



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND 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) **2017 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM) Program, and 2017 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program** funding. The 2017 PDM and 2017 FMA are nationally-competitive annual grant programs. FEMA will open the FY 2017 application period on **August 14, 2017 and the State deadline is October 16, 2017**.

These federally-funded Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs (PDM and FMA) provide significant opportunities to reduce, minimize, or eliminate potential damages to property and infrastructure from natural hazard events. Funding for hazard mitigation plans and projects can reduce overall risks to the population, structures and infrastructure, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal disaster assistance for disaster recovery.

- *Who's eligible to apply?* State, tribal organizations, and local governments are eligible to apply as sub-applicants. For projects that benefit individual home or business owners, the local government must be the sub-applicant. **Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Requirement:** To be eligible for project grants, sub-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) by the application deadline.
- *What type of work is eligible?* Projects that result in a reduction to natural hazard damage, such as: stormwater drainage and culvert improvements; floodplain and stream restoration; flood control, diversion, and storage; property acquisition; slope stabilization; infrastructure protection; aquifer storage; seismic and wind retrofits; structure elevations; etc.
- *What type of grants are a priority?* For more information on the Federal priorities, the Notice of Funding Opportunity is available for review on the website. New this year, FEMA has added an emphasis on projects with strong public-private partnerships, neighborhood/community floodplain management projects under FMA, non-flood hazard (e.g., seismic, wildfire, landslide, wind and drought) mitigation projects as highest priority by activity type, and an emphasis on Applicant's ranking of its competitive sub-applications in the selection of competitive for funding.
- *How do I apply for a Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant?* Communities can apply as a sub-applicant for a planning grant, or choose to be a participant in the 'Commonwealth's Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant.' This is a State application, filed on behalf of eligible cities and towns for funds to update an existing plan or create a new hazard mitigation plan. To be considered for this year's Local Planning Grant, your municipality must submit a letter of interest to MEMA by the application deadline. More information about planning funds and sample letters of commitment are available on our grants web page listed below.
- *How do I apply for FMA or PDM?* Applications for mitigation projects for PDM and FMA are required to be submitted via eGrants by October 16, 2017 at 3:00PM. For more information on eGrants and how to

register, please visit our website at the following page and scroll down and click on "How to Apply": <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/grants/pdm/>

- *Are there other conditions?* All proposed project applications must include a formal Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), using FEMA BCA v 5.3 or v5.2.1 software, to document the project's cost-effectiveness. Community participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) may also be a requirement for sub-applicant and project eligibility. See Part III, Section E.1 of the FEMA Guidance for additional details.
- *What is the grant cost share?* Sub-applicants must commit to the non-federal share of the proposed application cost; this is generally 25% of the total estimated project cost. In-kind services are allowable as part of the non-federal match. For some projects under the FMA grant, properties may qualify for up to 100% federal share.
- *How much funding is available?* 2017 FMA has \$160 million available nationally; 2017 PDM has \$90 million available nationally.
- *How do I learn more?* Formal grant briefings are available prior to the application deadlines; RSVP's are required. Before attending a briefing, you should familiarize yourself with the Grant Program Guidance, which can be found on the FMA or PDM Grants page:
<http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/grants>
- *What is the grant application deadline?* The State deadline is **Monday, October 16, 2017**. Before submitting your application, please attend a grant briefing. Note that this is a different date from the FEMA submission deadline, to allow the State time for review and ranking of the sub-applications.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs are not intended as a source of funding for repair, replacement or deferred maintenance activities, but are designed to assist sub-applicants in implementing long-term, cost-effective improvements that will reduce, minimize or eliminate risk 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) are not eligible mitigation grant activities.

MEMA and DCR strongly encourage all interested grant applicants to attend a grant briefing. The grant program briefings will provide an overview of the ALL HMA programs, available funding, relevant application process and deadlines. Significant changes in these programs in 2015 will also be covered, including the 2015 HMA Program Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200 Super Circular, addition of the eligibility of flood control projects, new E.O. 13653 Climate Resilience Activities, and much more. Please see the grant briefing schedule on the following page.

Grant Deadline: Monday, October 16, 2017: Applications for mitigation projects for PDM and FMA are required to be submitted via eGrants by Monday, October 16, 2017 at 3:00PM. These applications must meet all HMA program requirements, be submitted via eGrants, with all appropriate attachments, and display strong commitment for implementation at the time of award. Letters of Interest for hazard mitigation planning funds must be submitted to MEMA by the deadline.

Details including the grant application instructions, program guidance, and BCA Software Downloads will be available on the 'Resources for Public Officials' page of the MEMA website www.mass.gov/mema.

For general inquiries regarding the programs, please contact us:

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Hazard Mitigation Assistance Briefing and Technical Assistance Meetings Schedule

Briefings

To assist potential sub-applicants who are considering applying for FEMA PDM or FMA funding, MEMA/DCR will be hosting a series of grant program briefings. Interested sub-applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of these briefings as requirements regarding the grant program will be described and discussed in detail. The briefings will be an overview of the HMA programs, the HMA guidance, and the application procedures.

HMA Grant Briefing – In person – Framingham – MEMA HQ

Thursday, August 17, 2017 – 10:30AM to 12:30PM

HMA Grant Briefing – In person – Agawam – MEMA Region 3/4

Monday, August 21, 2017 – 10:00AM to 12:00PM

HMA Grant Briefings – Webinars

Tuesday, August 15, 2017 – 1:00PM to 2:00PM

Friday, August 25, 2017 – 10:00AM to 11:00AM

To attend a grant briefing or for webinar log-in information, please RSVP:

mitigation@massmail.state.ma.us

Technical Assistance (TA) Meetings

Technical assistance is for sub-applicants who are seriously considering a submission of an HMA Grant this cycle. After attending a general grant briefing you can schedule technical assistance by emailing mitigation@massmail.state.ma.us

During this session we can come to your office, visit the project site, or conduct the meeting via phone. TA meetings will be scheduled beginning **August 21, 2017 through September 29, 2017**. During your technical assistance meeting MEMA/DCR staff will cover the following:

- ✓ Discuss proposed project applications (including eligibility of proposed activities);
- ✓ Discuss the Commonwealth's Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant;
- ✓ Answer specific questions regarding grant application procedures and/or requirements;
- ✓ Discuss which FEMA mitigation grant program(s) may be most appropriate based on the type of activity/project proposed;
- ✓ Review Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), environmental/historic or other technical issues associated with project proposals; and,
- ✓ Review other questions regarding FEMA-funded mitigation grant programs.