Fiscal Year 2020 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP)

What is the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Regional Catastrophic Preparedness Grant Program (RCPGP)?

The FY 2020 RCPGP, as appropriated by the *Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2020* (Pub. L. No. 116-93), provides resources to close known preparedness capability gaps, encourages innovative regional solutions to issues related to catastrophic incidents, and builds on existing regional preparedness efforts.

What is the purpose of the FY 2020 RCPGP?

The purpose of the FY 2020 RCPGP is to build regional capacity to manage catastrophic incidents by improving and expanding collaboration for catastrophic incident preparedness. New for FY 2020, regional pandemic preparedness is added as a program objective, with specific focus on pandemic planning activities, to address the Community Lifelines and Core Capabilities that are essential to pandemic preparedness. In addition, recognizing the value of all-hazards emergency preparedness planning, and consistent with the objectives of the FY 2019 RCPGP, applicants may continue to consider projects that improve capability levels in the **Food, Water, and Sheltering Community Lifeline** as measured in the *Housing* or *Logistics and Supply Chain Management* core capabilities reported through the Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)/Stakeholder Preparedness Review (SPR).

How does the FY 2020 RCPGP support the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency?

The focus of the FY 2020 RCPGP encourages eligible applicants to submit project proposals that address regional pandemic preparedness. For such projects, applicants are required to identify the specific lifelines and capabilities that will be improved through the proposed project. At a minimum, within the **Health and Medical Lifeline**, the *Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Service*; *Fatality Management Services*; *Economic Recovery*; *Health and Social Services*; and *Logistics and Supply Chain Management* core capabilities should be addressed. Applicants should also consider how regional preparedness capabilities may be impacted by a major disaster while dealing with an ongoing pandemic emergency.

Additionally, DHS/FEMA encourages applicants to consider how pandemic preparedness needs can be integrated into their broader regional catastrophic preparedness investment proposals. For example, a proposed investment that addresses the Housing capability should consider lessons learned from the current COVID-19 emergency and how housing and shelter needs would be impacted when dealing with both a major disaster and ongoing pandemic.

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Similarly, a proposed Logistics and Supply Chain Management investment should consider the COVID-19 emergency and the challenges associated with the acquisition and distribution of critical equipment and supplies.

How much funding is available under the FY 2020 RCPGP?

In FY 2020, the RCPGP program will competitively award $10 million.

How many awards are anticipated?

DHS/FEMA anticipates that approximately 10-20 awards will be made. Applicants are eligible to apply for up to, but no more than, $1 million.

Where is the FY 2020 RCPGP Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) located?

The NOFO is located online at fema.gov/grants as well as on Grants.gov.

Who is eligible to apply?

States, as defined by 2 C.F.R. § 200.90 (this definition includes territories), and local governments, as defined by 2 C.F.R. § 200.64, are eligible to apply for FY 2020 RCPGP funds. The following eligibility restrictions for these groups apply:

- A state or territory is eligible to apply if one or more of the 100 most populous Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) per the Census Bureau's 2019 Population Estimates (as listed in Appendix B of the RCPGP NOFO) is located within the state or territory.

- Local governments must be located within one of the 100 most populous MSAs. DHS/FEMA will accept no more than **one application** per MSA.

Additional guidance on RCPGP-specific eligibility is available in the NOFO.

What must applications include?

In addition to the required project narrative, budget worksheet, and standard application forms and agreements as noted on page 15 of the NOFO, FY 2020 RCPGP applications must include:

- **For States and Territories Only:** A written statement explaining the statewide or multi-state impact of the proposed investment and attesting to the advance coordination and support of at least one of the nation's 100 most populous MSAs located within the state or territory.

- **For Local Governments Only:** A written statement certifying that the applicant's chief executive (e.g., mayor, city manager or county executive) and, as applicable, the chief executive of the first principal city of the MSA, supports the application as the local government's single application being submitted for consideration by DHS/FEMA.

- **All Applicants:** Names of all entities partnering on the project, including but not limited to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, non-profit organizations, and other non-government entities, including those partnering as subrecipients. Partner entities can extend beyond the boundaries of the state/territory or MSA and can be located in other states/territories or MSAs for the purposes of regional collaboration.

- **All Applicants:** Letters of support from partner entities or a written statement certifying the involvement and support of all partner entities that will participate in the proposed project and, if applicable, information on the relationship between the applicant and partnering entities (e.g. existing letters of cooperation/support or administrative agreements, such as Memoranda of Understanding [MOUs]).

How must the applications be submitted?

Applying for an RCPGP award is a multi-step process:

- Eligible applicants must submit their initial application through the Grants.gov portal at grants.gov no later than one day before the final application deadline. Applicants needing Grants.gov support should contact the Grants.gov customer support hotline at (800) 519-4726.

- Eligible applicants will be notified by FEMA and asked to proceed with submitting their complete application package in the Non-Disaster (ND) Grants System. Applicants needing technical support with the ND Grants System, please contact ndgrants@fema.dhs.gov or (800) 865-4076, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 6. p.m. EDT.

Completed applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. EDT on July 15, 2020. Please refer to the FY 2020 RCPGP NOFO for more details.

What are the key dates associated with the FY 2020 RCPGP?

May 20, 2020: Release date for the FY 2020 RCPGP NOFO and opening of application period.

July 15, 2020, 5 p.m. EDT: Applications due to FEMA.

Sept 01, 2020: Anticipated award date.

What is the period of performance?

The period of performance is 36 months.

How will applications be evaluated?

Applications must conform to the guidance provided in the FY 2020 RCPGP NOFO. Applications that do not meet eligibility and submission requirements will not be evaluated. Accepted applications will be evaluated by a review panel comprised of FEMA subject matter experts using a scoring rubric. Below is a summary of the evaluation criteria. The full criteria can be found in Appendix D of the NOFO, which details the specific criteria aligned to each of the project narrative requirements and the maximum number of points an application can receive for each criterion.

The four base criteria earn up to 100 total possible points. The BONUS criterion brings the total to 115 possible points.

1) **Need:** The applicant demonstrates a need for grant funds, including identifying their current capability and a gap/need for a project to build beyond current capability within the core capability of interest. (Possible Points: 0 – 20 max)

2) **Project Design:** The applicant demonstrates an effective and sustainable project approach for building their current capability within the 36-month period of performance, including the specific project implementation, project management, and regional collaboration approaches. (Possible Points: 0 – 35 max)

3) **Impact:** The applicant demonstrates the proposed project's regional impact, including how the project will build the applicant's capability, performance measures the project is expected to achieve, and how the project can be scaled or replicated to benefit national preparedness. (Possible Points: 0 – 25 max)

4) **Budget:** The applicant demonstrates a reasonable and cost-effective budget (based on the budget detail worksheet and project narrative), including explanation of reasonable project costs across the requested categories, the project's relative cost effectiveness and sustainability, and the applicant's ability to manage federal grants. (Possible Points: 0 – 20 max)

5) **Bonus:** Bonus points will be applied for project proposals that:

   □ Address regional pandemic preparedness, including Housing or Logistics/Supply Chain Management projects that address pandemic preparedness considerations.

   □ Benefit multiple states or more than one of the top 100 most-populous MSAs; and

   □ Commit to a 10 percent or greater cost share in the proposal.

   See **Appendix D: Evaluation Criteria and Scoring** in the FY 2020 RCPGP NOFO for additional details on how bonus points will be applied.

What other resources are available to address programmatic, technical and financial questions?

FEMA Regional Offices manage, administer, and close out RCPGP awards. This includes conducting cash analysis, financial and programmatic monitoring, and audit resolution for the RCPGP program. The Regional Offices also provide technical assistance to RCPGP recipients. FEMA Regional Office contact information is available at fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts.

The DHS/FEMA Program Office provides support in addressing specific programmatic questions regarding the FY 2020 RCPGP Program. The Program Office can be reached by e-mail at FEMA-RCPGP@fema.dhs.gov.

For additional program-specific information, please contact the Centralized Scheduling and Information Desk (CSID) help line at (800) 368-6498, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. EDT, Monday through Friday, or by e-mail at AskCSID@fema.dhs.gov,.

For support regarding financial grants management and budgetary technical assistance, applicants may contact the DHS/FEMA Grant Operations Help Desk via e-mail at ASK-GMD@fema.dhs.gov.

All inquiries and communications regarding the DHS/FEMA Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) review process, including the submittal of EHP review materials, should be sent to gpdehpinfo@fema.dhs.gov. EHP Technical Assistance, including the EHP Screening Form, can be found online at https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/90195.