

2021 NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY UPDATE

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

General FAQs

Q: How does PrepareCA JumpStart differ from PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP and 2021 FEMA HMGP?

A: PrepareCA JumpStart is specifically intended to provide eligible applicants with an opportunity to fund initiatives to build capacity and resilience, disaster planning efforts, and the scoping of future hazard mitigation activities / initiatives. Being fully state-funded, PrepareCA JumpStart, has a period of performance of 60 months (5 years), **does not require** local cost sharing, **does not require** a benefit-cost-analysis, and **does not require** compliance with federal procurement regulations (only state and local procurement requirements). PrepareCA Jumpstart is also **not intended for** physical construction projects or other activities that would require environmental and historic preservation (EHP) reviews.

Further, those who apply to PrepareCA JumpStart are referred to as “applicants” vs. “subapplicants,” which is the term used for PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP and 2021 FEMA HMGP.

Q: How does PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP differ from 2021 FEMA HMGP funding?

A: PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP will cover the required local cost share (non-federal share) associated with FEMA HMGP (i.e., 25% of total project costs). In other words, eligible PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP subapplicants will not have to provide any local cost share to receive state and federal funding. However, under 2021 FEMA HMGP, the required local cost share (non-federal share) associated with FEMA HMGP (i.e., 25% of total project costs) is required for all subapplications. This cost share may consist of cash, donated or third-party in-kind services, materials, state funds, or any combination thereof.

Q: Can an eligible applicant / subapplicant apply for and receive funding under multiple 2021 funding opportunities (i.e., PrepareCA JumpStart, PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP, and / or 2021 FEMA HMGP funding)?

A: Yes. However, please refer to the updated notice of funding sections to identify specific program criteria and submission requirements.

Q: Is there a period of performance for awarded grants under the new and updated funding opportunities?

A: PrepareCA JumpStart grants have a period of performance of 60 months (5 years), however applicants will need to clearly describe their schedules in their application. PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP and 2021 FEMA HMGP grants have a period of performance of 36 months (3 years).

Q: Can projects receive funding for PrepareCA programs if the initiative, project, or activity impacts both an eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk community and a community that is not?

A: Yes. However, the applicant / subapplicant must demonstrate that the initiative, project, or activity *primarily* benefits an eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk community, and it should emphasize these benefits in their application / NOI / subapplication (as applicable).

Q: Does a PrepareCA program application / subapplication need to benefit a certain percentage of the socially vulnerable and high hazard risk community to be eligible?

A: No. However, an initiative, project, or activity that demonstrates benefit to a greater percentage of the socially vulnerable and high hazard risk community will be more competitive in the Cal OES selection process.

Q: What constitutes an eligible PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP or 2021 FEMA HMGP nature-based solution project?

A: Nature-based solutions are sustainable planning, design, environmental management and engineering practices that weave natural features or processes into the built environment to promote adaptation and resilience. Nature-based solutions can be applied at different scales in three categories:

- **Watershed or landscape-scale** build interconnected systems of natural areas and open space. They require long-term planning and coordination. Examples include land conservation and greenways.
- **Neighborhood or site-scale** manage rainwater where it falls to reduce stormwater runoff. They can often be built into a site or neighborhood without much extra space. Examples include permeable pavement and tree trenches.
- **Coastal practices** stabilize the shoreline, reduce erosion and buffer the coast from storm impacts. While many watershed and neighborhood scale practices work in coastal areas, coastal systems are designed to support coastal resilience.

For additional information, see the [FEMA Nature-Based Solutions guide](#).

Q: What does “advance whole community risk reduction” mean as stated under Cal OES’ funding priorities for PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP and 2021 FEMA HMGP?

A: Projects that advance whole community risk reduction are projects through which residents, emergency-management practitioners, organizational and community leaders, and government officials can collectively understand and assess the needs of their respective communities and determine the best way to organize and strengthen assets, capacities, and interests. By doing so, a more effective path to societal safety, security and resilience is built.

Q: What does “enhance resilience” mean as stated under Cal OES’ funding priorities?

A: Projects that enhance resilience include activities that build upon previously implemented mitigation actions (e.g., contiguous areas of wildfire projects or multiple flood elevation projects). Basically, investments that a community can scale up with additional funding but are independent of each other.

Q: What are eligible 5% initiative activities as stated under PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP and 2021 FEMA HMGP?

A: [5% initiative activities](#) are projects that are difficult to evaluate using FEMA-approved cost-effectiveness methodologies, but which otherwise meet HMGP eligibility requirements. Eligible activities may include early alert and warning systems, hazard identification or mapping, purchase of generators or related equipment, etc. Please note, while the purchase of generators is considered an eligible activity, projects that identify equipment purchases (e.g., generators) as a *main* project activity may be considered less competitive.

Q: Are disaster response planning and preparedness activities eligible for funding?

A: Response planning and preparedness activities are not eligible for funding under PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP and 2021 FEMA HMGP, however, they are eligible for funding under PrepareCA JumpStart.

PrepareCA JumpStart FAQs

Q: Does PrepareCA JumpStart have a local cost share (non-federal share) requirement?

A: No. PrepareCA JumpStart is a fully funded state grant and resilience initiatives do not require a local cost share (non-federal share) to receive funding. However, please note, the state will not fund any cost overruns beyond the approved budget, nor will the state fund costs that are determined ineligible or unrelated to the application.

Q: Do PrepareCA JumpStart applications need to include a benefit-cost analysis (BCA)?

A: No, BCAs are only required if applying for PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP and 2021 FEMA HMGP funding. In those cases, a BCA is required for phased¹ and shovel-ready projects only. BCAs are not needed for planning, planning-related, [5% initiative](#), and project scoping (i.e., Advance Assistance²) activities.

Q: Can an eligible applicant submit more than one proposal to receive PrepareCA JumpStart funding?

A: Yes. Multiple proposals may be submitted, however, it is a competitive state program and awards are based on available funds.

Q: If an eligible applicant has already submitted a 2021 FEMA HMGP NOI through the Cal OES portal, do they need to submit a new application for PrepareCA JumpStart?

A: Yes. The PrepareCA JumpStart program requires a new application and is submitted via email to PrepareCAJumpStart@caloes.ca.gov, not through the Engage Cal OES portal. However, the applicant does not need to withdraw their previously submitted NOI as applicants / subapplicants have the option to apply for multiple funding opportunities.

Q: Do private nonprofits need to be physically located in the socially vulnerable and high hazard risk community to be eligible to apply to PrepareCA JumpStart?

A: No, private nonprofit applicants need not be physically located in a socially vulnerable and high hazard risk community to be eligible. However, applications must demonstrate that eligible activities *primarily* benefit an eligible socially vulnerable and high hazard risk community or communities. The applicant must also show that the local community is engaged in and supportive of the project.

¹ Phased projects are those that receive funding for only certain complex activities that are approved to allow the subapplicant to develop a full work scope / data package to support the full project description. See [FEMA's HMA Guidance](#) for further details.

² Advance Assistance (AA) provides subapplicants with resources to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete HMGP subapplications in a timely manner. AA subapplications should end in a non-phased subapplication for a future HMA project with 60% design development and CEQA completed. See [FEMA's HMA Guidance](#) for further details.

Q: Is there a maximum or minimum cost threshold for PrepareCA JumpStart applications?

A: Yes. PrepareCA JumpStart applications are limited to \$1 million in state funds per application. While there is no minimum requirement, applications at or above \$150,000 will be considered more competitive. It is also important to note that applicants are responsible for all costs that exceed the state's grant award amount.

Q: Can a contractor assist with the development of a PrepareCA JumpStart application, and would this be an eligible pre-award cost?

A: Pre-award costs are not eligible under PrepareCA Jumpstart. Further, contractors who assist with grant application development will be ineligible to compete for subsequent procurements / contracts on the same grant award due to conflict of interest in which an unfair competitive advantage is present.

PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP FAQs

Q: Does PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP have a local cost share requirement?

A: PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP will cover the required local cost share (non-federal share) associated with FEMA HMGP (i.e., 25% of total project costs). In other words, eligible PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP subapplicants will not have to provide any local cost share to receive state and federal funding. However, please note, the state will not fund any cost overruns beyond the approved budget. Any approved budget overruns will be subjected to a 25% local cost share (non-federal share) per FEMA HMGP.

Q: If an eligible subapplicant has already submitted a Notice of Interest (NOI) through the Engage Cal OES Portal, will they need to submit a new NOI for PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP?

A: If an eligible subapplicant would like to apply for PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP and has already submitted an NOI under the Cal OES portal, they should contact Cal OES via email at HMA@caloes.ca.gov.

Q: Will eligible PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP subapplications that are not initially selected for submission to FEMA be considered under the 2021 FEMA HMGP funding opportunity?

A: Yes. However, please note that under 2021 FEMA HMGP, subapplicants will have to demonstrate they, and partner entities, through letters of commitment or similar documentation, can provide the required local cost share (non-federal share) to receive federal funding. There will be no state funding to cover the required local cost share (non-federal share) associated with FEMA HMGP (i.e., 25% of total project costs).

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Q: Can a contractor assist with the development of a PrepareCA Match – FEMA HMGP application, and would this be an eligible pre-award cost?

A: Yes. This could potentially be an eligible pre-award cost. However, pre-award costs must be included in the subapplication budget and approved by FEMA. Work started prior to FEMA review and approval is ineligible for reimbursement or advance funding unless obligated within the approved pre-award budget.

However, please note, all contracts and purchases must comply with federal procurement guidelines outlined in 2 CFR 200 to be eligible for funding. Additionally, contracts and purchases must also comply with all applicable California and local procurement laws, regulations, and policies.

In accordance with 2 CFR 200, contractors who assist with grant subapplication development will be ineligible to compete for subsequent procurements / contracts on the same grant award due to conflict of interest in which an unfair competitive advantage is present [i.e. future Phase I (design/EHP) and/or Phase II work (construction)].