Hazard Mitigation: FEMA Grants and Integrating Mitigation Planning

FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA): Another Tool for the Watershed

HMA programs provide opportunity to develop projects outside of HUD $:
- Outside of the HUD timeframe, and
- Outside of HUD area limitations.

What is HMA? Really, it is 3 Different FEMA Grant programs:
1. HMGP – Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
2. PDM – Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant
3. FMA – Flood Mitigation Assistance grant

3 Programs, but 1 Goal: REDUCE RISK!

Though the programs have different statutory origins, all share common goal of reducing risk to individuals and property due to natural hazards.

FEMA’s HMA Programs:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP):
- Only available after a Presidential disaster declaration somewhere in state
- Available anywhere in state for mitigation projects to reduce risk of loss of life and property from future disasters
- Amount of HMGP $ available is based on total $ for disaster recovery under the disaster declaration (in Iowa, 20% of the total cost of disaster)

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Annual allotment to each state for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of mitigation projects
- Besides limited funding, State also limited in number of projects

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Annual appropriation (usually), but competitive nationally
  Provides $ so that measures can be taken to reduce risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program.

HMA and Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan is the key to all HMA grant funds!

Projects ONLY awarded HMA $ IF identified as mitigation actions that are part of a strategy in a FEMA-approved local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

The Hazard Mitigation Plan includes:
- Hazard and Risk Analysis which describes the vulnerabilities and impacts of different hazards to individuals and property
- Mitigation strategy with an action plan based on consideration of:
  - Priorities
  - Costs versus benefits
  - Feasibility of action alternatives

Challenge is Integrating the Plans

Strategy for flood risk reduction should already be in Watershed Plan – need to link that to the Hazard Mitigation Plan
Hazard Mitigation Plan and Watershed Plan

Idea is:
• Use the watershed planning process to develop mitigation plan for flooding
• Incorporate the watershed plan into the Hazard Mitigation Plan
• Use the WMA as a means to accomplish flood mitigation actions

And, to do this so that:
• Jurisdictions do not have to do extra planning effort
• There is no contradiction in plans
• No duplication of efforts

More about the Hazard Mitigation Plan
• Multi-hazard: Plan must at least cover all natural hazards (FEMA will not approve a flood hazard only plan)
• Multi-jurisdiction - Includes:
  o County
  o Cities in county (or counties if multi-county area)
  o School districts
• Could also include Soil and Water Conservation District as a jurisdiction
  o Could that help with landowner involvement?
  o Could that help to integrate with NRCS programs? How would that work? Where would that work?
• Hazard risk analysis includes flood risk assessment
  o Iowa HSEMD completing this for the Upper Iowa Watershed and other HUD NDR watersheds
• Relative to flooding, Plan’s Mitigation Strategy needs to:
  o Describe existing authorities, policies, programs and resources available to accomplish flood mitigation – already done for all jurisdictions except SWCD
  o Include goals to reduce long-term vulnerabilities to identified flood hazards
  o Analyze comprehensive range of mitigation actions and projects for each jurisdiction to reduce effects of flooding
  o Describe how the actions identified will be prioritized, implemented, and administered by each jurisdiction
  o For each action, identify who is responsible for implementation, potential funding sources, and expected timeframe for completion

Goal: Integrate the Plans
➢ Link flood risk reduction actions of all the plans together to avoid duplication and contradiction
➢ Provide a way to implement actions of watershed plan beyond the HUD NDR limits

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