



STATE OF WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
Wisconsin Emergency Management

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SEND PRE-APP SOON AS
POSSIBLE
ACTUAL PROJECT
JUNE 14, 2009

DATE: July 7, 2008

TO: Local Officials and Zoning Administrators in communities included in Federal Disaster Declaration FEMA-1768-DR-WI
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-1768-DR-WI funding is available for mitigation activities through the Section 404-Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Thirty-one counties were included in the declaration as a result of flooding and severe storms that occurred between June 5 and the present. These counties are Adams, Calumet, Columbia, Crawford, Dane, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green, Green Lake, Iowa, Jefferson, Juneau, Kenosha, Lafayette, La Crosse, Manitowoc, Marquette, Milwaukee, Monroe, Ozaukee, Racine, Richland, Rock, Sauk, Sheboygan, Vernon, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha and Winnebago.

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 other 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 and Individual Assistance Programs 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 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. 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 need to show that other alternatives (2 at a minimum) were considered and that the selected alternative is the most feasible, will solve the problem and 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. 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 encourages 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, September 15, 2008.**

WEM staff will review, score, rank and prioritize for funding consideration. Those applicants whose proposed projects have the greatest potential for funding approval will be asked to submit a detailed formal application. 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.

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 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.

In the event a community has substantially-damaged, primary properties in the floodplain, and the property owners are interested in acquisition and demolition, please immediately notify Roxanne

Gray, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, at 608-242-3211.

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

Mitigation projects not funded through the HMGP under this declaration may be considered under other FEMA mitigation programs such as the Pre-Disaster Mitigation, Flood Mitigation Assistance, Repetitive Flood Claims or the Severe Repetitive Loss Programs. These programs have annual funding cycles. The application period for these programs is from June 12, 2008 until December 12, 2008. The Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Unified Program Guidance can be found at: <http://emergencymanagement.wi.gov/docview.asp?docid=14147&locid=18>.

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 Kawski, Disaster Response and Recovery Planner, at 608-242-3222, or Robby Stoikes, Hazard Mitigation Planner, at 608-242-3226.

Enclosures:

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

Cc: Wisconsin Regional Emergency Management Directors
Wisconsin Hazard Mitigation Team
Wisconsin Recovery Task Force