



FEMA

Frequently Asked Questions

FIRE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE GRANT DECLARATIONS AND THE HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM, FISCAL YEAR 2015

FEMA places a high priority on supporting expeditious wildfire recovery through the use of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). In order to advance risk reduction after Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations, we are announcing a Pilot to provide HMGP assistance.

Section 570 of the Fiscal Year 2015 DHS Appropriations Act authorizes FEMA to provide HMGP assistance as a result of a FMAG declaration. It reads:

Notwithstanding section 404 or 420 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c and 5187), until September 30, 2015, the President may provide hazard mitigation assistance in accordance with such section 404 in any area in which assistance was provided under such section 420.

Why is the FMAG HMGP assistance calculation based on a national five year FMAG average?

Final FMAG damage calculations may take several months or years, due to the complexity of determining eligible costs for reimbursement. Therefore, aggregated data was utilized to provide a guaranteed funding amount in order to expedite mitigation in the burn area.

Why is funding available from March 04, 2015 through September 30, 2015?

Funding was made available on March 04, 2015, the day the President signed the legislation, and it is authorized through 11:59pm local time September 30, 2015.

Is HMGP funding available per FMAG declaration?

Yes. For example, three FMAG declarations will result in three FMAG HMGP Pilot grants.

What is the application period and are extensions allowed?

FEMA encourages expedited submission of applications within 90 days of notification availability. The traditional application period of 12 months from declaration applies and extensions may be requested.

Why is FEMA limiting funding to the wildfire burn area when HMGP is usually available statewide?

The authorizing language specifies HMGP is only available to the areas that received FMAG assistance.

Why are activities other than wildfire mitigation allowed?

The authorizing language does not restrict hazard mitigation to wildfire. FEMA encourages the mitigation of the burn impacted area to reduce the increased risk for wildfire, flood, or erosion post-event. Assistance is available for the mitigation of any hazard in the burn impacted area.

How does the FMAG HMGP Pilot differ from traditional HMGP?

FMAG HMGP is similar to traditional HMGP with the following exceptions:

- A FMAG declaration rather than a major Presidential disaster declaration activates HMGP assistance
- Assistance is restricted to the burn area
- The HMGP funding amounts are based on a national aggregate for each FMAG declaration