



# Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program

The Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program, under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs, assists states and communities by providing federal funds for cost-effective measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to repetitive and severe repetitive loss buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program. The Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program was created as part of the National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (42 United States Code 4101). The Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (Public Law 112-141) consolidated the Repetitive Flood Claims and Severe Repetitive Loss grant programs into Flood Mitigation Assistance.

The Texas Water Development Board administers the grant program for the State of Texas on behalf of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Two types of grants, described below, are available under the program—planning and project grants.

## Applicant Eligibility

Political subdivisions, including federally recognized tribes, that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, are eligible to apply for a Flood Mitigation Assistance grant. An applicant applying for a project grant must have an approved and adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations Title 44 §201.6.

### Flood Mitigation Assistance Planning Grants

Planning grants are limited to \$25,000 and are intended only for activities that develop or update the flood hazard component of a jurisdiction's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan, which must meet the planning requirements under the Code of Federal Regulations Title 44 Part 201. FEMA may contribute federal funds up to 75 percent of the total eligible cost for planning grants.

### Flood Mitigation Assistance Project Grants

Project grants are designed to reduce flood losses to structures insurable under the National Flood Insurance Program. Project grants can be used for, but are not limited to

- acquisition and demolition or relocation of structures,
- structure elevation,
- mitigation reconstruction,
- localized flood reduction projects,

- dry flood-proofing of non-residential properties and historic residential properties,
- structural retrofitting of existing buildings,
- non-structural retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities,
- infrastructure retrofit, and
- soil stabilization.

## Eligible Properties and Cost Share Requirements

### Severe Repetitive Loss Properties

A severe repetitive loss property is a structure that is covered under a contract for flood insurance made available under the National Flood Insurance Program and

- has incurred flood-related damage for which four or more separate claim payments have been made under flood insurance coverage with the amount of each such claim (including building and contents) exceeding \$5,000, and with the cumulative amount of such claims payments exceeding \$20,000; or
- for which at least two separate claim payments (building payments only) have been made under such coverage, with the cumulative amount of such claims exceeding the market value of the insured structure.

FEMA may contribute federal funds of up to 100 percent of the total eligible cost for mitigation of severe repetitive loss structures.

### Repetitive Loss Properties

A repetitive loss property is a structure covered by a contract for flood insurance available under the National Flood Insurance Program that

- has incurred flood-related damage on two occasions, in which the cost of the repair, on average, equaled or exceeded 25 percent of the market value of the structure at the time of each flood event; and
- at the time of the second incidence of flood-related damage, the contract for flood insurance contains increased cost of compliance coverage.

FEMA may contribute federal funds of up to 90 percent of the total eligible cost for mitigation of repetitive loss structures.

### **National Flood Insurance Program Insured Properties and Localized Flood Reduction Projects**

A National Flood Insurance Program insured property is a structure covered by a contract for flood insurance available under the National Flood Insurance Program that could have claims/losses associated with the structure but does not meet the definition of a severe repetitive loss or repetitive loss structure. FEMA may contribute federal funds of up to 75 percent of the total eligible cost for mitigation of insured property and localized flood reduction project grants.

### **Management Cost**

Communities may apply for up to 5 percent of the total grant application funding request for grant management activities, such as any indirect costs, administrative costs, and any other expenses that are reasonable in administering and managing the grant.

A Flood Mitigation Assistance grant application with varying cost-share requirements, by structure type, can be submitted in one application. Applicants must provide documentation in the project application showing how the final cost share is derived.

### **Project Grant Eligibility Criteria**

A project must, at a minimum, be

- feasible and effective at mitigating flood hazards within a participating National Flood Insurance Program community;
- cost beneficial to the National Flood Insurance Fund, yielding a benefit-cost ratio of 1.0 or greater;
- in compliance with the Environmental Planning and Historical Preservation requirements included in FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance ([www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov)); and
- able to reduce or eliminate flood risk to insured structures under the National Flood Insurance Program.

A project must also conform with

- the minimum standards of the National Flood Insurance Program floodplain;
- local regulations;
- the applicant's Hazard Mitigation Plan; and
- all applicable laws and regulations, such as federal and state environmental standards and local building codes.

### **Benefit-Cost Analysis**

A benefit-cost analysis is a method for quantitatively comparing the benefits and costs of a proposed mitigation project. The end result is a benefit-cost ratio, which is derived from a project's total net present value of benefits divided by the total project cost. Only projects having a ratio of 1.0 or greater will be considered. Applicants must use FEMA's approved benefit-cost analysis (BCA) software to conduct their analyses. For information on the software, visit the following link: [www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis](http://www.fema.gov/benefit-cost-analysis).

### **Where can I get more information?**

For information on applying for a Flood Mitigation Assistance grant, including accessing FEMA's electronic grant application system (eGrants), see [www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/index.asp](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/index.asp).

Or contact [floodgrant@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:floodgrant@twdb.texas.gov) or Kathy Hopkins, Grant Coordination Manager, at [kathy.hopkins@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:kathy.hopkins@twdb.texas.gov) and (512) 463-6198.