

Lesson Overview

This lesson describes FEMA's hazard mitigation programs and how the environmental/historic preservation review relates to these programs.

Lesson Objectives

At the completion of this lesson, you will be able to describe the relationship between FEMA hazard mitigation programs and the environmental/historic preservation review process.

Hazard Mitigation Programs**Key Points**

- FEMA's mitigation programs are designed to protect homes, businesses, and public facilities from future disaster damages.
 - Like Public Assistance projects, hazard mitigation projects must undergo environmental/historic preservation review before being implemented.
 - Early identification of environmental and historic preservation issues can help streamline the grant approval process.
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Hazard Mitigation Programs

FEMA also funds mitigation programs designed to protect homes, businesses, and public facilities and infrastructure from future disaster damages.

FEMA's hazard mitigation programs include:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP).
 - Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program.
 - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program.
 - Occasional supplemental assistance, such as Unmet Needs.
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Environmental/Historic Preservation Review

Although some of these programs are not tied to a specific disaster, and thus may not be part of a disaster operation, many of the same environmental/historic preservation review requirements apply.

In all mitigation programs, the State plays an important role in planning, prioritizing, and selecting projects. All mitigation programs require applicants to provide a thorough identification of potential environmental/historic preservation resources that may be affected by project.

Applicants are encouraged to integrate environmental and historic preservation considerations early during project planning and evaluation of alternatives.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act, the HMGP provides grants to Tribes, States, local governments, and certain Private Non-Profits to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures throughout the Tribal lands/State after a major disaster declaration. The purposes of the program are to:

- Reduce the loss of life and property due to disasters.
- Enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the recovery from a disaster.

In recognition of the importance of mitigation planning, Tribes/States with an approved enhanced Tribe/State Mitigation Plan in effect at the time of a disaster declaration may receive additional HMGP funding.

HMGP Projects

Projects eligible for funding under the HMGP must provide:

- Long-term solutions to problems (for example, retrofitting of public facilities to reduce the risk of earthquake damage).
- Long-term benefits that outweigh the cost of implementing the project.

HMGP funds may be used to protect either public or private property or to purchase property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program

The PDM program provides grants to Tribes, States, and local governments for cost-effective hazard mitigation activities that complement a comprehensive multi-hazard mitigation program. To be eligible for PDM funding, applicants must participate in and be in good standing with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Eligible projects are similar to those under the HMGP.

Funding under the PDM is not tied to a disaster. The program is nationally competitive on an annual basis.

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program

The FMA program provides funding to assist Tribes, States, and local communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage. Examples of eligible FMA projects include the elevation, acquisition, and relocation of buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP.

Like PDM, FMA is not tied to a disaster. This annual program is not nationally competitive; instead, States prioritize and select projects.

Hazard Mitigation Roles

Roles in hazard mitigation programs are somewhat different than those in the Public Assistance program. In hazard mitigation programs:

- Applicants are completely responsible for project development, and work with the Tribe/State for technical assistance.
- Tribes/States take a very active role managing the program and initiating the compliance process by working with applicants to collect information and ensure complete applications.
- FEMA conducts final environmental/historical preservation review and approval, and works through the Tribe/State to contact applicants.

Responsibilities Under Hazard Mitigation Programs

The following table summarizes the responsibilities of FEMA, the Tribe/State, and applicants under the hazard mitigation programs.

Party	Responsibility
FEMA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Has legal responsibility for the Federal environmental/historic preservation review process and documentation. ▪ Typically goes through the Tribe/State to obtain clarification from the applicant regarding project scope, verification, or further environmental/historical preservation data.
Tribe/State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assists applicants to prepare applications. ▪ Ensures that project applications contain appropriate environmental/historical preservation data, maps, and coordination. ▪ Provides coordination and monitoring as grantee.
Applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Typically responsible for independent formulation of project scope, design, and application. Provides detailed environmental/historic preservation information in the State application form. Complies with Federal, State, and local laws. Implements grant conditions resulting from FEMA's compliance review.

FEMA Program Staff: Hazard Mitigation Officer

The Hazard Mitigation Officer manages the program in disaster operations in coordination with Tribe/State counterparts.

The Hazard Mitigation Officer's environmental/historic preservation responsibilities include:

- Ensuring that proper procedures are followed.
- Ensuring that the environmental/historic preservation review has been completed, documented, and approved prior to funding.

FEMA Program Staff: HMGP Grant Manager/Project Reviewer

The HMGP Grant Manager/Project Reviewer conducts eligibility reviews.

The HMGP Grant Manager/Project Reviewer's environmental/historic preservation responsibilities include:

- Coordinating with the Regional Environmental Officer/Environmental Liaison Officer (REO/ELO).
 - Managing the environmental/historic preservation review process.
 - Working with an environmental/historical preservation specialist to ensure that the environmental/historical preservation review is complete.
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FEMA Program Staff: Environmental/Historic Preservation Specialist

Specialists are technical experts who conduct the appropriate environmental/historic preservation review for specific projects.

Specialists may be drawn from:

- The environmental/historic preservation cadre.
- Contractors.

Specialists' environmental/historic preservation responsibilities include:

- Coordinating and preparing environmental/historic review documentation.
 - Working with the Grant Manager/Project Reviewer.
 - Providing technical expertise as needed.
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Lesson Summary

You have now completed the fourth lesson in the Disaster Operations and FEMA Programs section of this course. You should be able to describe the relationship between FEMA's hazard mitigation programs and the environmental/historic preservation review process.
