# DR-4750 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Notice of Funding Opportunity

## Overview

The California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) presents a mitigation funding opportunity for FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) through the Presidential Major Disaster Declaration, DR-4750 (Hurricane Hilary). This opportunity provides funding for communities to implement mitigation activities that reduce risk to life, property, and infrastructure from natural hazards. In California, natural hazards include wildfire, earthquake, drought, extreme heat, flooding, and other natural hazards as defined in the [State Hazard Mitigation Plan.](https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Hazard-Mitigation/Documents/2023-California-SHMP_Volume-1_11.10.2023.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery) HMGP funding can support the development of hazard mitigation planning, project scoping activities (i.e., Advance Assistance), and mitigation projects. This funding opportunity presents significant funding for eligible mitigation activities across the State. **Figure 1** below demonstrates the timelines associated with this funding opportunity.

### Funding Opportunity Timeline

***Figure 1: Funding Opportunity Timeline***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date | Description |
| January 19, 2024 | Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Released |
| January 19, 2024 | Notice of Interest (NOI) open via Cal OES Engage Portal |
| January 19, 2024 through  February 15, 2024 | Project Scoping Calls (Programmatic and BCA) |
| February 16, 2024 | NOI submission due to Cal OES |
| March 11, 2024 | Subapplication Open via Cal OES Engage Portal |
| June 10, 2024 | Subapplication due to Cal OES via Engage Portal |

All NOIs must be submitted by the posted deadline. NOIs submitted after this date will be considered for the next available funding opportunity.

### Eligible Subapplicants

Local governments—including cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, and Tribal governments (federally and non-federally recognized tribes)—are considered eligible HMGP subapplicants. Certain private nonprofits may also be eligible for HMGP funding (consistent with 44 CFR §206.221and 206.434).

Hazard Mitigation Plan Eligibility

Eligible subapplicants **must** have a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) or tribal hazard mitigation plan prior to FEMA’s official notice of grant award (e.g. when the grant is officially approved/obligated). This means that the subapplicant participated fully in a LHMP process, the LHMP is complete, reviewed by Cal OES and FEMA Region IX, adopted by the governing board through an official resolution, and FEMA Region IX issued a plan approval letter to the subapplicant jurisdiction.

Eligible subapplicants that do not meet the hazard mitigation planning requirement may have another eligible subapplicant apply on their behalf. If a private nonprofit applies, the county in which the work will be performed must meet the LHMP requirement.[[1]](#footnote-2) Please note, state agencies meet this requirement through their inclusion in the 2023 California State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

If a jurisdiction does not have an LHMP, they may apply for grant funding to develop one.

* Single jurisdiction plans may receive a maximum federal share of $165,000;
* Multi-jurisdictional plans with fewer than 5 participants may receive a maximum federal share of $225,000;
* Multi-jurisdictional plans involving five (5) to nine (9) participating entities are limited to a maximum federal share of $285,000;
* Multi-jurisdictional plans with 10 or more participants, may receive a maximum federal share of $375,000.

A fully participating entity is defined as an entity developing a FEMA approvable annex that will be adopted upon the plan receiving FEMA approval.[[2]](#footnote-3) Due to the length of time (approximately nine (9) months) it takes for plans to be awarded funding under this grant, it is important that communities evaluate their plan’s current LHMP expiration date. This funding may not be available in time to support plan development, approval, and adoption for mitigation plans expiring before 2027.

Additional Eligibility Factors

Mitigation projects must be eligible, feasible, cost-effective, and Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) compliant per FEMA’s [Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Program and Policy Guidance.](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_hma_guide_08232023_v1.pdf) Projects must be stand-alone mitigation activities that reduce natural hazard risk as their primary benefit. Cal OES strongly encourages the submission of mitigation projects that achieve multiple benefits (i.e., environmental, ecosystem, economic benefits, etc.).

### Subapplication Process

Interested subapplicants must submit a Notice of Interest (NOI) via the [Engage Cal OES Portal](https://caloes.my.site.com/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fs%2F) prior to submitting a subapplication. Prior to submitting the NOI, subapplicants will need to be prepared to address the following questions:

* What natural hazard(s) will specifically be addressed in this proposal?
* What is the problem caused by the natural hazard?
* What are the consequences if the project is not completed?
* What are the existing conditions (existing level of protection, design level, etc.) and the proposed level-of-protection increase?
* Trigger event, if known. In the subapplication, you will need to describe the trigger event causing the problem (i.e. what measure or degree of the specific hazard causes the problem; for example, how much rain for a flood project, or what level of ground shaking for an earthquake project?)?
* Is this project shovel ready, phased, or advance assistance/scoping (see **Figure 2 below)**

***Figure 2: HMGP Subapplication Types***

| Type | Examples |
| --- | --- |
| Planning | Activities include developing a new hazard mitigation plan or updating a current mitigation plan. |
| Planning Related | Activities include updating or enhancing sections of the current FEMA-approved mitigation plan (risk and vulnerability assessments), integrating information from mitigation plans with other planning efforts (disaster recovery, comprehensive plans, long-term community planning initiatives), building capacity through delivery of technical assistance and training, and evaluating adoption and/or implementation of ordinances that reduce risk or increase resilience. |
| Projects  Shovel-Ready and Phased Projects | Activities involve construction and/or physical work. Examples include but are not limited to property acquisition, demolition or relocation, flood risk reduction, infrastructure retrofit, structural elevation, structural or non-structural seismic retrofit, hazardous fuels reduction, defensible space, ignition resistant construction, and generator(s) (if benefit cost analysis (BCA) feasible). Typically, a shovel ready project includes construction activities that already has completed a 60% design, has all the sites identified, and has completed CEQA. Phased projects include design activities, participation outreach and site identification in Phase I, and construction in Phase II. |
| Advance Assistance | Activities include the planning and technical studies needed for the development of future shovel ready mitigation projects and future completed HMA subapplications. Advance Assistance can be utilized when the preferred alternative is not known. The activities typically seen in AA include seismic assessments, H&H / modelling, alternative analysis, feasibility studies, 60% design, CEQA, EHP studies, BCA development, site selection, homeowner engagement, and a future project subapplication. |
| 5% Initiative | Activities are defined as mitigation actions that meet all HMGP requirements but may be difficult to evaluate against traditional program cost-effectiveness criteria. Examples include early warning systems, post-disaster building code enforcement, public awareness and education for mitigation campaigns, hazard identification or mapping, new techniques/methods of mitigation and generator(s) (if protecting a critical facility and if there is insufficient data to evaluate a generator project using a standard HMA-approved BCA method). |

Cal OES will review NOIs for eligibility. If approved, eligible subapplicants will be invited via the [Engage Cal OES Portal](https://caloes.my.site.com/s/login/?ec=302&startURL=%2Fs%2F) to complete and submit a full project subapplication.

Following the subapplication submission, Cal OES conducts a comprehensive programmatic and Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) review. Additional requests for information (RFI) are likely to occur. Cal OES will submit projects to FEMA in accordance with the State’s priorities (see the Funding Priorities section), up to the available funding amount.

Following submission to FEMA, the subapplications will be reviewed for eligibility, feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and EHP compliance prior to approving and awarding funds by FEMA. Depending on the subapplication type and complexity, the FEMA review process could range from 12-24 months. On average, local hazard mitigation plans and plan updates take nine (9) months from submission to award. Subapplicant non-federal (local) cost share MUST be available at time of subapplication submission and at time of award. The subapplicant MUST also be ready to implement upon project award. Subapplicants that perform work related to a subapplication prior to its submittal and/or award may be subject to the subapplication being determined as ineligible and removed from funding consideration.

### Funding Priorities

Cal OES will prioritize and select HMGP subapplications for funding based on **Figure 3** below. Each row represents one (1) of the four (4) funding priorities, each of which include their own specific criteria that should be clearly demonstrated and explained throughout the subapplication.

***Figure 3: HMGP (DR-4750) Funding Priorities***

|  | HMGP (DR-4750) Funding Priorities |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Local Hazard Mitigation Plans | Up to 7% of the total available HMGP funds for California may be used to fund the development of hazard mitigation plans, and hazard mitigation plan updates. Funding may be requested up to the funding limits indicated above.  Planning subapplication priorities are as follows:   1. **Planning grants for communities planning for the first time.** 2. **MJHMPS with at least 10 participants that promote whole community resiliency.**[[3]](#footnote-4) 3. **MJHMPS with five (5) to nine (9) participants that promote whole community resiliency.** 4. **MJHMPs with less than five (5) participants.** 5. **Single jurisdiction plans.** |
| 1. Advance Assistance (AA) | **Up to** 25% of the total available HMGP funds for California, or $10 million (whichever is less) **may be used to develop and/or design projects for HMGP or other HMA programs. AA projects that result in a shovel-ready project subapplication, including identification of all site locations, feasibility, CEQA analysis, and a future subapplication that includes a BCA will be prioritized over AA projects that do not result in a shovel-ready project subapplication.**[[4]](#footnote-5) **Cal OES strongly recommends that they also identify at least 60% design as a deliverable. Cal OES will consider AA projects that meet the following objectives:**   1. **Protect a socially vulnerable**[[5]](#footnote-6) **community; and** 2. **Result in a project that would fall within the criteria outlined in funding priority #3.** |
| 1. Projects   Shovel-Ready and Phased Projects | Any funds not expended under funding priority #1 & #2 are available to fund priority projects that meet the following criteria:  Projects that intend to achieve one or more of the following:   1. **Implement a nature-based solution to reduce risk and/or advance California’s climate adaption goals;** 2. **Protect a socially vulnerable community;** 3. **Address disadvantaged groups;** 4. **Address California’s natural hazard priorities, as identified in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan;** 5. **Protect high-impact critical infrastructure;** 6. **Increase resiliency;** 7. **Anticipate challenges to implementation** |
| 1. Planning Related Activities, AA, and 5% Initiative grants   for non-socially vulnerable communities | Funds will be allocated based on funding priorities #1-3. All subapplicants will be reviewed at a high level to determine the funding priority they fall in. Based on the number of subapplications received and the total funds available, projects in the priority #4 category may not be fully reviewed and RFIs issued before selections are made. |

Addressing Funding Priority Criteria

Subapplicants must demonstrate and explain the criterion as listed in Figure 3 above in order for the subapplication to be considered for funding. The following are examples and potential solutions for achieving the projects’ (funding priority # 3) criteria:

1. Implement a nature-based solution (NBS) to reduce risk and/or advance climate adaption goals
   1. NBS: The subapplication must indicate and describe how the project incorporates one or more nature-based solutions. Nature-based solutions are sustainable environmental management practices that: a) restore, mimic, and/or enhance nature and natural systems or processes and b) support natural hazard risk mitigation as well as economic, environmental, and social resilience efforts. Nature-based solutions use approaches that include, but are not limited to, restoration of grasslands, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, dunes, and reefs; living shorelines; soil stabilization; aquifer storage and recovery; and bioretention systems.
   2. Climate Change: Projects should state how they address climate impacts related to Sea Level Rise (SLR), drought, increased precipitation, and/or more frequent storms, and also label throughout the scope of work as a climate adaptive project. Subapplications should state how the project will make communities more resilient against climate change.
   3. Future Conditions: Projects should also state how they anticipate future conditions (planning, design, and operations) and how the project will help communities better respond to these conditions. Therefore, they should address climate changes, demographic changes, population changes, and/or land use changes.
2. Protect a socially vulnerable community
   1. The subapplication must indicate and describe the protection to a socially vulnerable community (see footnote #5 for additional details). The subapplication should include maps demonstrating the project benefitting area and individual census tracts for the socially vulnerable population. The primary source for determining social vulnerability is the [Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Assistance Hazard Risk and Social Vulnerability Map](https://calema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/3c78aea361be4ea8a21b22b30e613d6e).
3. Address disadvantaged groups
   1. The subapplication should specifically note what disadvantaged groups (e.g., those with access and functional needs) who will specifically benefit from the project. These include people with developmental or intellectual disabilities, physical disabilities, chronic conditions, injuries, limited English proficiency or who are non-English speaking, older adults, children, people living in institutionalized settings, or those who are low income, homeless, or transportation disadvantaged, including, but not limited to, those who are dependent on public transit or those who are pregnant.
4. **Address California’s natural hazard priorities, as identified in the State Hazard Mitigation Plan**
   1. **Projects that address the highest ranking natural hazards, as ranked by the Hazard Impact Rating outlined in** [Volume 2 (Risk Assessment)](https://www.caloes.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/Hazard-Mitigation/Documents/2023-California-SHMP_Volume-1-Part-2_11.10.2023.pdf) **the** [2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan](https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/recovery-directorate/hazard-mitigation/state-hazard-mitigation-planning/) **(SHMP), will receive more points than those that address lower-ranked natural hazards in the 2023 SHMP.**
5. Protect high-impact critical infrastructure
   1. The subapplication must explain how the project mitigates natural hazard risk to critical physical structures, facilities, and systems that provide support to a community, its population, and its economy. This includes natural systems.[[6]](#footnote-7)
6. Increase resiliency
   1. The subapplication must explain what would happen to the community if the mitigation action were not implemented (e.g., damages, loss of service / function, morbidity / mortality). It should then also detail the proposed level of protection increase due to the implementation of the mitigation action.
7. Anticipate challenges to implementation

Each hazard mitigation proposal is unique to each subapplicant community. What risks have you identified, and measures have you taken to mitigate some of these risks?

* 1. Have you conducted public outreach before submitting this NOI?
  2. Does the subapplicant have the full authority over the infrastructure or project treatment area?
  3. Do you need to obtain easements or memoranda of understanding to complete the work?
  4. Is this your first time applying for grant funding?
  5. Do you need to hire a contractor?
  6. Have you considered complex permitting requirements?

The subapplicant should address how the subgrant will be managed (if awarded) to keep the mitigation action on time, within budget, and within the approved scope of work. This can be addressed throughout the scope of work section.

### Subapplication Requirements

Cal OES will ONLY submit complete and FEMA credible subapplications for funding consideration.[[7]](#footnote-8) This section provides important subapplication information and the required supporting documentation.

Period of Performance

In accordance with the FEMA HMGP requirements, the period of performance for all subapplications can be up to 48 months. Cal OES recommends that hazard mitigation plan updates use no more than a 36-month period of performance.

Cost Share

Eligible subapplicants will be responsible for covering the required 25% non-federal share (local match).

Benefit-Cost Analysis

A FEMA credible BCA with supporting documentation is required for phased and shovel-ready projects. BCAs are not needed for planning, planning-related, 5% initiative, and project scoping (i.e., Advance Assistance) activities.

Environmental and Historic Preservation

Compliance with [all applicable](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/laws) [Federal](https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/environmental-historic) and [California](https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/) EHP laws, executive orders, and regulations to assess potential impacts of a proposed project on affected physical, cultural (historic and archaeological), biological, and social resources is a condition of FEMA HMGP funding. Therefore, all HMGP project subapplications must undergo an [EHP review](https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic) as part of FEMA’s eligibility review process prior to award. Projects for which actual physical work, such as groundbreaking, demolition, or construction has occurred prior to project award may be ineligible for funding.

Procurement

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)].

Required Supporting Documentation

The following materials will need to be included as part of the subapplication in order to be considered complete:

1. Project Gantt Chart (Upload to Work Schedule Section)
2. Cost Estimate Narrative (Upload to Project Cost Estimate Section)
3. Maintenance Letter (Auto generated through Engage Portal)
4. Match Commitment Letter (Auto generated through Engage Portal)
5. Benefit-Cost Analysis Toolkit
6. Benefit-Cost Calculator PDF (Upload to BCA Section)
7. Benefit-Cost Analysis Methodology (Upload to BCA Section)
8. Benefit-Cost Analysis Supporting Documentation for Non-Default Values (Upload to BCA Section)
9. FEMA EHP Checklist (Upload to Environmental Review Section)

### Award and Grant Monitoring

Upon FEMA award, subrecipients will submit requests for reimbursement as work is completed. Cal OES requires subrecipients to submit reimbursement requests quarterly via submission of the quarterly report. Reimbursement requests will be subject to supporting documentation requirements to substantiate costs and validate eligibility against the approved subapplication, cost estimate, and scope of work. Please note, work started prior to FEMA review and approval is not reimbursable and may result in total de-obligation of the project. Some non-construction, non-groundbreaking work may be eligible for reimbursement if included in the cost estimate and specified as “pre-award costs.”

Subrecipients are responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of their grant. Subrecipients are subject to quarterly progress and financial reporting, a closeout process, and site visits as deemed necessary by Cal OES.

### Technical Assistance

Cal OES is pleased to provide technical assistance to interested subapplicants. Our subject matter experts are available to discuss project eligibility, the application process, or other related matters. Please reach out to [HMA@caloes.ca.gov](mailto:HMA@caloes.ca.gov) with questions or to schedule a call.

1. Check the hazard mitigation plan status by visiting the [FEMA interactive mitigation plan status viewer](https://fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ec2fb023df744cf480da89539338c386), and/or by **1**) contacting the [Cal OES HMA Branch](mailto:HMA@caloes.ca.gov) or **2**) visiting the Cal OES [Local Hazard Mitigation Program](https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/recovery-directorate/hazard-mitigation/state-hazard-mitigation-planning/) website and scroll down to view county-specific LHMPs. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Adopted means that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction (e.g., City Council, County Commissioner, Tribal Council), [(44 CFR 201.6(c)(5)](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-44/chapter-I/subchapter-D/part-201#p-201.6(c)(5))). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan is defined as a plan jointly prepared by more than one jurisdiction, meeting all the requirements as outlined in 44 CFR 201.6. The term “Jurisdiction” is referred to as “local government” which is defined in 44 CFR 201.c. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) generally requires state and local government agencies to inform decision makers and the public about the potential environmental impacts of proposed projects, and to reduce those environmental impacts to the extent feasible. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Socially vulnerable community is defined as exceeding the 70th percentile in SVI **or** having a median household income of less than 80 percent of the state median via the [Cal OES Hazard Mitigation Assistance Hazard Risk and Social Vulnerability Map](https://calema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/3c78aea361be4ea8a21b22b30e613d6e). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Examples include mangroves and wetlands, oyster reefs, and sand dunes; permeable pavement and driveways; green roofs; and natural areas incorporated into city designs. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
7. FEMA credible means the activity and all cost items are deemed eligible, the proposed measure and all parts of the scope of work feasible, the project is considered cost-effective with FEMA-approved Benefit Cost Analysis methodology, and compliant with all environmental and historic preservation (EHP) laws, regulations, and executive orders. [↑](#footnote-ref-8)