



**STATE OF WISCONSIN**  
**DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS**  
**DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Brian M. Satula  
Administrator

Scott Walker  
Governor

**DATE:** September 20, 2013

**TO:** County and Tribal Emergency Management Directors  
Local Officials, Zoning Administrators, and County Board Chairpersons in the  
Declared Counties  
Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa

**FROM:** Roxanne Gray, State Hazard Mitigation Officer *R Gray*  
Wisconsin Emergency Management

**SUBJECT: PRE-APPLICATION FOR THE SECTION 404-HAZARD  
MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM**

As a result of Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4141-DR-WI declared August 8, 2013, funding is available for mitigation activities through the Section 404-Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP.) The counties that were included in the declaration as a result of flooding that occurred June 20-28, 2013, are Ashland, Bayfield, Crawford, Grant, Iowa, Richland, St. Croix and Vernon Counties and the Red Cliff Band of the Lake Superior Chippewa.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to state and local governments, eligible private non-profit organizations, and Indian tribes to fund long-term, permanent mitigation measures following a major disaster declaration. These grants are available *statewide* and are 75% federally funded through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), 12.5% state funded through Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM) and 12.5% is the required local match. The local match can be provided by other funding sources as long as it is not federal dollars. It can be a soft or in-kind match. In addition, the local match can be greater than 12.5%. The funds available for the HMGP for this declaration are estimated at \$1.8 million and are based on 20% of the federal funds spent on the Public Assistance Program for the declaration.

**The objective of the program is to eliminate or reduce future disaster damages to improved property.** Grants can be used to fund projects on public or private property. Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, the acquisition and relocation of flood prone properties, floodproofing or retrofitting measures including elevation, wind resistant retrofitting or construction, and construction of safe rooms and storm shelters. Other fundable projects include the development of mitigation standards to protect structures from disaster damages and small localized flood reduction projects such as detention ponds, stormwater improvements are also fundable. In addition, funds are available for developing local all hazard mitigation plans as well as updating existing plans. A project can be considered for funding even if damages did not occur during this event if the application shows that past damages have occurred and that the project can reduce future damages. Mitigation for hazards other than flooding can be considered as long as the

program criteria can be met. The program does not fund costs to make disaster repairs, purchase equipment, pay for plans and studies that merely analyzes a situation, or pay for projects that are already started or completed.

To be eligible for HMGP funding, specific criteria must be met:

1. The community must be participating and be in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program if a special flood hazard area has been identified by FEMA.
2. The proposed project must be cost-effective and show that the benefits of the project will outweigh the cost. It must pass the Benefit Cost Analysis, which is the most difficult requirement for project approval.
3. The project must be environmentally sound and will require environmental documentation prior to funding.
4. The applicant will have to show that other alternatives (2 at a minimum) were considered and that the alternative selected is the most feasible and will solve the problem. The applicant will have to demonstrate that the proposed project will eliminate or substantially reduce future disaster damages.
5. The applicant must have a FEMA approved all hazard mitigation plan. The proposed mitigation measure must be in conformance with the goals and objectives of the local hazard mitigation plan as well as the State Hazard Mitigation Plan.

HMGP funds are available statewide. However, communities in the declared area will receive priority consideration and are strongly encouraged to apply for this program. For each proposed project complete the enclosed Pre-Application Form attaching any pertinent information that will support the project. Submit it to this office no later than **October 11, 2013**.

WEM staff will review, score, rank and prioritize for funding consideration. Projects that will have the greatest impact for preventing or reducing future disaster damages and meet the program requirements will receive HMGP grant approval based on grant dollars available. Those applicants whose proposed projects have the greatest potential for funding approval will be asked to submit a detailed formal application.

Pre-applications that do not receive further consideration for HMGP funding will be referred to the Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team members for funding under other programs that may be available through the agencies represented on the group.

Additional information and program requirements can be found in the FFY13 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Unified Guidance and Addendum Guidance located at: [www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance](http://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance).

For those communities located in the declared counties, the Section 404-Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is separate from the Section 406 Mitigation as part of the Public Assistance Program. If the project worksheets completed for your community include mitigation as part of the Public Assistance grant, you do not need to also apply to the Section 404-HMGP.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 608-242-3211; Katie Sommers at 608-242-3222; Robyn Wiseman at 608-242-3200; or Kimberly Berginnis at 608-242-3219.

Enclosures:

Pre-Application, Section 404-Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, DMA Form 141  
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

cc: Wisconsin Regional Emergency Management Directors  
Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team  
Regional Planning Commissions  
Stan Kaitfors, Department of Administration