

December 15, 2004, Official Grant Announcement Notification

FY 2005 PRE-DISASTER MITIGATION PROGRAM

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program provides funding for cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement comprehensive mitigation programs by reducing injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property. The Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2005 offering of this nationally competitive grant program is officially announced by this notification in addition to *detailed* information found on the FEMA website at:

<http://www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm>

Approximately \$255 million is available for competitive grants, technical assistance, and program support for the Fiscal Year 2005 PDM program. As PDM funds are available until expended, this amount is comprised of approximately \$13 million FY 2003 funds, approximately \$144.6 million FY 2004 funds, and approximately \$97 million FY 2005 funds. PDM grants are to be awarded on a nationally competitive basis and without reference to state allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds.

Because of delays with the e-Grants application system, FEMA has extended the deadline to submit grants. *Please note the NEW deadlines for Oregon:*

- February 28, 2005, 5:00PM PST: PDM grant sub-applications submitted to Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) via e-Grants on-line system
- March 14, 2005, 8:59PM PST: Deadline for OEM to submit a prioritized listing of sub-applications via a master grant application to FEMA using e-Grants

Like the FY03 offering, Oregon will only be accepting and forwarding to FEMA applications that are submitted electronically; no paper copies will be accepted. You must be registered to enter your on-line application; please contact Dennis Sigrist for specific registration instructions for e-Grants. **The e-Grants system is 'up-and-running.'**

In Oregon, eligible sub-applicants include state agencies, counties, cities, and public universities and colleges. For example, special districts, and private nonprofit organizations must apply through the jurisdiction (city or county) where the proposed project is located. For projects that benefit businesses and homeowners, an eligible sub-applicant would apply on their behalf. If you are applying for a project grant, there is also a requirement for having a FEMA-approved local natural hazards mitigation plan. On June 28, 2004, the Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, concluded that payments made under the PDM program are includable as gross income under Section 61 of the Internal Revenue Code. To date, there has been no change in the law excluding these payments from gross income. This has significant impact to homeowners and businesses who benefit from PDM-funded retrofit projects such as home elevations in the floodplain.

The PDM program specifically provides funds for both pre-disaster mitigation planning and the implementation of cost-effective mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. Funding these plans and projects reduces overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations. Key points of interest for the FY05 grant offering include:

1. Oregon Emergency Management is the designated grantee for PDM.
2. Cost-share: 75% federal/25% non-federal (local match).
3. In Oregon, the grant application period will close on February 28, 2005.
4. Sub-applicants must have a FEMA-approved 44 CFR 201.6 natural hazards mitigation plan (*preferably* FEMA approved no later than 3/14/2005) to apply for project grants.
5. Planning grants are once again authorized this year and emphasized for those communities that do not already have a FEMA-approved natural hazards mitigation plan.
6. If applying for pre-award grant costs, those costs that were incurred on or after October 29, 2004, could be reimbursed if eligible **and** your grant is selected for award.
7. Projects will be scored and predominately ranked by the state and FEMA on mitigation benefits as determined by the benefit/cost analysis (b/ca) which is a required part of the application for project grants.
8. Flood mitigation projects that reduce losses to NFIP-insured, repetitive-loss properties are good projects BUT NOT a national priority this year.
9. Seismic retrofits of critical facilities, schools, hospitals and the like have also been identified by Oregon voters as important mitigation activities.
10. We encourage mitigation project applications from eligible applicants statewide to ensure geographic diversity and opportunity.
11. Follow the FEMA benefit-cost analysis (including software and documentation requirements) guidance to the letter!

The second of two PDM grant workshops (to include a discussion of the grant program, e-Grants application system and benefit-cost analysis) is planned for January 5, 2005 in Grants Pass. Registration is still open but very limited seating remains available. Again, please contact Dennis Sigrist, directly, in regard to this training opportunity and for a copy of the electronic registration form (if you are not already registered).

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