to floods, earthquakes, wind, wildfire and other natural hazards			
Slope stabilization projects to prevent and reduce losses to structures			
Drainage improvement projects to reduce flooding			
Post-disaster code enforcement			
Developing and adopting hazard mitigation plans			

HMGP recommendations

This unique funding opportunity presents options to explore climate change and unmet mitigation needs, as well as flexible local match alternatives. ICF recommends that eligible applicants and subapplicants consider FEMA climate change and ecosystem service guidance, in addition to local matching fund availability, to choose eligible and competitive projects.

FEMA climate change guidance

FEMA continues to recognize the growing challenges presented by climate change and has incorporated nature-based solutions and sea level rise benefits into benefit-cost analyses (BCA) required by the program. The FEMA BCA Toolkit Version 6.0 allows applicants to apply estimated sea level rise projections to current 10-, 25-, 50-, and 100-year flood elevations and effectively account for future conditions for flood protection projects. Additionally, FEMA recently announced that they will allow applicants to incorporate ecosystem service benefits into the BCA for all proposed mitigation projects (previously, a project could only include ecosystem services in a BCA if the mitigation project had a Benefit-Cost Ratio of 0.75 or above). **These two BCA policies allow applicants and sub-applicants to quantify project benefits that account for future conditions caused by climate change, better justify the benefits of nature-based solutions.**

Program match

Applicants and subapplicants must provide a 25% local cost share for any mitigation planning or project activities. Also known as local match, this is typically met using local cash funding, donating in-kind services, or through matching from other eligible federal grant programs. FEMA HMGP offers a flexible matching solution through their Global Match program. Global Match leverages local investment in mitigation projects

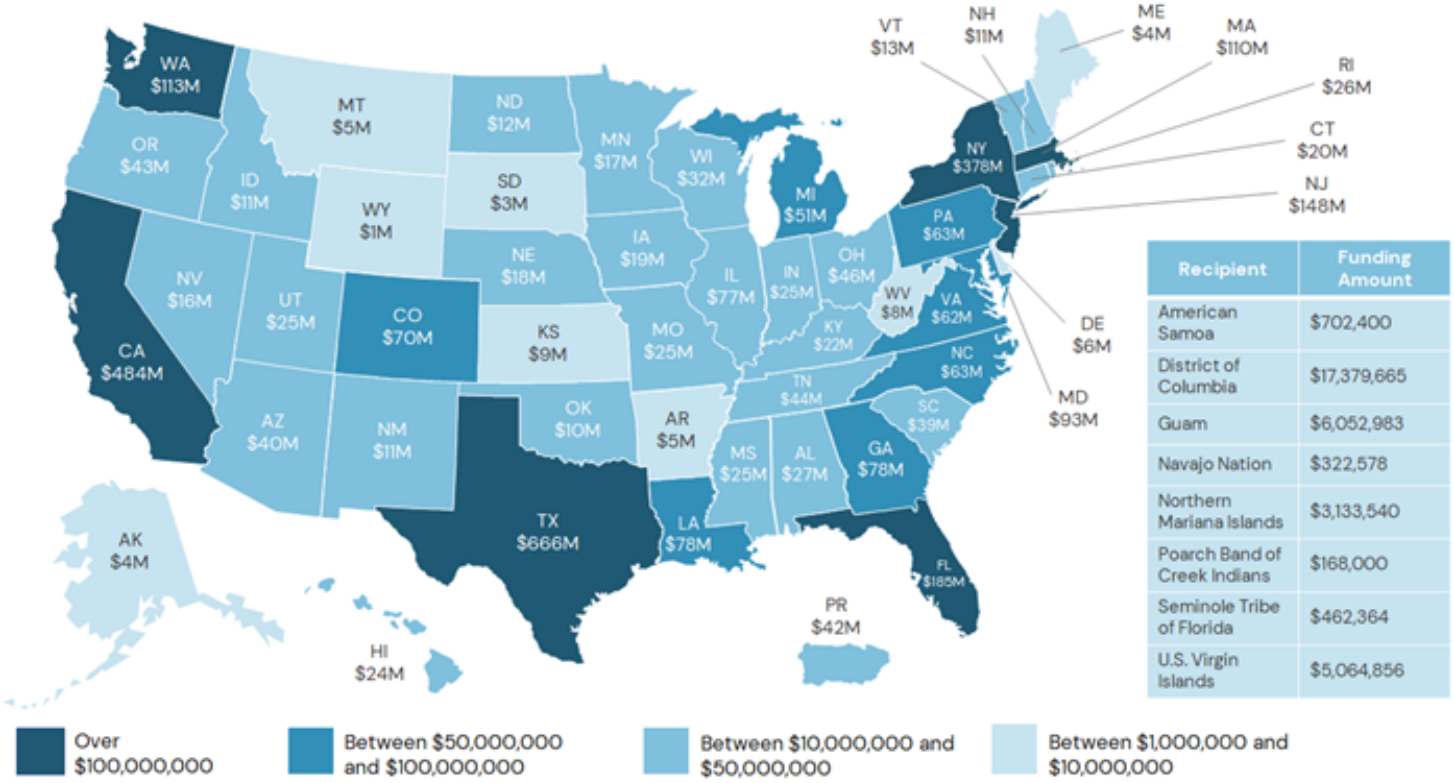
to offset the local match requirement for HMGP-funded work. This effectively reduces the local cost share for applicants and subapplicants who use this matching option. **Each state has the discretion to implement Global Match. Check with your State Hazard Mitigation Officer to understand if this option is available in your area.**

Consider matching funding sources

FEMA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have implemented Flexible Match guidance to match HMGP more efficiently with Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery or Mitigation funds. Called the Flexible Match initiative, this allows applicants and subapplicants to leverage funds while eliminating some limiting compliance requirements. Additional funding sources that can be used for HMGP match may include state revolving loan funds and state-funded grant programs.

Funding allocations

FEMA has allocated the available HMGP funds to 59 recipients: all fifty states, five territories, three tribes, and the District of Columbia. Grant amounts range from $168,000 to over $666 million; seven states received more than $100 million for mitigation and resilience projects.



Recipient	Funding Amount
American Samoa	$702,400
District of Columbia	$17,379,665
Guam	$6,052,983
Navajo Nation	$322,578
Northern Mariana Islands	$3,133,540
Poarch Band of Creek Indians	$168,000
Seminole Tribe of Florida	$462,364
U.S. Virgin Islands	$5,064,856

How ICF can support

We bring together best-in-class planning, implementation, compliance, environmental review, construction management, risk management, data analytics, and grants management staff to provide solutions for swift resolution to our clients' most complex problems. With a demonstrated track record of driving results, we can help you navigate the complicated funding and mitigation landscape. Let ICF show you how to maximize every dollar to achieve your goals and provide your community a more resilient future.

Hazard mitigation planning and advance assistance

Use an integrated approach to identify and evaluate strategies and projects that reduce risk and increase resiliency.

Grant application support

Take advantage of our extensive knowledge of application process, requirements, and global match.

Benefit-cost analysis

Quantify risk reduction benefits and cost-effectiveness through FEMA-approved methodologies and tools.

Grant management

Leverage every dollar to build in resilience and reduce risk knowing that all federal requirements will be met on time.

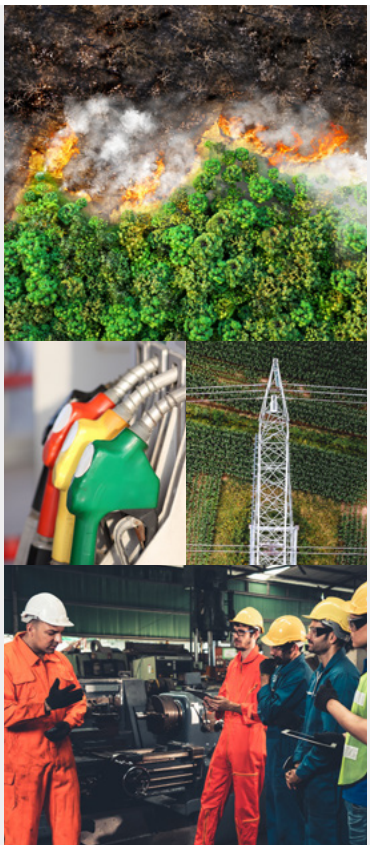
ICF case study

FEMA Mitigation Action Portfolio: ICF's Camptonville biomass plant project

Project cost: $5.1 Million

PRIMARY HAZARD
Wildfires

PRIMARY LIFELINES
Energy (power & fuel)
Safety & Security



Incentivizing wildfire mitigation activities and providing power generation and economic development

"Forestry best management practices routinely include the removal of dead material and other forest waste production, particularly in dense forests susceptible to tree die-off. While this is effective at reducing the amount of fuel that wildfires feed on, it can be costly and time consuming. This project offers a financial incentive to offset the costs of material removal while providing a mechanism to use collected materials for power generation, ultimately decreasing loads on the existing grid."

— FEMA Mitigation Action Portfolio, 2020

Contact us

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