Hazard Mitigation Grant Program - FEMA-DR-4169-OR

Basic Application Information – *Applicants' Briefing Version: 4/16/2014*

Oregon Severe Winter Storm

Declared Counties of Benton, Lane, Lincoln, Linn for Public Assistance

Introduction

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides a Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to assist states and local communities in implementing long-term hazard mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration. The State of Oregon, Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) is administering a HMGP for this disaster. The amount of funds available for HMGP projects is 15%[1] of the total FEMA costs associated with this disaster (Public "Infrastructure" Assistance – PA less administrative costs); the HMGP allocation for this disaster is estimated at some $1M, Federal Share, based on the Preliminary Damage Assessment for Public Assistance. The actual cost of the program is shared - FEMA pays a portion of project costs (75%) and successful applicants provide a non-federal share (25%). Eligible applicants for this HMGP initially include state local governments, and consumer-owned electric utility providers in the requested disaster area (declared counties) that have FEMA-approved natural hazard mitigation plans. HMGP is available statewide *after priority consideration for the declared counties*.

For this disaster, the HMGP project identification and application process is being offered in conjunction with the applicant briefing for FEMA's Public Assistance Program and follow-up meetings with local jurisdictions. HMGP grants are also referred to as Section 404 grants (of the Stafford Act). A FEMA-State Joint Field Office (JFO) has been established in Salem. The purpose of the JFO is to facilitate the delivery of FEMA disaster assistance.

Most of the Public Assistance related losses from this disaster were a direct result of storm-related damages from the effects of the winter storm (prolonged arctic cold, snow and ice). Therefore, the primary emphasis of this disaster's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program is:

- *All permanent repair Public Assistance projects (Categories C through G) will be reviewed for Section 406 (Public Assistance) mitigation where feasible, cost-effective and eligible.*
- *<u>Companion</u> 406 and 404 mitigation projects will be identified and, where feasible and cost effective, be submitted for HMGP funding consideration.*
- *Stand-alone HMGP projects will be identified during JFO operations while FEMA and state Public Assistance personnel are in the field working on the delivery of the Public Assistance Program.*

[1] Based on Oregon having a FEMA-approved *Hazard Mitigation Plan* (March 5, 2012) on the date of the FEMA disaster declaration on April 4, 2014.

- *Potential HMGP projects will emphasize (but not exclusively):*
    - *Mitigation of future damages to public facilities not already mitigated using Section 406 mitigation particularly where there has been a history of repetitive hazard losses*
    - *Projects that reduce future disaster losses to public utilities with an emphasis on consumer-owned electric utility providers*
- *Private facility mitigation (such as houses that have been determined to be substantially damaged by flooding and are required to be mitigated per local NFIP floodplain ordinances)*
- *Natural Hazards Mitigation planning per 44 CFR Section 201.6 (new plans and/or plan updates: up to 7% of the total HMGP allocation to the State)*
- *Some mitigation activities are difficult to evaluate using FEMA-approved benefit-cost analysis (BCA) methodologies. Up to 5 percent (5% Initiative) of the total HMGP funds may be set aside to consider such activities. For example, this could include the use, evaluation, demonstration, and/or application of new, unproven mitigation techniques, technologies, methods, procedures, or products. The amount of funding for the 5% Initiative is extremely limited and highly competitive and explained further in this Basic Application. <u>This category also includes warning systems</u>.*

Project Considerations – Basic Criteria

- Projects identified in the disaster-declared areas (declared by county) will have priority preference.
- To be eligible for HMGP grants, communities (city or county as an eligible applicant) <u>must have a current FEMA-approved natural hazards mitigation plan</u>.
- Mitigation strategies and priorities as described in this pre-application.
- The collection of environmental information, to comply with the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), is essential for the state's review and FEMA's approval of potential projects. *Please pay close attention to this requirement as this is a crucial step in identifying potentially eligible projects as well as the cost and time to complete the required information.*
- Letters of match commitment (required 25% non-Federal cost share) **and** maintenance commitment are required with the final application to FEMA.
- All projects are submitted through the state to FEMA for their consideration: FEMA has the final authority on whether projects are selected for funding or not. Completing the attached Basic Application is the first step in the *incremental* application process for HMGP funding.
- Measuring Expectations: HMGP (Section 404) mitigation projects traditionally are not approved as quickly as Public Assistance (Section 406) projects. That said: the Sandy Recovery Improvement Act is streamlining the HMGP process which emphasizes more timely selection and implementation of projects.
- **Timeline: All HMGP projects must be identified, fully developed and submitted to FEMA within one year of the data of the disaster**

declaration. The deadline for this initial application to OEM is July 1, 2014 with the final application to FEMA by April 3, 2015.

- Subgrantee Management Costs: Offered at the discretion of the grantee; *assume there will be no subgrantee administrative management cost funding made available by the grantee*.

- To be eligible for the 5% Initiative, activities must:
    - Be difficult to evaluate against traditional program cost-effectiveness criteria;
    - Comply with all applicable HMGP eligibility criteria as well as with Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances;
    - Be consistent with the goals and objectives of the State and local mitigation plans; and
    - Be submitted for review with a narrative that indicates that there is a reasonable expectation that future damage or loss of life or injury will be reduced or prevented by the activity.
- Activities that might be funded under the 5% Initiative could include:
    - The use, evaluation, and application of new, unproven mitigation techniques, technologies, methods, procedures, or products;
    - Equipment and systems for the purpose of warning citizens of impending hazards; and
    - Hazard identification or mapping (such as landslide risk assessments) for the implementation of mitigation activities.

- Based on initial Public Assistance damage estimates, the total HMGP Federal share allocation to the state is estimated to be about $1M. HMGP is capped and no additional funding is allocated by FEMA beyond what is calculated based on Public Assistance costs.

Attachment

OREGON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP)

DR-4169

HMGP Basic Project Identification/Concept and Description

A. Project Title:_____

_____

B. Sub-Applicant Identification

1. Name of Applicant Organization/Agency:_____
2. Type of Organization:_____
3. Current Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan / Date:_____
   [County or City Government]

C. Sub-Applicant's Representative (The applicant's agent, project manager, or official contact).

Name:_____

Title:_____

Address:_____

_____

_____

_____

Phone:_____

FAX:_____

E-mail:_____

D. Projects Linked to Public Assistance Project Worksheets (PW)

PW Number(s) and Supplements:_____

Was the proposed hazard mitigation project a component of a Public Assistance project? If so, what was the State or Federal determination regarding its eligibility? Please describe. Use additional sheets if necessary.

_____

_____

_____

_____

OBJECTIVES

A. Project Objective (Is this project or strategy identified in your local natural hazards mitigation plan?):

_____

_____

_____

B. Project Description (Briefly describe the proposed project and its scope of work. Include how the proposed project will reduce the hazard's effects and risks):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

C. Project Location (Description of Location, Attached Maps):_____

_____

_____

COST ESTIMATES

A. Cost Summary (A complete cost description including a list of materials and services will be required after submission of the basic application). HMGP projects are based on a maximum 75% federal share with a 25% non-federal share contribution.

1. Federal Share (HMGP): $_____

2. Applicant's Share: $_____

3. Other Non-Federal Shares (Describe): $_____

Total Funds Required Completing Project: $_____

WORK SCHEDULE

A. Starting Date: Within [ ] days after final project approval. (If more than sixty (60) days please explain; use additional pages as needed):

B. Completion Date: Within [ ] months after project initiation. (If more than fifteen (15) months, please explain; use additional pages as needed):

C. Provide a General Outline of the Work Schedule Necessary to Complete This Project - (A complete work schedule that clearly describes project milestones and shows the anticipated flow of the project from the time of initiation to completion will be required after submission of the basic application):

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

All projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. FEMA is responsible for preparing the necessary documentation; however, the applicant is required to provide the necessary data. At this time, please provide a description of any environmental concerns and impacts associated with this project*:*

Floodplains & Wetlands

Archaeological, Historical & Other Cultural Resources

Endangered Species

Benefit – Cost (BCA) Analysis

Describe how the project will reduce future (potential) disaster damages and that, minimally; every dollar expended on mitigation will reduce future losses by at least one dollar. Use additional pages as necessary (see attached data collection forms):

If you have any questions and/or RETURN THIS APPLICATION TO:

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Oregon Emergency Management
DR-4169 – HMGP Application
US Mail Address:
P.O. Box 14370
Salem, OR 97309-5062
(503)378-2911, ext. 22247
PREFERRED Communication - dennis.sigrist@state.or.us

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Minimal Environmental Information Required

The following information will assist in the environmental reviews of proposed projects regarding compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. Providing as much of this information as possible upfront with the Basic HMGP Application will assist in expediting the review process, particularly when additional consultation with state and Federal agencies is required for environmental compliance.

- Scope of Work
  - Clear and complete project description (who, what, where, why and when)
  - Photos of structure/site, including part of surrounding area
  - Sketches, when applicable, to clearly define the proposed action
  - Notation of any poor environmental conditions in the area
- Location Information
  - Vicinity map with site location clearly marked
  - Accurate GPS position (note or sketch where it was taken, if large site)
  - Relationship of the site to existing features, natural and otherwise
    - Rivers, lakes, streams, wetlands, floodplain, saltwater, etc.
    - Vegetation, including general types of plants, trees, or lack thereof
    - Geologic features, including steepness of slopes and unstable areas
    - Roads, bridges, buildings, neighborhoods, etc. in the immediate area
- Documentation
  - Are there existing permits for the site? When possible, site permits type and number.
  - Has the applicant *consulted* with regulatory agencies? (record of findings)
- Historic Information
  - Are there any historic structures in or near the site?
  - How old is it? Historic structures can be buildings, bridges, improved landscapes, dams, historic districts, battlegrounds, fences, walls, and more.
    - 49 years old + is a general rule of thumb
- Archaeology
  - Note actions in previously undisturbed areas, especially when excavation is involved.
  - If fill is involved, please elaborate on the level before and after.
- Low Income - Minority Populations
  - Are they present and will they be adversely affected by the project? (noise, air quality, disturbance of any kind)
- Potential for Public Controversy
  - Look for signs of public controversy and try to gauge level of seriousness.
  - Look for indicators of dissatisfaction with the project by the public.

Try to include any information that may be relevant to an environmental determination or would help to understand the scope of the project and its impact to the environment.