



STATE OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Michael T. Hinman
Administrator

Jim Doyle
Governor

DATE: November 2, 2010

TO: Local Officials in communities included in Federal Disaster Declaration
FEMA-1944-DR-WI in Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, Juneau, Portage, Marathon,
Taylor, Trempealeau and Wood Counties
County Emergency Management Directors
County Board Chairpersons
Local Officials of other selected communities

FROM: Roxanne Gray, State Hazard Mitigation Officer

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

As a result of Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-1944-DR-WI declared October 21, 2010 funding is available for mitigation activities through the Section 404-Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP.) Buffalo, Clark, Jackson, Juneau, Portage, Marathon, Taylor, Trempealeau and Wood Counties were included in the declaration for the Public Assistance Program as a result of flooding, tornadoes and severe storms that occurred between September 22 and October 9, 2010.

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 a soft or in-kind match provided that the funding sources are not federal dollars. The local match can be greater than 12.5%. The funds available for the HMGP for this declaration are based on 20% of the federal funds spent on the Public Assistance Program for the declaration. The funds available for the HMGP for this declaration are estimated at \$1.5 million and are based on 20% of the estimated funds to be spent on the Public Assistance program for the declaration. The actual amount could be higher or lower.

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 demolition of flood damaged and 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 structural control projects, such as detention ponds and stormwater improvements. In addition, funds are available for developing local all hazard mitigation plans as well as updating existing plans. A project can be considered 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 cannot fund costs to make disaster repairs, purchase equipment, pay for plans and studies that merely analyze a situation, or pay for projects that are already started or completed.

The complete HMGP program guidance can be downloaded from:

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4225&fromSearch=fromsearch>

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 selected alternative 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 participated in and 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. Those communities without a FEMA approved plan may apply for HMGP funds for the development of such a plan. The Plan would have to be completed, adopted and approved by FEMA within one year of the declaration prior to receiving any project grant funds. In addition, those communities that have an approved mitigation plan may apply for HMGP funds to revise or update their existing plan to meet the five-year plan update requirement. Wisconsin Emergency Management supports the development of countywide hazard mitigation plans.

HMGP funds are available statewide. 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 **Monday, December 6, 2010.**

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.

Both the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the State's priorities for mitigation projects focus on the acquisition, demolition, relocation, and floodproofing or elevation of floodplain properties. Pre-applications for such projects will receive priority consideration with the mitigation of substantially damaged and/or repetitive loss properties receiving the highest priority. (Substantially damaged properties are those structures located in the floodplain that have incurred damages that exceed 50% of the equalized assessed value. Repetitive loss properties are properties that have received two or more flood insurance claims of at least \$2,000 each within a ten-year period.) HMGP funds can be used to fund structural projects if the project will eliminate or substantially reduce damages to improved property.

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

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Roxanne Gray, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at 608-242-3211, Susan Boldt, Assistant State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at 608-242-3214, Lynsey Kowski, Disaster Response and Recovery Planner, at 608-242-3222, or Joe Heinrich, Disaster Recovery Planner, at 608-242-3216.

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

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