

DR-4856 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-4856 (California Wildfires and Straight-line Winds). 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](#). HMGP funding can support the development of hazard mitigation planning, codes and standards, 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.

Figure 1: HMGP (DR-4856) Funding Opportunity Timeline



DR-4856 HMGP Notice of Funding Opportunity

Eligible Subapplicants

Local governments—including cities, counties, special government 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 §206.221 and 206.434).

Hazard Mitigation Plan Eligibility Factors

Eligible subapplicants must have a FEMA approved and adopted local hazard mitigation plan (LHMP) or tribal hazard mitigation plan prior to the FEMA Notice of Grant Award. Eligible subapplicants that do not meet the hazard mitigation planning requirement may have their county or an eligible private nonprofit apply on their behalf. If a county or eligible private nonprofit applies on behalf of an eligible subapplicant, the county in which the work will be performed must meet the LHMP requirement¹. 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 are limited to a maximum federal share of \$165,000; multi-jurisdiction plans with two (2) to four (4) participating jurisdictions are limited to a maximum federal share of \$250,000; multi-jurisdiction plans with five (5) to nine (9) participating jurisdictions are limited to a maximum federal share of \$300,000; multi-jurisdiction plans with 10 participating jurisdictions, or more are limited to a maximum federal share of \$375,000.** A fully participating jurisdiction is defined as an entity which will fully participate² in the planning process, and who will adopt the plan upon receiving FEMA plan approval. 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 2026.

Additional Eligibility Factors

Mitigation projects must be eligible, feasible, cost-effective, and Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) compliant per FEMA's [Hazard Mitigation Program and Policy Guide](#). 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, economic benefits, etc.).

¹Check the hazard mitigation plan status by visiting the FEMA [interactive mitigation plan status viewer](#), and/or by **1)** contacting the [Cal OES HMA Branch](#) or **2)** visiting the Cal OES [Local Hazard Mitigation Program](#) website and scroll down to view county-specific LHMPs.

²The plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction (e.g., City Council, County Commissioner, Tribal Council), [\(44 CFR 201.6\(c\)\(5\)\)](#). Participating means creating a FEMA approvable annex.

DR-4856 HMGP Notice of Funding Opportunity

Subapplication Process

Interested subapplicants must submit a Notice of Interest (NOI) via the [Engage Cal OES Portal](#) prior to submitting a subapplication. Prior to submitting the NOI, subapplicants will need to be prepared to address the following questions:

- What is the natural hazard to be addressed?
- What is the problem caused by the natural hazard?
- What are the consequences if the project is not completed?
- What are the existing conditions and the proposed level-of-protection increase?
- Is this project shovel ready, Phased, or Advance Assistance/Scoping (see **Figure 2** below)

Figure 2: HMGP Subapplication Types

Type	Examples
Local Hazard Mitigation Plans	Up to 7% of the total available HMGP funds for California may be used to fund the development or update of local hazard mitigation plans (LHMPs). Communities may participate in a single jurisdictional LHMP or participate in a multi-jurisdictional LHMP with multiple entities contributing to the same planning process and document.
Building Codes and Standards	Up to five percent of the total HMGP grant funds may be used for building codes and standards activities. This funding source was previously referred to as "Additional 5 Percent Initiative." The name and requirements have been updated to provide dedicated funding to strengthen the use of building codes and standards. This initiative offers eligibility for a variety of codes and standards activities.
5% Initiative Activities	Up to five percent of the total HMGP grant funds may be used for proposals that are difficult to evaluate using FEMA-approved cost-effectiveness methodologies (e.g. the FEMA BCA toolkit), but which otherwise meet HMGP eligibility requirements. Examples include education and outreach, post-disaster code enforcement activities, certain types of warning systems.
Advance Assistance (AA)	Up to 25% of the total available HMGP funds for California may be used to develop and/or design projects for HMGP or other HMA programs. Seed funding to bridge the gap between hazard mitigation plans and project subapplications; common deliverables typically include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Technical studies, ▪ Alternative analysis, ▪ Selection of a preferred alternative, ▪ Design work, ▪ Environmental Historic Preservation (EHP), ▪ Cost estimates, ▪ Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA), and ▪ Development of a future project subapplication
Shovel-Ready or Phased Projects	Hazard mitigation projects actively reduce the risk associated with natural hazards. They must be technically feasible, be cost-effective, pass environmental and historic preservation review requirements, and include required elements (budget, scope of work, schedule, etc.). Eligible project and hazard types are outlined in the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide.
Planning-Related Activities	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).

All NOIs must be submitted by the posted deadline, **May 29, 2025**. NOIs submitted after this date will be considered for the next available funding opportunity.

Cal OES will review NOIs for eligibility. If approved, eligible subapplicants will be invited via the [Engage Cal OES Portal](#) to complete and submit a full project subapplication. Cal OES will review all subapplications and submit projects to FEMA in accordance with the State's priorities (see funding priorities section).

Following submission to FEMA, the subapplications will be reviewed for eligibility, feasibility, cost-effectiveness, and EHP compliance prior to FEMA approving and awarding funds. 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 performed work related to a subapplication prior to its submittal and/or award may result in 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 six (6) funding priorities, each of which include their own specific criteria that should be clearly demonstrated and explained throughout the subapplication.

Cal OES will prioritize activities that address:

- Expedite rebuilding (streamline permitting and post-disaster code enforcement activities)
- Innovative wildfire activities/projects
 - This includes grants for homeowners to retrofit their homes to be more fire-resistant, AI-driven technology, and hazardous fuels reduction/defensible space.
- Strengthen infrastructure to withstand wildfires, flooding, and other hazards and ensure essential services remain operational (water resource infrastructure, grid resilience, and storm-resistant infrastructure)
 - This includes stormwater capture, groundwater recharge, enhancing reservoir capacity to mitigate both drought and flood risks, accelerating undergrounding of power lines in wildfire-prone areas, and landslide barriers/erosion control measures to protect communities from post-wildfire conditions.
- Multi-Hazard mitigation initiatives that address interconnected hazard risks including wildfire, flooding, and drought (fire-flood prevention activities, expanding reclaimed water use for drought and wildfire mitigation)
- Integrated water resource management (groundwater recharge, stormwater diversion, and flood mitigation)

DR-4856 HMGP Notice of Funding Opportunity

- Activities that foster a holistic approach to community resilience – partnering across Federal, State, tribal, local governments, non-profits, and the private sector

Figure 3: HMGP (DR-4856) Funding Priorities

Type	Description
<p>Local Hazard Mitigation Plans</p>	<p>Hazard mitigation planning is the foundation for mitigation project development and future investments. Mitigation plans are strategic documents that guide communities to engage partners and identify actions to improve their overall resilience. 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.</p> <p>This funding allows for new plan creation or plan updates that result in a mitigation plan adopted by the jurisdiction and approved by FEMA (5-year cycle for updates).</p> <p>Federal Share Caps for Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Single jurisdictional plans - \$165,000 ▪ Multi-jurisdictional plans (2-4 participating jurisdictions) - \$250,000 ▪ Multi-jurisdictional plans (5-9 participating jurisdictions) - \$300,000 ▪ Multi-jurisdictional plans (10+ participating jurisdictions) - \$375,000 <p>Cal OES recommends that jurisdictions apply for a grant to update their LHMP up to three (3) years before the expiration of their current plan.</p>
<p>Building Codes and Standards</p>	<p>Up to five percent of the total HMGP grant funds may be used for building codes and standards activities.</p> <p>The evaluation of the implementation of codes, enhancements to existing adopted codes, development of professional workforce, evaluation of land use and zoning ordinances, and post-disaster code enforcement (track / enforcement of disaster damaged properties and technical assistance for disaster-damaged structures).</p> <p>Subapplicants will use 5% Codes and Standards subapplication type and Post-Disaster Code Enforcement project type in the Engage Cal OES Portal when completing the Notice of Interest (NOI).</p>
<p>5% Initiative</p>	<p>Up to five percent of the total HMGP funds for activities that are difficult to evaluate against the traditional program cost-effectiveness criteria and comply with all applicable HMGP eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Warning systems that alert people about natural hazards such as earthquakes, tornadoes, wildfire, tsunami and flash floods, mitigation public awareness campaigns, and mitigation-related hazard identification / mapping (including flood after fire). This includes advanced fire detection systems that expand AI driven fire prediction models and satellite monitoring and AI-driven hazard mapping to guide regional resilience planning.</p>

Type	Description
Advance Assistance (AA)	<p>Up to 25% of the total available HMGP funds for California may be used to develop and/or design projects for HMGP or other HMA programs.</p> <p>Seed funding to bridge the gap between hazard mitigation plans and project subapplications; common deliverables include technical studies, alternative analyses, selection of a preferred alternative, design work, Environmental Historic Preservation (EHP), cost estimates, Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA), and development of a future project subapplication</p>
Projects Shovel-Ready or Phased Projects	<p>Projects can be phased (Phase I is design, Phase II is construction) or shovel ready (construction only); eligible project activities must mitigate a natural hazard and can include: wildfire mitigation, mitigation reconstruction, structure elevation, stabilization, flood risk reduction, property acquisition / demo, tsunami vertical evacuation refuge, safe room, retrofits (seismic, wind, wildfire, snow, extreme temp, and air quality), secondary power sources, aquifer recharge storage and recovery, and other solutions (wetland restoration).</p> <p>Wildfire eligible projects include defensible space, ignition-resistant building materials / infrastructure (homes, utility poles, water systems), fuel reduction / vegetation management, post-wildfire flooding prevention and sediment reduction measures, reforestation / soil stabilization, seeding and mulching, erosion control, and flash flood prevention measures.</p> <p>Activities that address HVAC systems and indoor air filtration are eligible, such as wildfire smoke filtration systems in non-damaged public buildings. The retrofitting of shelters / community centers is also an eligible activity (new shelter builds are not eligible under the program).</p>
Planning-Related Activities	<p>These activities update or improvement to sections of the current hazard mitigation plan (HMP); risk and vulnerability assessment, strengthening the hazard mitigation strategy, and integrating other planning efforts – must result in a clearly defined product that informs the hazard mitigation plan.</p>

Subapplication Requirements

Cal OES will **ONLY** submit complete and FEMA credible³ subapplications for funding consideration. This section provides important subapplication information and the required supporting documentation.

Period of Performance

The period of performance for 5% codes and standards/initiative, advance assistance, and project subapplications can be up to 48 months, all other subapplication types (planning, planning-related) can be up to 36 months.

³Eligible, feasible, cost-effective, and EHP compliant.

Cost Share

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

Benefit-Cost Analysis

A FEMA credible benefit-cost analysis (BCA) 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 Federal](#) and [California](#) 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](#) 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:

- Project Gantt Chart (Upload to Work Schedule Section)
- Cost Estimate Narrative (Upload to Project Cost Estimate Section)
- Maintenance Letter (Auto generated through Engage Portal)
- Match Commitment Letter (Auto generated through Engage Portal)
- Benefit-Cost Analysis Toolkit and Calculator PDF (Upload to BCA Section)
- Benefit-Cost Analysis Methodology (Upload to BCA Section)
- Benefit-Cost Analysis Documentation for Non-Default Values (Upload to BCA Section)
- FEMA EHP Checklist (Upload to Environmental Review Section)

DR-4856 HMGP Notice of Funding Opportunity

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 ResilientCA@caloes.ca.gov with questions or to schedule a call.

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 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.

Resources and Helpful Tools

- FEMA 2025 HMA Program and Policy Guide: [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#)
- Engage Cal OES Portal: [Login](#)
- State Hazard Mitigation Plan: [2023 State Hazard Mitigation Plan](#) (see Volume 2, Appendix H)
- Cal OES HMA Subapplication Development Website: [HM Subapplication Development | California Governor's Office of Emergency Services](#)