



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant program that funds mitigation efforts after a presidentially declared disaster. Grant funds are administered to eligible applicants through the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM).

Florida is one of the only states that formally defines how HMGP funds are distributed to counties. Florida Administrative Code (27P-22.006) explains the process for calculating the amount of funds each declared county will be allocated and states that each project will be funded in order of priority as outlined in the St. Johns County Local Mitigation Strategy.

Many prioritization procedures defined in LMS plans cause projects with many beneficiaries to score higher than projects with only limited beneficiaries. For example, retrofitting a fire station will benefit more people in the community than one family; therefore, it will likely be scored higher than a project that elevates one flood-prone home. Other factors such as cost, matching funds, and community support are often times also considered. To find out more about the St. Johns County ranking process, please refer to the Local Mitigation Strategy at:

<http://www.sjcemergencymanagement.org/lms.html>

Mitigation is defined as any sustained action taken to reduce or eliminate loss of life and property from future disasters.

ELIGIBILITY

Mitigation projects must:

- Be consistent with the State Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Provide a long-term solution
- Be identified in the St. Johns County LMS
- Be technically feasible
- Meet cost effectiveness criteria
- All applicable environmental and historical regulations
- Identify a 25% non-federal cost share
- Be located in a community compliant with the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) regulations

Eligible Activities
Mitigation Projects
Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition
Property Acquisition and Structure Relocation
Structure Elevation
Mitigation Reconstruction
Dry Floodproofing of Historic Residential Structures
Dry Floodproofing of Non-residential Structures
Generators
Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects
Non-localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects
Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings
Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities
Safe Room Construction
Wind Retrofit for One- and Two-Family Residences
Infrastructure Retrofit
Soil Stabilization
Wildfire Mitigation
Post-Disaster Code Enforcement

Eligible applicants include:

- State agencies
- Indian Tribal governments
- Local governments/communities (including school boards)
- Private Non-Profit organizations.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The grant application and award process can be long. However, recent changes have significantly improved the length of time required for review and approval of projects.

The basic HMGP process is as follows:

1. A major disaster occurs resulting in a presidential declaration.
2. Counties receive a 90-day estimate of their potential allocation amount.
3. LMS Working Groups meet to decide which projects they will submit for funding.
4. A lock-in amount is determined six (6) months after disaster declaration.
5. Applications are submitted to FDEM.
6. FDEM reviews applications for completeness and eligibility.
7. Applications are submitted to FEMA for final reviews and funding allocation.
8. Funding agreements are put in place between the applicant and FDEM.
9. Construction and quarterly report monitoring begin.
10. Projects are finished and closed out.

As with many grant programs, the HMGP process from application to closeout may take several years.