

FY2009 Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Application Period Is Open

KEY POINTS:

- For Federal Fiscal Year 2009, FEMA is opening-up the e-Grants application system on June 19, 2008. for the:
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program
- Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) program, and
- Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) program (likely not applicable in Oregon)
- Funding amounts have yet to be determined along with required Congressional appropriation (not until after October 1, 2008)

The Unified Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) application period is 'open' from June 19, 2008 through December 19, 2008. Applicants must submit an FY 2009 grant application to FEMA through the e-Grants system by December 19, 2008, at 11:59:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Please note: **The State of Oregon sub-applicant (cities and counties, for example) deadline to Oregon Emergency Management (OEM) will be at least two weeks prior to the Federal application deadline or no later than December 5, 2008.**

- Please contact Dennis Sigrist (OEM) for the HMA grant guidance along with user registration instructions for the e-Grants system: dsigrist@oem.state.or.us

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs present a critical opportunity to protect individuals and property from natural hazards while simultaneously reducing reliance on Federal disaster funds. The HMA programs provide pre-disaster mitigation grants annually to States, Territories, Tribes, and local communities. The statutory origins of the programs differ, but all share the common goal of reducing the loss of life and property due to natural hazards. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program is authorized by the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Assistance and Emergency Relief Act (Stafford Act) and focuses on mitigation project and planning activities that address multiple natural hazards, although these activities may also address hazards caused by manmade events. The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program, Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) program, and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) program are authorized by the National Flood Insurance Act (NFIA), and focus on reducing claims against the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). For the current application cycles, FEMA's Mitigation Directorate is unifying the multi-hazard PDM program with the FMA, RFC, and SRL programs into a unified HMA program application cycle. The intent of this alignment is to enhance the quality and efficiency of grant awards on an allocation and competitive basis to State, Territory, Tribal, and local entities for worthwhile, cost-beneficial activities designed to reduce the risks of future damage in hazard-prone areas. Best practices from the programs will be identified and adopted as the standard for all programs throughout this unification process. In addition, a unified process achieves economies of scale and portfolio management for Federal, State, and local officials by allowing resources to be dedicated to program training and technical

assistance as needed. At the same time, unification streamlines FEMA's program delivery and review processes, which offer new opportunities and additional resources to expand national outreach for all types of mitigation.

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program provides funds to states, territories, Indian tribal governments, communities, and universities for hazard mitigation planning and the implementation of 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. PDM grants are to be awarded on a competitive basis and without reference to state allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds.