

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

FY 2005 Program Update

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribes, communities, colleges, and universities for pre-disaster mitigation planning and the implementation of cost-effective mitigation projects prior to a disaster event. For the FY 2005 program offering, the national grant application period closed on March 14th, and Oregon submitted one planning and 15 project grant sub-applications. On July 8th, FEMA announced 13 of those 16 sub-applications were selected for funding consideration, with the 75% federal share potentially totaling \$11.5 million. Two additional sub-applications were determined to not meet PDM Guidelines and one was placed on the 'waiting list' should additional grant funding become available. During August and the coming months, the 13 selected sub-applications will undergo review by FEMA as required by the National Environmental Policy Act and other federal environmental and historical review requirements. Formal sub-grant notifications and media information will be released as soon as grants are approved and funding obligated by FEMA.

FY 2006 Program Announcement

FEMA has just announced details of the FY 2006 PDM grant program offering. Up to \$150 million may be available for competitive grants, technical assistance, and program support for the FY 2006 PDM program. Availability of PDM funds is dependent upon Congressional appropriation, expected by October 1, 2005, and reauthorization of the program, expected by December 31, 2005. PDM grants are to be awarded on a competitive basis and without reference to state allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds. FEMA has established a grant application deadline of January 17, 2006. The state's deadline, for sub-applications submitted to OEM, would likely precede that date by at least three weeks to allow for processing, review and ranking. More information can be found on the FEMA website: <http://www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm>

For those communities interested in the FY 2006 PDM grant offering, this is an excellent time for potential sub-applicants to consider projects for this program. This is also an excellent time for those communities engaged in local natural hazards mitigation planning to review the grant program guidance and tailor plan action items that could lead to potential grant projects. Sub-applicants are cautioned, however, that FEMA has not authorized pre-award grant costs at this time since the program is not formally offered and the application period open.

In the coming months, the state and FEMA are planning to offer at least two formal training sessions on the FY 2006 PDM grant program to include the e-Grants on-line application system and benefit-cost analysis. OEM staff will also be meeting with local community mitigation committees to explain this program as well. Much more information on the grant program and training offerings will be posted on the OEM website as it becomes available: www.oregon.gov/OOHS/OEM/