

## 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 \$:**

That is –

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:**
  - County
  - Cities in county (or counties if multi-county area)
  - School districts
- **Could also include Soil and Water Conservation District** as a jurisdiction
  - Could that help with landowner involvement?
  - Could that help to integrate with NRCS programs?  
How would that work? Where would that work?
- Hazard risk analysis includes flood risk assessment
  - Iowa HSEMD completing this for the Upper Iowa Watershed and other HUD NDR watersheds
- Relative to flooding, Plan's Mitigation Strategy needs to:
  - Describe existing authorities, policies, programs and resources available to accomplish flood mitigation – already done for all jurisdictions except SWCD
  - Include goals to reduce long- term vulnerabilities to identified flood hazards
  - Analyze comprehensive range of mitigation actions and projects for each jurisdiction to reduce effects of flooding
  - Describe how the actions identified will be prioritized, implemented, and administered by each jurisdiction
  - 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**

## For comments and questions:

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