



Hazard Mitigation Assistance Division Year in Review

Calendar Year 2022



FEMA

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Who We Are and What We Do

1. Hazard Mitigation Assistance Vision, Mission, and Values

The Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Division is part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in the Resilience Mitigation Directorate. The HMA goals and objectives are influenced by two main principles: (1) Deliver our HMA programs with equity and (2) incorporate future conditions into all of our work by developing climate resilience through system-based, community-wide investments in climate adaptation. There are five areas of impact that we also seek to incorporate in everything that we do: (1) reduce risk, (2) promote equity, (3) build capacity, (4) foster connections, and (5) value our people. This framework inspires and guides the HMA Division in the work that we do each day to make communities safer.

The HMA Division has nearly 400 dedicated staff across the country. They work closely with federal partners and support state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments to reduce nationwide vulnerability to disasters and natural hazards.

Our vision is helping build a prepared and resilient nation.

Our mission is helping people reduce disaster risk through partnerships and mitigation investments to increase resilience.

Our values align with the FEMA core values of compassion, fairness, integrity, and respect. We also seek to promote equity, efficiency, and collaboration in achieving our mission.

2. The Hazard Mitigation Assistance Strategic Framework

Hazard mitigation is any action taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from natural disasters and hazards. Some measures include: building safely within a floodplain, removing homes from high-hazard areas, and engineering buildings and other infrastructure to withstand earthquakes. The common theme within hazard mitigation projects is that they can significantly reduce the impact of disasters and natural hazards on people's lives and communities. Additionally, hazard mitigation often serves to advance climate adaptation efforts, helping communities withstand the impacts of more severe and frequent climate-driven disasters.

The HMA Division oversees the delivery of the following grant programs that provide state, local, tribal, and territorial governments with mitigation funding:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire (HMGP Post Fire)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)
- Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund (Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF)

The HMA Division continues to enhance coordination with FEMA's Public Assistance (PA) Division to deliver funds to support hazard mitigation. PA supports communities' recovery from major disasters by providing mitigation funding opportunities to restore and strengthen public infrastructure.

FEMA started the new HMA Strategic Framework in 2022 to further guide our efforts to build a more resilient nation.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Strategic Framework FY22-23						
HMA Vision, Mission, Values	<p>HMA Vision: A prepared and resilient nation</p> <p>HMA Mission: Help people reduce disaster risk through partnerships and mitigation investments to increase resilience</p>			<p>HMA Values: HMA embodies the FEMA Core Values of Compassion, Fairness, Integrity, and Respect and additionally seeks to promote Empathy, Efficiency, Professionalism, Creativity, Collaboration and Fun in achieving our mission.</p>		
	HMA Impact Statements	 <p>A: WE REDUCE RISK: FEMA and our partners can anticipate and manage risks from cascading, frequent and changing conditions</p>	 <p>B: WE PROMOTE EQUITY: Partners have straightforward and equitable access to HMA programs</p>	 <p>C: WE BUILD CAPACITY: Communities reduce the risk of loss of life and property by using all available programs, tools and resources</p>	 <p>D: WE FOSTER CONNECTION: HMA brings people and communities together to help them consider risk and mitigation in all investment decisions</p>	 <p>E: WE VALUE OUR PEOPLE: HMA is an employer of choice in the field of Mitigation and attracts, nurtures and retains top talent to deliver our mission</p>
HMA Goals		<p>A1. Equip regions and partners to manage the mitigation investments required to reduce their future risk</p> <p>A2. Incentivize the use of future conditions and risk information to drive community planning and mitigation investment</p>	<p>B1. Reduce barriers to accessing HMA programs in a timely manner</p> <p>B2. Provide focused assistance to underserved communities</p> <p>B3. Develop a single point of entry for simplified mitigation assistance</p>	<p>C1. Demonstrate how mitigation funding can be used across programs to address mitigation investment priorities</p> <p>C2. Strengthen mitigation in every phase of the disaster life cycle</p> <p>C3. Influence mitigation investment decisions through use of requirements and incentives</p>	<p>D1. Use innovation, research and data to drive improved mitigation practices and investments</p> <p>D2. Facilitate the development of solutions to address mitigation investment needs and priorities</p> <p>D3. Promote and develop partnerships across all sectors to maximize mitigation funding</p>	<p>E1. Recruit top talent through equitable, diverse and inclusive hiring practices</p> <p>E2. Put people first in delivering our mission</p> <p>E3. Foster a culture of learning, innovation and collaboration</p>

Figure 1. This table details the HMA Strategic Framework for FY 2022-2023. It presents the HMA vision, mission, and values. It also shows the HMA impact statements and goals that guide the program’s efforts to create a more resilient nation.

3. 2022 HMA Program Highlights

The 2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan outlines a bold vision to address key challenges the agency faces during a pivotal moment in the field of emergency management. The plan positions FEMA to address the increasing range and complexity of disasters, support the diversity of communities we serve, and complement the nation's growing expectations of the emergency management community. In just the first year of the plan, FEMA has made critical changes and significant progress to meet the goals we've set for ourselves and put the country on the road to resilience.

Climate change represents a profound crisis to our nation that results in more frequent, more intense, and more destructive natural disasters. FEMA must lead the nation in empowering individuals and communities with access to data that incorporates future conditions across multiple hazards and accessible information on effective climate adaptation strategies. This year, HMA explored how to increase the number of underserved communities reached, catalyzed mitigation investment across the public and private sector, and built sustainable and longer-term capability. By exploring how to align HMA grants more closely with the unique needs of each community, HMA shifted from a program-centric to a more community-centric program delivery.

For a second year, FEMA has made a historic amount of funding available for the fiscal year (FY) 2022 BRIC and FMA grant programs. The FY 2022 BRIC and FMA funding opportunities also infuse more than \$800 million through the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#), more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL).

Thanks to 2.3 times more funding available in FY 2021 than in FY 2020, FEMA had a far greater reach and impact with its BRIC and FMA grants. And we were able to obligate \$13 million for FY 2021 BRIC funding for capability and capacity building (C&CB) activities from our Round 1 selections announced in May 2022. We are making access to our BRIC and FMA programs more equitable for highly disadvantaged communities by addressing one of the common barriers—successful completion of a project benefit-cost analysis (BCA).

For HMGP, FEMA made \$3.46 billion available for the COVID-19 disaster declarations in all 59 states and territories and three federally recognized tribes that received major disaster declarations.

For the congressionally directed funding through the PDM grant program for FY 2022 announced in May 2022, FEMA successfully awarded 70 subapplications for a total federal share of \$134.67 million. We awarded these grants to 26 states and two tribes. This was a significant undertaking for our regional and national HMA teams.

Finally, since we launched the FMA Swift Current initiative in March, we have been able to allocate \$60 million to Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania—all states affected by Hurricane Ida—to equitably expedite mitigation flood grants to disaster survivors with repetitively flooded

homes. These funds will help them reduce or eliminate repetitive flood damage to buildings insured through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

In Fiscal Year 2022 more than **\$1.78B** in Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants were delivered to states, tribes, and territories, resulting in mitigation actions that will reduce risk and help build climate resilience.

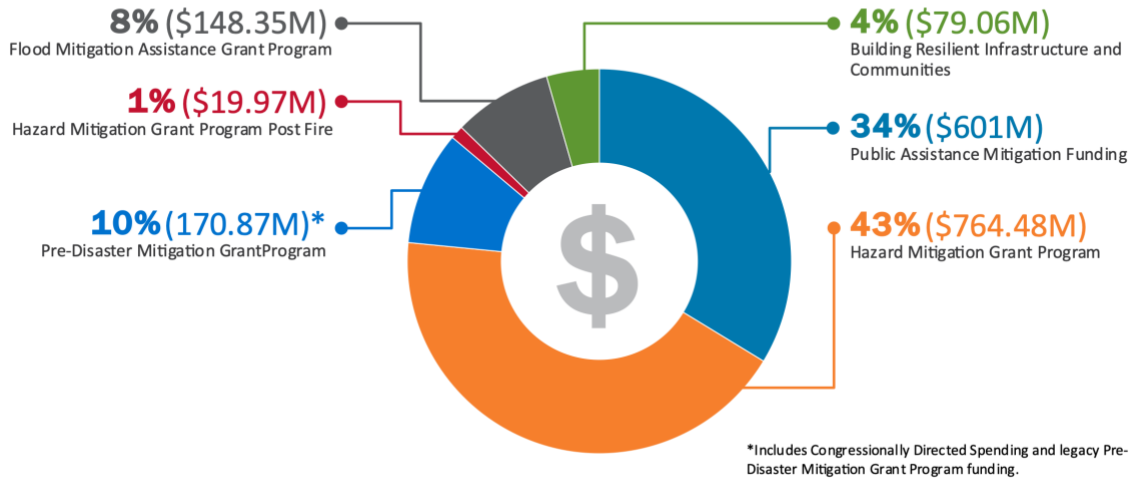


Figure 2. This chart details the amount of funding that the HMA Division and PA Mitigation awarded in FY 2022, broken down by program.

Reduce Risk

HMA Impact Statement: FEMA and our partners can expect and manage risks from cascading, frequent, and changing conditions.

4. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

The [BRIC](#) program supports states, local communities, Tribal Nations, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, enabling them to reduce the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards.

In 2022, FEMA received record levels of applications for the BRIC program, requesting a total of \$4.16 billion. On Aug. 1, 2022, FEMA announced the final selection of subapplications for further review, and plans to allocate \$1 billion for the FY 2021 application cycle for the BRIC and FMA grant programs. The administration announced the selections at an event in Miami, Florida attended by several team members from Region 4 and headquarters. The increase in funding from the previous year has allowed us to select more projects across a more diverse geographic scope.

BRIC Grant Program Lifetime Highlights	
Number of Subapplications	1,779
Number of Structures to be Mitigated	2690
Total Subapplication Costs	\$11.94B
Federal Cost Share Requested	\$7.76B
Non-Federal Cost Share	\$4.175 B

Figure 3. This table shows topline BRIC data since its inception. It includes the number of subapplications received for program funding. It also shows the number of structures to be mitigated through the total subapplication costs submitted. Finally, it shows the funding breakdown of federal versus non-federal cost share for requested funding.

For FY 2021, FEMA selected a total of 369 subapplications, with 316 announced in May and 53 national competition projects announced on Aug. 1. These projects represent activities in all 10 FEMA regions. They include 53 states and territories, the District of Columbia, and 271 communities, including 33 tribes. In addition, FEMA received 101 applications for BRIC Direct Technical Assistance (DTA), which was nearly a tenfold increase in applications from the prior year. Learn more about BRIC DTA success on page 27 of this report.

For the first time in HMA history, FEMA divided the BRIC subapplication selections into two rounds. We took this approach so the regions could make awards earlier for BRIC allocations and tribal set-

asides. This process improvement strives to help get funding out the door more quickly and begin the mitigation recovery journey.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 BRIC — Building Resilient Infrastructure Communities

\$1Billion available — Submissions as of 1/28/2022 at 3:00PM Eastern

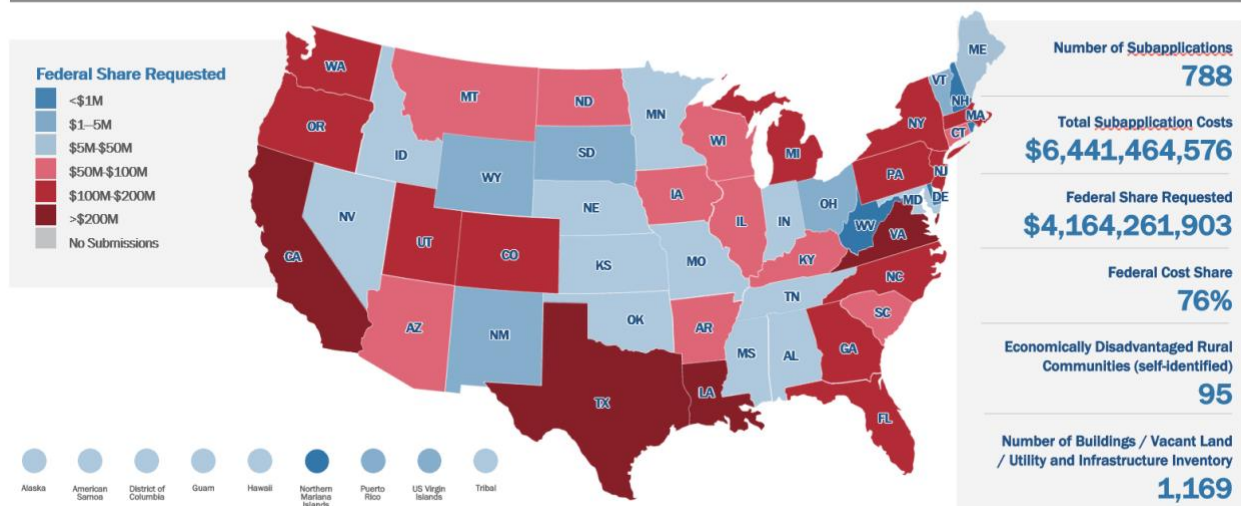


Figure 4. This graph details the total dollar amount available for the BRIC FY 2021 application period for each state and territory.

In 2022, FEMA made available more than \$2.295 billion in funding for the FY 2022 BRIC grant program, more than doubling from \$1 billion in FY21. For the second year in a row, FEMA announced the amount of funding available for the FY 2022 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in August 2022.

Hazard Mitigation Project Spotlight: Madison, Wisconsin Secures Flood Protection for the Next Century

The Old Sauk Trails Business Park, a targeted project area, has experienced several flood events including, most recently, in August 2018, when an extreme rain event caused about \$30 million in damage.

To mitigate flood risk in the park, FEMA awarded \$6 million in BRIC funding to Madison for the Pheasant Branch Tributary Greenway Enhancement Project. This infrastructure project manages flood risks through improvements to capacity and flood storage of greenway channels. It expands three small stormwater ponds into a larger wet greenway storage area. It also includes improvements to concrete culverts and storm sewers. Project leads will integrate nature-based solutions throughout the area, including eliminating invasive species and increasing native plants.



Pheasant Branch Tributary Greenway Enhancement Project, Madison, Wisconsin

Image courtesy of FEMA Region 5

By completing these plans, the Old Sauk Trails Business Park and surrounding community will be protected from flooding for up to a 100-year storm event. Learn more about the Pheasant Branch Tributary Greenway [here](#).

5. Flood Mitigation Assistance

The [FMA](#) grant program provides funds to SLTT governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of flood damage to buildings insured under the NFIP.

In 2022, FEMA’s FMA program awarded nearly \$160 million of FY 2021 funding for mitigation activities. These included project scoping, community flood mitigation, and individual flood mitigation projects. FMA program obligations total over \$550 million since 2020. Demand for funds continues to exceed the amounts available, and additional trends of oversubscription are expected.

FMA Grant Program Lifetime Highlights	
Number of Projects	3,068
Number of Properties	9,489
Number of Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) and Repetitive Loss (RL) Properties	8,885
Federal Share Requested	\$1,707,618,191
Average Federal Cost Share Percentage	84%

Figure 5. This table shows topline FMA data since the inception. It includes the number of projects and properties that have received FMA funding. It also shows the number of Severe Repetitive Loss and Repetitive Loss, and it includes the federal share of funding requested and the average cost share percentage per project.

In 2022, FEMA received record levels of applications for the FMA program, requesting \$534 million in funding. On Aug. 1, 2022, FEMA announced the final selection of subapplications for further review, intending to allocate \$160 million for the FY 2021 application cycle for the FMA grant program. The increase in program funding from the previous year has allowed us to select more projects across a more diverse geographic scope. For FMA, FEMA selected a total of 83 subapplications. FEMA announced 22 selections in May and another 61 selections on Aug. 1. The FY 2021 FMA selections span 72 different communities across 19 states.

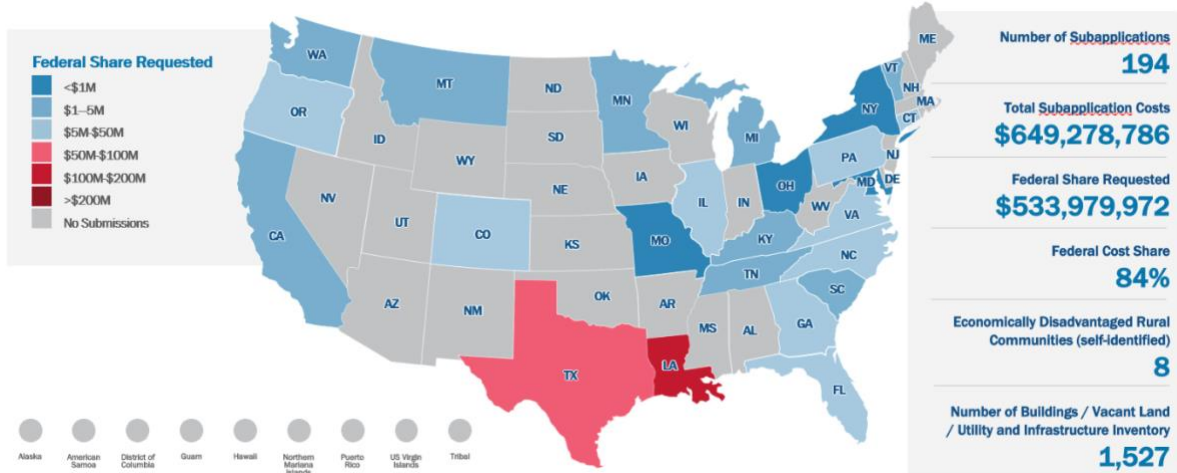


Figure 6. This graph shows FY 2021 FMA selection data and federal share.

Projects by Notice of Funding Opportunities Priority

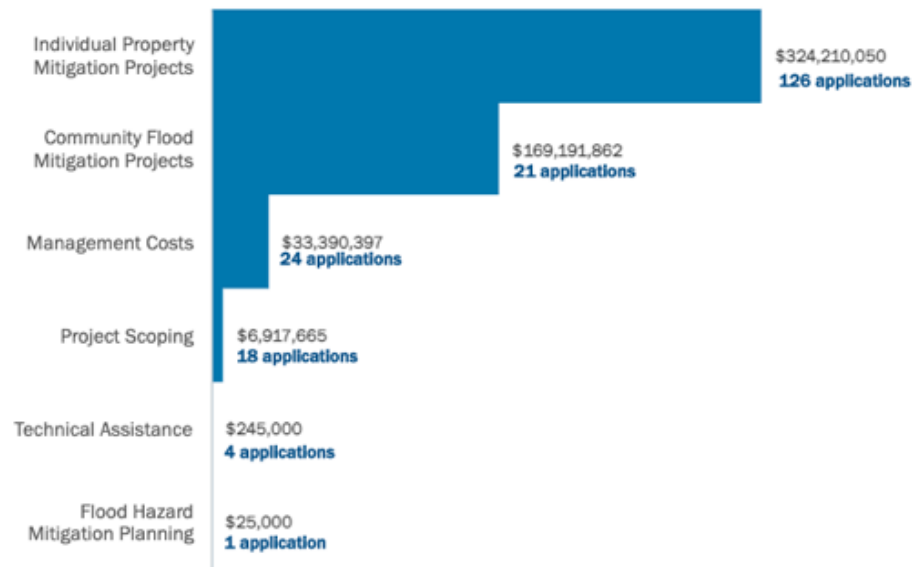


Figure 7. This graph shows the federal share requested by projects by Notice of Funding Opportunities priority of the FY 2021 FMA subapplications

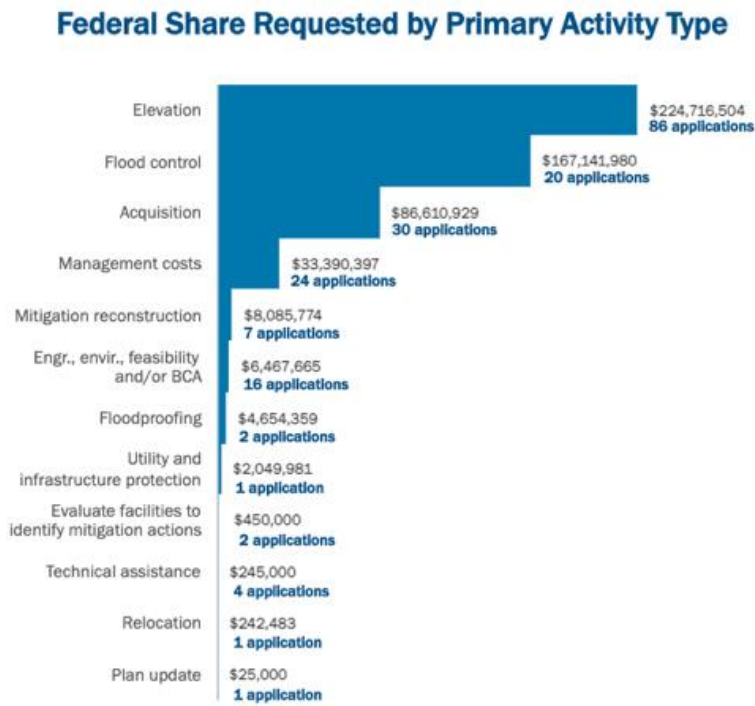


Figure 8. This graph shows the federal share requested by primary activity type of the FY 2021 FMA subapplications

In FY 2022, FMA funding increased from \$160 million to \$800 million with funds made available by the [IIJA](#), more commonly known as the BIL. This is a fivefold increase from FY 2021. The BIL is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, which will grow a more sustainable, resilient and equitable economy by enhancing U.S. competitiveness and ensuring stronger access to economic and environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities. The law provides \$3.5 billion in FMA grants over five years—\$700 million per year for FYs 2022–2026.

FEMA will distribute \$800 million to C&CB activities, Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects, and Individual Flood Mitigation Projects.



Figure 9. FY 2022 FMA Funding Amounts and Priorities

Hazard Mitigation Project Spotlight: Clark's Creek, Washington—"House of Tomorrow" Flood Risk Transformed to Open Space

This Washington home, built in 1938, is a streamlined modern structure and was referred to as the "House of Tomorrow." The structure has incurred significant flood damages due to its location in the floodway of Clark's Creek, with increasing frequency.



The "House of Tomorrow"

Clarks Creek, Washington

Image courtesy of FEMA Region 10

The structure is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, and the government determined that demolition would result in an adverse effect to the historic property. In FY 2016, FMA provided \$60,211 in funding to the Clark's Creek project. After years of collaboration with the state, local government, homeowner, and FEMA Region 10, the home is being documented to include in the Historic American Buildings Survey. The memorandum of understanding is being executed so that the home can be purchased, relocated, and the land returned to open space.

Generally, federal cost-share funding is available for up to 75% of eligible activity costs. FEMA may contribute up to 100% federal cost share for buildings that are insured under the NFIP at the time of application and meet the definition of Severe Repetitive Loss. FEMA also contributes up to 90% federal cost share for buildings that meet the definition of Repetitive Loss. For BIL funding provided as FMA assistance, FEMA may now contribute up to 90% federal cost share (for eligible costs) for activities or projects that affect properties with NFIP insurance that are located within a census tract with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) score of not less than 0.5001. BIL also allows for property that serves as a primary residence for individuals with a household income of not more than 100% of the applicable area median income.

6. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

The [HMGP](#) assists communities in rebuilding to become more resilient overall after a presidentially declared disaster. It funds a wide variety of mitigation projects that reduce future disaster losses in their communities.

In FY 2022, HMGP continued its efforts to streamline program accessibility, reduce complexity, ensure more equitable outcomes and deliver the greatest levels of risk reduction. The program had been supporting SLTT governments throughout the year in multiple ways to increase their resilience. The 2022 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act increased the federal cost share for HMGP to 90% for all emergency and major disaster declarations between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2021. Increasing the federal cost share reduces the financial burden on disadvantaged communities and makes mitigation funding more accessible.

HMGP Lifetime Highlights	
Number of Projects	23,751
Number of Properties	154,602
Number of Final Properties	130,058
Federal Share Obligated	\$14,097,034,433
Average Federal Cost Share Percentage	74%

Figure 10. This table shows highlights for HMGP since the program inception in 1989. It includes the number of projects, number of properties, and federal funding.

In support of the COVID-19 disaster operations, FEMA made technical assistance available to support all 59 states, the District of Columbia (D.C.), tribes, and territories that received disaster declarations. The technical assistance will ensure these entities have the technical resources needed to expeditiously review project applications and award federal grant funds so that projects can be started as quickly as possible.

In 2022, HMGP awarded 67 new grants and obligated over \$767 million in grant funding. Simultaneously, HMGP worked with recipients to close out 67 awards and maintained less than 2% backlog for HMGP closeout throughout FY 2022.

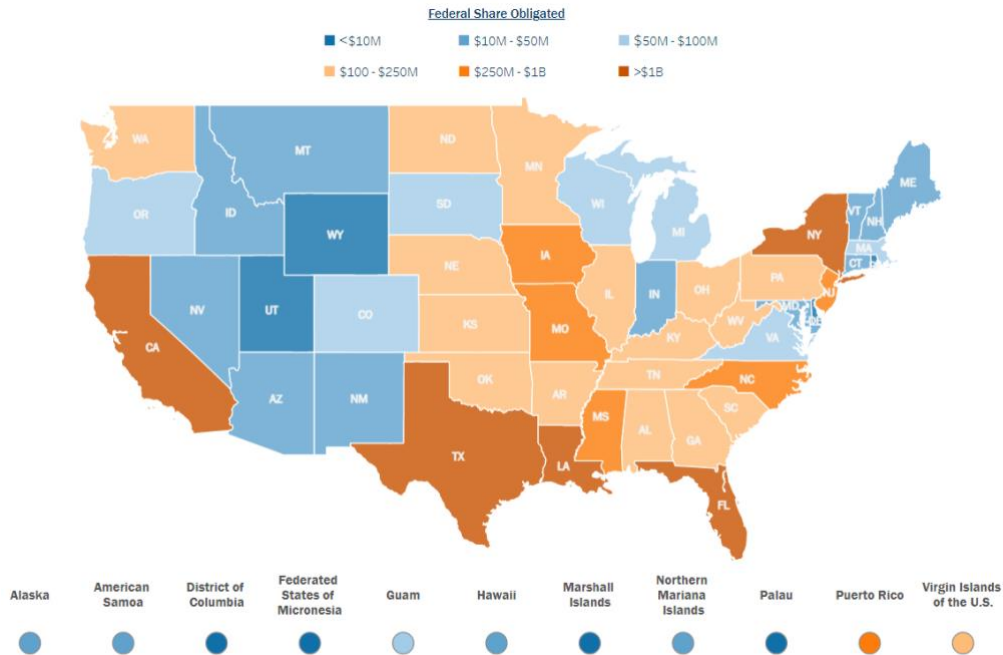


Figure 11. This map shows HMGP federal funding obligated since the program inception in 1989.

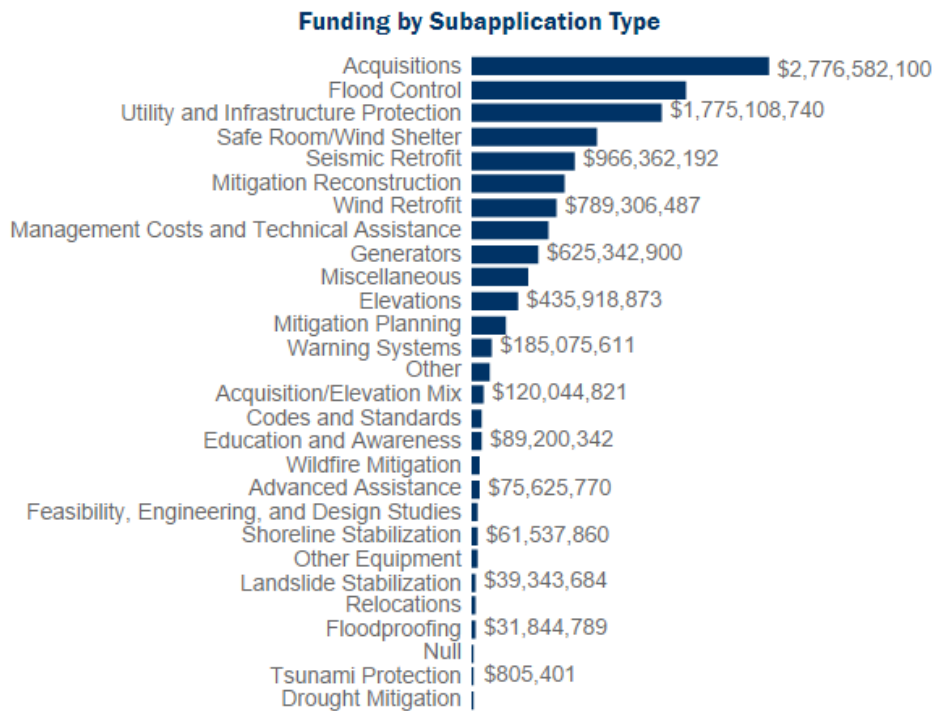


Figure 12. This table shows HMGP funding by mitigation project type.

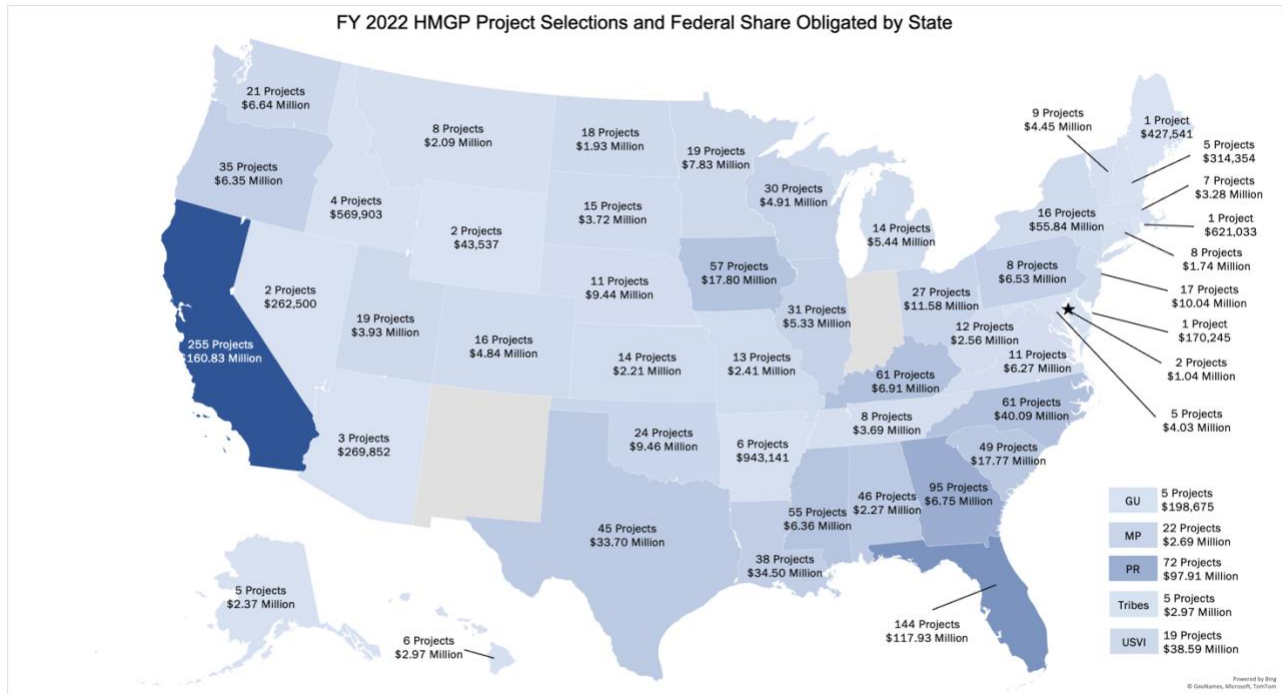


Figure 13. This map shows HMGP project selections and federal share obligated by state in FY 2022.

Hazard Mitigation Project Spotlight: Duluth, Minnesota—A Driving Force Toward Resilience and Climate

On the shoreline of Lake Superior, the City of Duluth faces fierce seasonal storms; snowy, icy winters; and powerful wave action. The City has identified a need to preserve and strengthen its abilities to withstand the many natural hazards it faces now and in the future. Duluth has received three presidential disaster declarations for severe storms and wind since 2018. Four of its 10 declarations for flooding and storms since 1953 have occurred in the last 10 years.

The City of Duluth received \$7.89 million in HMGP funding for electric power resilience improvements to its Lakewood Pump Station and Water Treatment Plant. This facility is situated on the shores of Lake Superior, and is the sole source of clean water for 105,000 residents, 2,500 commercial customers, and 21 industrial customers in the area.



*Lakewood Pump Station,
Duluth, Minnesota*

Image courtesy of FEMA Region 5

The improvements will include two new emergency backup generators, two transformers, and a powerhouse that will provide backup power to the water treatment plant in case of loss of utility power and ensure customers will not go without water.

7. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Post Fire

[HMGP Post Fire](#) provides funds for fire-affected areas that have received assistance under [Fire Mitigation Assistance Grant \(FMAG\)](#) declarations. Before HMGP Post Fire, the program provided funding for wildfire mitigation for FMAG declarations under the FMAG-HMGP pilot program (FYs 2015-2018).

In FY 2022, the HMGP Post Fire program delivered 38 awards to 15 states across six regions totaling \$33.3 million. Also in FY 2022, HMA successfully completed 16 HMGP fire grant programs. This funding is available for mitigation activities that can substantially reduce the risk of future damage,

hardship, loss, or suffering from wildfire and its secondary effects, such as erosion, slope failure, debris flow, and flooding.

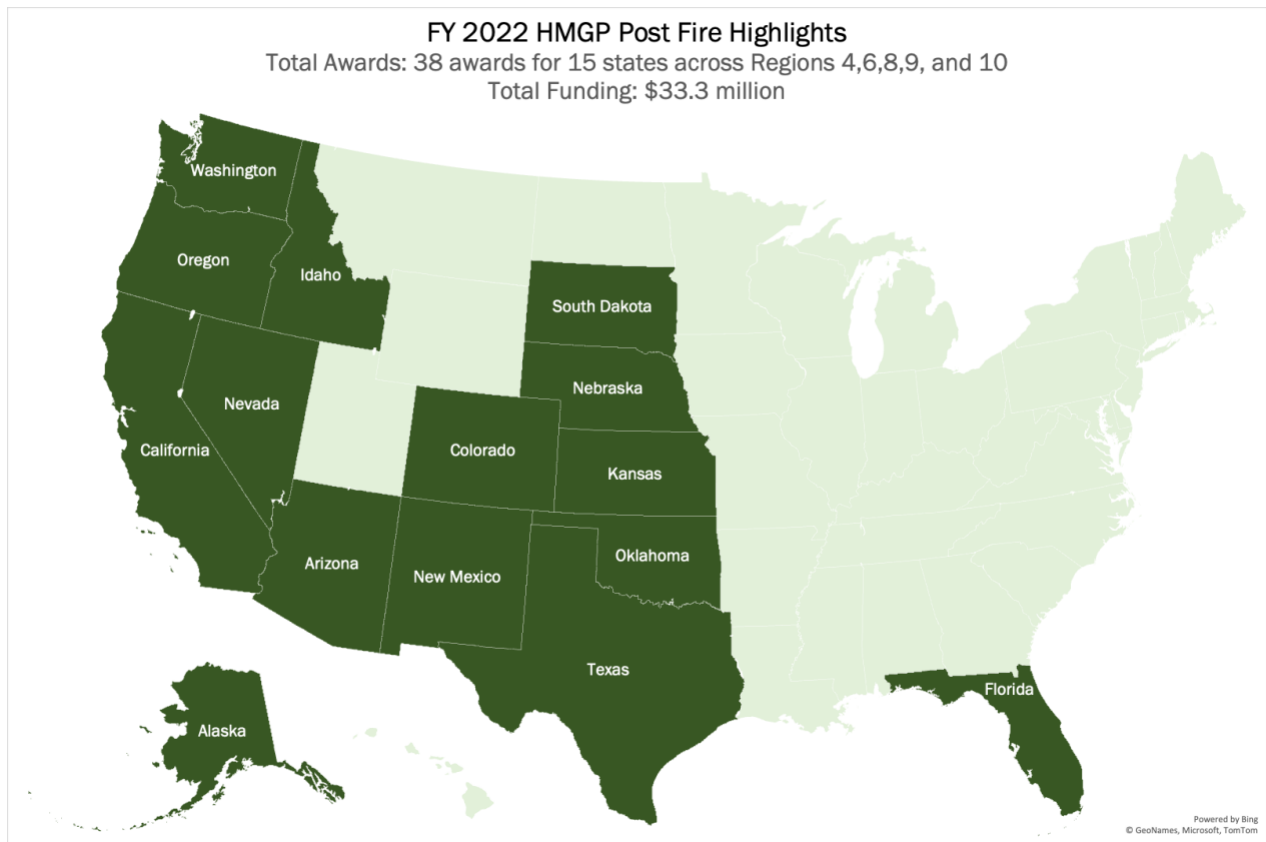


Figure 14. This map shows FY 2022 highlights for HMGP Post Fire, including the number of awards, the amount of funding available, and states that received funding.

The HMGP Post Fire program began in FY 2019 after the passage of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act (DRRA) of 2018. There were a total of 178 FMAG events declared for FYs 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, totaling more than \$119 million in available HMGP Post Fire funding. There were 38 FMAG declarations and associated HMGP Post Fire awards in FY 2022, compared to 15 in FY 2019, 85 in FY 2020, and 40 in FY 2021. There has also been a steady increase in the base funding amounts, which are calculated based on the previous 10-year average of FMAG obligations. The table below compares FY 2022 highlights to the previous three years of the HMGP Post Fire program.

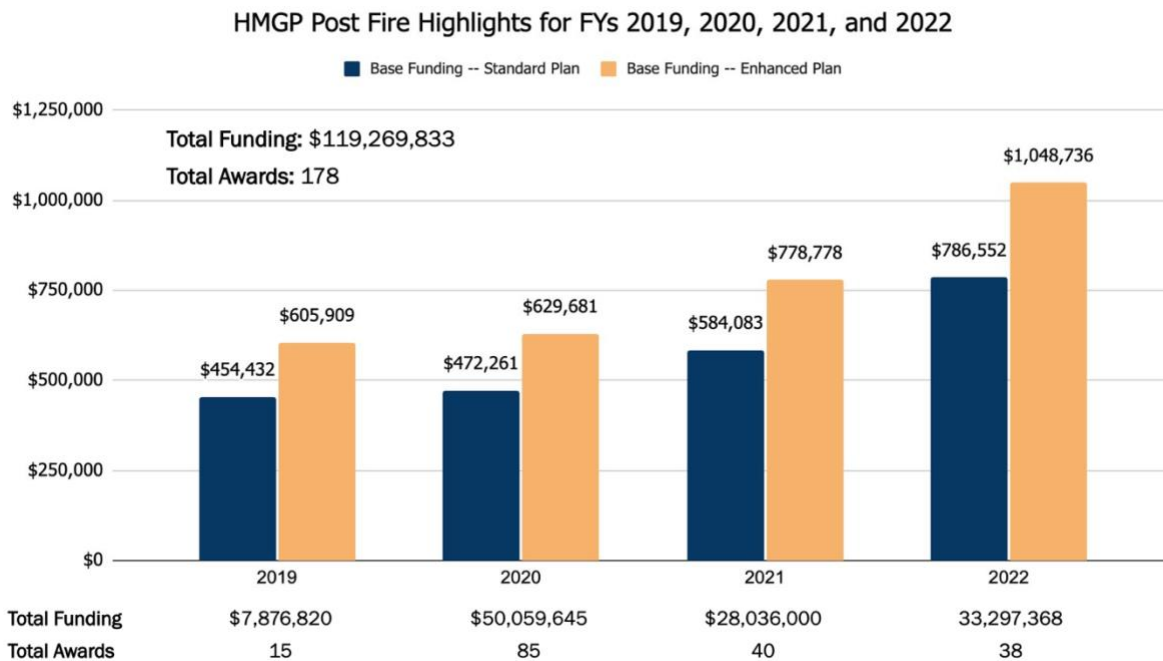


Figure 15. This chart compares FY 2022 highlights for HMGP Post Fire with previous years. Note also that the base funding amounts increased again for FY 2023 to \$918,774 for Standard Plan Status and \$1,225,032 for Enhanced Plan Status.

The program remains focused on giving timely funding information to FEMA regions and their SLTT stakeholders and streamlining the application process through the continued development of application support materials based on specific mitigation project types. This also includes updates to the program’s standard operating procedures (SOP) to document procedural steps for effectively managing and administering HMGP Post Fire throughout the entire grant life cycle. HMGP Post Fire is also developing a strategy for FY 2023 program improvements, which includes the [application support materials](#) and SOP updates, as well as improved stakeholder engagement, outreach and messaging, and education and training opportunities.

Since the beginning of HMGP Post Fire in FY 2019¹, there have been 179 FMAG events with a total of \$120 million in available funding for eligible mitigation activities². HMA has made more than \$197 million available for wildfire mitigation through the various FMAG pilots and Post Fire programs since FY 2015.

¹ As authorized by Section 1204 of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018.

² Including one FMAG event declared so far in FY 2023 (FM-5456-WA).

Based on cumulative data year to year, 42 new projects were approved for HMGP Post Fire pilots and programs in FY 2022, totaling \$10.8 million in federal obligations.

HMGP Fire Grant Programs Highlights	Cumulative Data as of 11/10/2022	Data from 2021 Year-in-Review	Data from FY 21 to FY 22
Number of Projects	319	277	42
Number of Properties	484	454	30
Number of Final Properties	251	163	88
Federal Share Obligated	\$66,032,513	\$55,273,094	\$10,759,419
Average Cost Share Percentage	78%	79%	1%

Figure 16. This table shows topline data for HMGP fire grant programs (including HMGP Post Fire and the two previous FMAG pilots) as of Nov. 10, 2022, compared to the topline data from the FY 2021 HMA Year-in-Review.

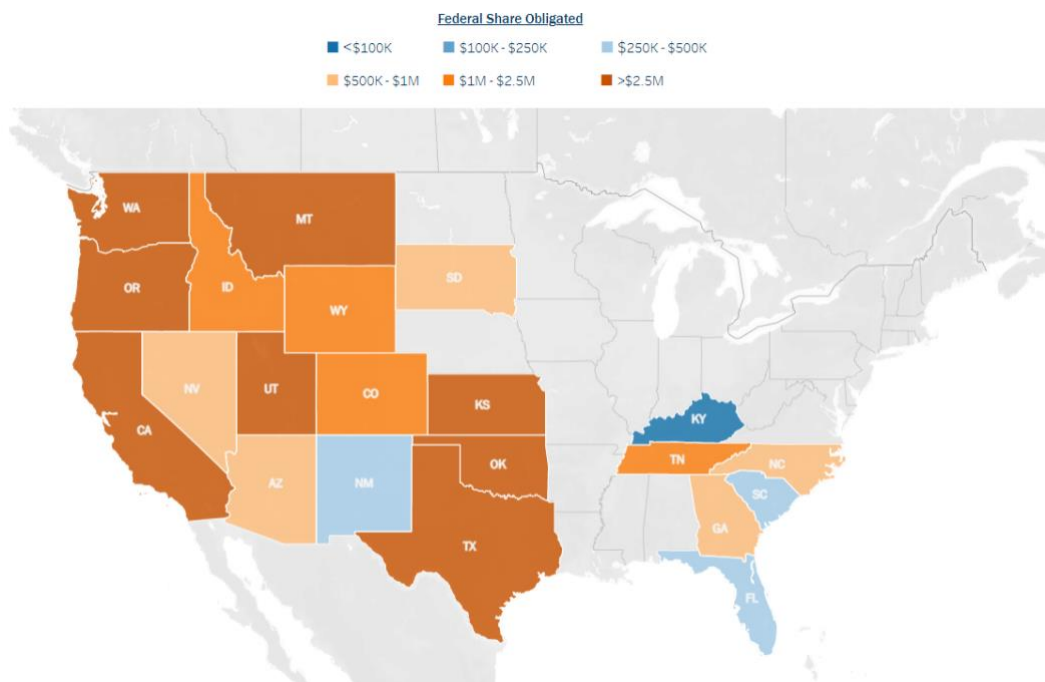


Figure 17. This map details the federal share of funding for HMGP fire grant programs that has been obligated to date (as of Nov. 10, 2022), broken down by state/territory.

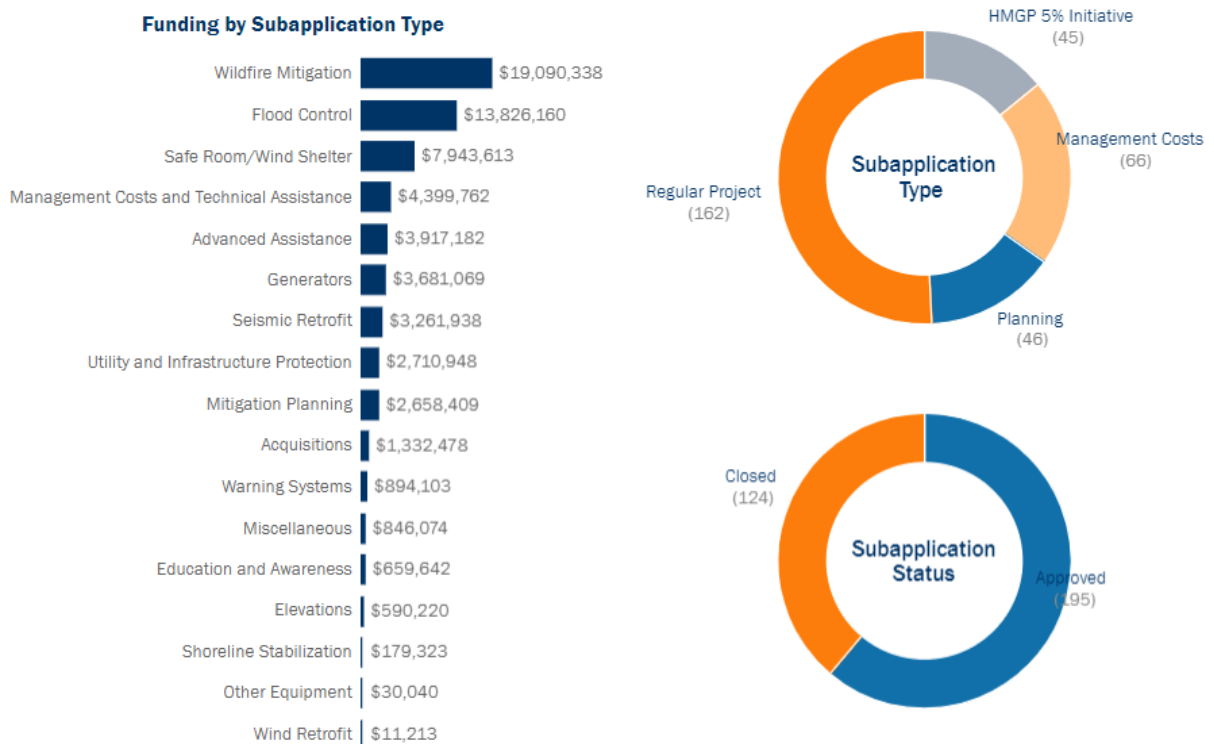


Figure 18. This graphic details the amount of funding for HMGP fire grant programs to date (as of Nov. 10, 2022), broken down by subapplication type. The two accompanying charts show the distribution of funds within each subapplication type and the status of each subapplication.

HMGP Post Fire remains focused on reducing complexity for applicants with the creation of fact sheets and jobs aids (e.g., [DRRA 1204 fact sheet](#), [DRRA 1205 job aid](#)); [Application Support Materials](#); and streamlining mitigation measures (e.g., activities included in [DRRA 1205](#) and [pre-calculated benefits](#)). As mentioned, HMGP Post Fire is also developing a strategy for FY 2023 program improvements, which will include updates to the program SOP, the development of additional wildfire application support materials, education and training opportunities, and improved stakeholder engagement.

Hazard Mitigation Project Spotlight: Bountiful, Utah— Wildfire Fuels Reduction

Wildfire is a significant and ongoing concern for City of Bountiful in Davis County, located 15 miles north of Salt Lake City, Utah. The overall hazard significance of wildfire in the Davis County Hazard Mitigation Plan is classified as high, with widespread potential impact. After a devastating wildfire in 2019, City of Bountiful received \$430,893 in HMGP Fuels Reduction Grant funding. With the funding, the City hosted a day of service to remove potential wildfire fuels from areas behind dozens of homes. Volunteers removed and hauled debris to the Bountiful City Landfill in their own trucks and trailers. City crews also used equipment to move debris and transform green waste into mulch, which was used at city parks throughout the community. Before the service day, Bountiful fire authorities conducted seminars and taught volunteers how to safely hand cut deadfall and vegetation from identified risk areas.



***Bountiful City Day of Service,
Bountiful, Utah***

Image courtesy of FEMA Region 8

This HMGP project will benefit the entire community of Bountiful by mitigating the danger of wildfire and reducing loss and firefighting expenses. More directly, the project will decrease the potential for loss of life and residences in case of wildfire in this project area.

8. Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund

On Dec. 20, 2022, the FEMA Administrator and Senator Gary Peters, Chairman, Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee, announced the first funding opportunity for the new Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund (Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF) grant program. On Jan. 27, 2023, FEMA released an amendment to the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund program funding opportunity to incorporate recent legislative changes made to the Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF grant program.³

The Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program complements and supplements FEMA’s HMA grant portfolio to support mitigation projects at the local government level and increase the nation’s resilience to natural hazards and climate change. The program provides capitalization grants that enable eligible entities to administer RLFs and provide direct loans to local governments for projects and activities that mitigate the impacts of drought, intense heat, severe storms (including hurricanes, tornadoes, windstorms, cyclones, and severe winter storms), wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and other natural hazards. RLFs are intended to reach local governments most in need of financing assistance, including low-income geographic areas and underserved communities.

FEMA’s goal is to increase entity participation with higher funding levels in future grant cycles. FEMA intends to award \$472 million of the funds available under the new program to address climate change and create a more equitable and resilient nation. For the first year, FEMA is making at least \$50 million available to eligible entities to establish revolving loan funds. FEMA will work closely with participating entities and gather best practices on topics such as entity administrative burden and capacity, achieving resilience and equity goals, and common project and activity types for loans under this program. The application period will be open from Feb. 1 – Apr. 28, 2023.

9. Pre-Disaster Mitigation

In March of FY 2022, Congress appropriated project-specific funding through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations Act of 2022, which FEMA administered through the [PDM](#) grant program. This law authorized \$153,922,408 in funding to 68 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) projects by the end of FY 2022. These projects were identified in the law’s Joint Explanatory Statement, in the table entitled “Community Project Funding and Congressionally Directed Spending.”

An initial 68 projects were identified for the CDS funding, totaling \$153,922,408. Among these, one project was split into two distinct projects (bringing the total up to 69 projects). Five projects then withdrew, which left 64 projects. Finally, six states submitted applications for management costs, which brought the total up to 70 projects. At the close of FY 2022, PDM awarded these 70 projects a

³ [Section 205 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act \(codified as amended 42 U.S.C. §- 5135\).](#)

final federal share of \$134,665,327. The grant recipients included 26 states and two tribes. To make this giant feat possible, the PDM team collaborated with FEMA's HMA Division, regional offices, local communities, the National Technical Review team, and associated contractors.

Looking ahead, PDM is prepared to award more CDS projects in FY 2023. On Mar. 1, 2023, FEMA published a NOFO for the FY 2023 PDM program, for which the DHS Appropriations Act is making \$233,043,782 available to 100 CDS projects that support growing mitigation needs nationwide. Communities and tribal nations with projects identified in the funding opportunity had to apply for funding by Apr. 14, 2023 (5 p.m. Eastern Time). While all awards must be made before Sept. 30, 2023, the funds will not be disbursed until all the HMA program requirements have been met.

The PDM grant program continues monitoring projects selected with FY 2019 and prior funding. The team is compiling reports and coordinating with regions to ensure that completed grants are recorded as such in our grants management system, eGrants.

10. Public Assistance Mitigation

FEMA's [PA Mitigation program](#) provides funding to SLTTs for repair and restoration of public facilities, and for additional mitigation measures to help communities build back better. While PA Mitigation (sometimes called 406 mitigation) is not an HMA grant program, it is one of FEMA's best tools to increase long-term resilience during recovery. The HMA Division continued to support the investment of over \$600 million in PA Mitigation funds for more than 2,600 mitigation projects in 2022.

HMA's Community Infrastructure Resilience (CIR) Branch collaborates with FEMA's Public Assistance Program to remove barriers to increasing resilience. They maximize the use of PA Mitigation funding through policy and guidance, training and technical support, and communication and outreach. In 2022 the CIR Branch supported the release of the Public Assistance Mitigation Memo, which expands the use of PA Mitigation funding on replacement projects, including improved projects involving relocations.

The CIR Branch leveraged technical support for PA Mitigation by helping update and publish the [Hurricane and Flood Mitigation Handbook for Public Facilities](#). This document contains 30 fact sheets that give technical guidance and recommendations to improve public infrastructure vulnerable to damages from flood and wind.

The CIR Branch promoted PA Mitigation through communication and outreach. Activities included presenting on PA Mitigation to regional, state, and territorial PA staff at the PA Workshop held at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI). The team held breakout sessions to collect feedback on how to improve communication and delivery of PA Mitigation funding during recovery.

11. Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Final Policy

In alignment with [Executive Order \(EO\) 14030, Climate-Related Financial Risk](#), which seeks to strengthen the state of resilience nationwide, FEMA issued an updated policy to partially implement the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) for HMA programs. The Partial Implementation of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard for Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs ([FEMA Policy FP-206-21-003-0001](#)) went into effect on Dec. 7, 2022, and superseded the interim policy ([FEMA Policy FP-206-21-003](#)) issued in 2021. It implements higher vertical elevation standards required by the FFRMS only within the currently identified floodplain using best available information.

The policy sets vertical elevation standards to the elevation and floodproofing requirements for critical actions in an effort to extend the useful life of certain structures (e.g., hospitals, nursing homes, emergency operation centers) and for non-critical actions to structures—such as residential, commercial and industrial buildings—in flood prone areas.

This policy and the interim Public Assistance policy ([FEMA Policy 104-22-0003](#)) help ensure communities affected by future flood disasters are less vulnerable to the loss of life and property and reduces the impacts of a changing environment.

Promote Equity

HMA Impact Statement: Partners have straightforward and equitable access to HMA programs.

12. HMA Grant Programs Promote Equity

One of the key elements of the HMA Strategic Framework, which sets a future direction for our programs, is promoting equity to ensure that our stakeholders have fair and equal access to our programs. Our goals in this space include reducing barriers to accessing HMA programs in a timely manner, providing focused assistance to underserved communities, and simplifying the mitigation assistance process.

This work to evolve and improve our grant programs is emphasized in the “people first” focus of the 2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan. The plan highlights our commitment to put equity at the forefront of everything we do.

More areas across the country are being selected for federal grant funding this year, and the distribution is more equitable than that of the prior funding cycle. FEMA is proud to say that, for the FY 2021 grant cycle, eligible states that submitted a complete application and did not get selected for BRIC funding were selected for FMA. Likewise, states that did not get selected for FMA funding were selected for BRIC.

In 2021, President Biden issued EO 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government. In 2022, HMA completed an equity assessment of our programs that help advance our efforts to direct program benefits to underserved communities. Some barriers that may prevent underserved communities from applying for hazard mitigation grants include the 25% non-federal cost-share requirement and lack of capability when it comes to mitigation planning and project development and management. The findings from the assessment informed the development of an action plan to meet the equity outcomes addressed in EO 13985.

The HMA Division is working to address these barriers and increase capability and capacity of applicants and subapplicants by gathering stakeholder feedback and coordinating with other federal agencies and FEMA programs to identify mitigation activities with more far-reaching impacts. We are also creating more accessible and unique outreach methods to reach underserved communities and using partnerships to increase access to mitigation planning and grant opportunities.

While FEMA continues to develop plans for the grant program pilots, the agency is already making efforts toward the 40% Justice40 Initiative goal from FY 2021. For FY 2022, the BRIC program prioritized assistance that benefits disadvantaged communities through BRIC non-financial DTA to build capability and capacity.

Hazard Mitigation Project Spotlight: Pueblo of Laguna Develops Uniform Residential Building Codes

The Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Nation is located west of the state capital, Albuquerque, New Mexico, along historic Route 66. FEMA awarded \$225,000 in funding to the Tribal Nation for Development for Uniform Residential Building Codes in September 2022. This is the first building code development project that FEMA has funded directly to a tribe in Region 6, an important step in working toward a resilient future.



Pueblo of Laguna, New Mexico
Image courtesy of FEMA Region 6

The strategy is to incorporate building standards for traditional homes into written policies. This includes developing and adopting guidelines, such as a revised building code that states that traditional homes use traditional materials. The building codes will ensure the engineering of safe, sustainable, affordable, and resilient structures.

13. Justice40 Initiative

In 2022, FEMA applied equity considerations for the first time to the BRIC and FMA program, using an interim data equity standard to measure progress toward the Justice40 Initiative. The BRIC and FMA programs embrace the goals [of EO 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#) and [EO 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#) as well as [FEMA's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#) and [HMA's FY 2022-2023 Strategic Framework](#) in creating more equitable outcomes in overburdened and underserved communities. Goal 1 of the FEMA Strategic Framework, "Instill Equity as a Foundation of Emergency Management," focuses on ensuring the benefits of FEMA programs are available to underserved communities and tailoring solutions designed to meet their unique needs. All federal agencies are required to evaluate their policies and programs to ensure equitable processes and to provide support to underserved communities. As a result of selections made for the FY 2021 BRIC and FMA

programs, FEMA is delivering over \$508 million in climate resilience funding toward Justice40 communities. This accounts for 44% of the \$1.16 billion made available during this funding cycle.

14. Changes in Benefit-Cost Analysis

The Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) program managed and released several improvements to the program and procedures this year. For the FY 2022 BRIC and FMA programs, for the first time, projects can be analyzed at the 3% discount rate when certain conditions are met. The BRIC and FMA programs will also perform the BCA for the most at-risk communities. The BCA team released five toolkit updates this year. The updates included economic standard values, adjustments for inflation, modules to support green infrastructure projects (urban trees, permeable pavement, bioretention), expansion of ecosystem benefits, and removal of the limit for incorporating social benefits.

In October 2022, FEMA announced a new effort that will reduce the burden of applying for BRIC and FMA funding for disadvantaged communities and may make it easier for projects with nature-based solutions to access funding. FEMA introduced an alternative cost-effectiveness method that will modify the threshold for mitigation projects to be cost-effective under limited conditions. Stakeholders identified this issue as a challenge to applying for funding. This effort will apply to projects that address a significant impact caused by climate change, such as more intense storms, increases in extreme rainfall, extreme temperatures, drought, prolonged wildfire seasons, extreme flooding, and changes in sea levels. This effort reduces the BCA discount rate from 7% to 3% for communities on some projects in FY 2022.

Build Capacity

HMA Impact Statement: Communities reduce the risk of loss of life and property by using all available programs, tools, and resources.

15. Swift Current Initiative

FEMA's FMA program launched a \$60 million disaster initiative called Swift Current that distributed funding in better alignment with the survivor experience. The FMA Swift Current Initiative is intended to explore how to make flood mitigation assistance available within the disaster recovery timeframe, for repetitively flooded and substantially damaged buildings insured under the NFIP in advance of the annual grant process. The FMA Swift Current initiative succeeded in technical assistance tailored to 12 communities in the state of Mississippi. It resulted in the first successful FMA application submitted since 2009, and ultimately \$4.8 million in requested federal share under this initiative.

The [IIJA](#), more commonly known as the BIL, funded the initiative, with the goal of substantially speeding up the release of FMA funds while reducing the complexity of the application for the four states affected by Hurricane Ida: Louisiana, Mississippi, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

The FMA Swift Current application period opened on Apr. 1, 2022. By the state allocation deadline, Swift Current was oversubscribed by more than \$9 million. FEMA received 43 subapplications for flood mitigation of 342 properties across all four states, totaling more than \$69 million in requested federal share. Of the 342 properties, 228 (over 65%) are repetitively flooded.

On Dec. 1, FEMA announced it obligated about \$10.28 million for flood resilience projects in Louisiana and New Jersey through its [Flood Mitigation Assistance \(FMA\) Swift Current Initiative](#), taking strides towards timely mitigation by expediting money to communities working to become more resilient to floods.

The estimated \$60 million in Swift Current funding is to be distributed as follows:

- **Louisiana, \$40 million:** Louisiana submitted over \$47.1 million in subapplications of their \$40 million state allocation in Swift Current. Subapplications included 12 acquisitions, 222 elevations, and nine mitigation reconstruction projects in 15 communities.
- **New Jersey, \$10 million:** New Jersey submitted over \$10.9 million in subapplications of their \$10 million state allocation in Swift Current. This included the acquisition of 31 repetitively flooded properties, 28 of which are also deemed substantially damaged due to Hurricane Ida.
- **Mississippi, \$5 million:** Mississippi submitted nearly \$4.8 million in subapplications of their \$5 million state allocation in Swift Current. Subapplications included 17 acquisitions and nine elevation mitigation projects in six communities.
 - Prior to Swift Current, Mississippi had not participated in the FMA program since 2009.

- FEMA conducted additional outreach for Swift Current in Mississippi, mailing 206 letters in early May to homeowners in the state to inform them about Swift Current.
 - Individuals who were interested in learning more contacted their local government and were often drivers for community participation in Swift Current.
 - FEMA also gave technical assistance to Mississippi for cost estimate and subapplication development. This aid reduced the application burden for small local governments in Mississippi.
- **Pennsylvania, \$5 million:** Pennsylvania submitted over \$6.1 million in subapplications of their \$5 million state allocation in Swift Current. Subapplications included one acquisition, seven elevations, and one mitigation reconstruction project consisting of 10 residences in four communities.

Cost shares for FY 2022 FMA Swift Current by property type are illustrated in the graphic below.

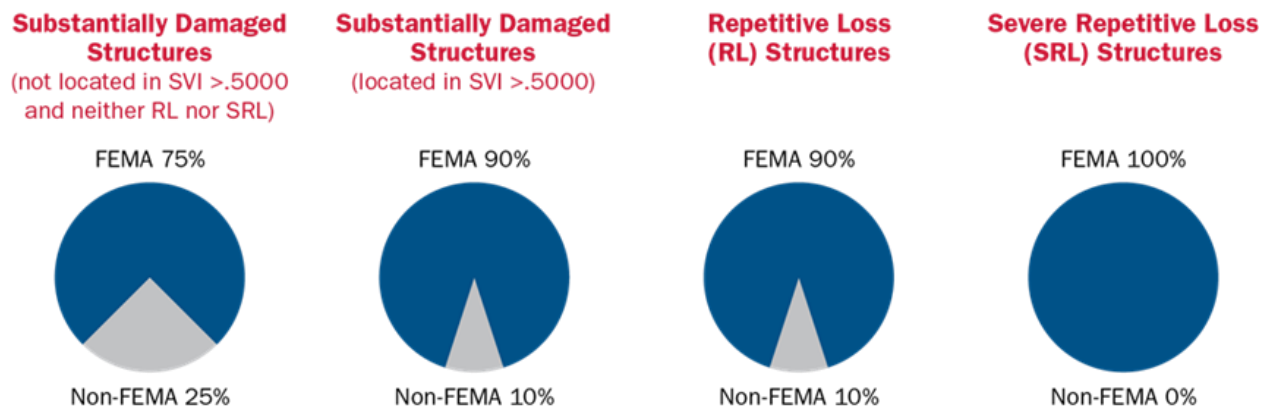


Figure 19. This graphic shows the cost shares for FY 2022 FMA Swift Current by property type.

16. BRIC Non-Financial Direct Technical Assistance

In FY 2021, FEMA received 101 submissions for BRIC DTA, which was nearly a tenfold increase in submissions from the prior year. This shows the need for FEMA to continue making investments in this initiative and ensure that we build capability and capacity to carry out mitigation programs in communities with the greatest need.

FEMA selected 20 new BRIC DTA communities for FY2021, which was an increase from eight in FY 2020. Of the 28 current BRIC DTA communities, there is representation from all 10 FEMA regions, 22 economically disadvantaged communities, and eight tribes.

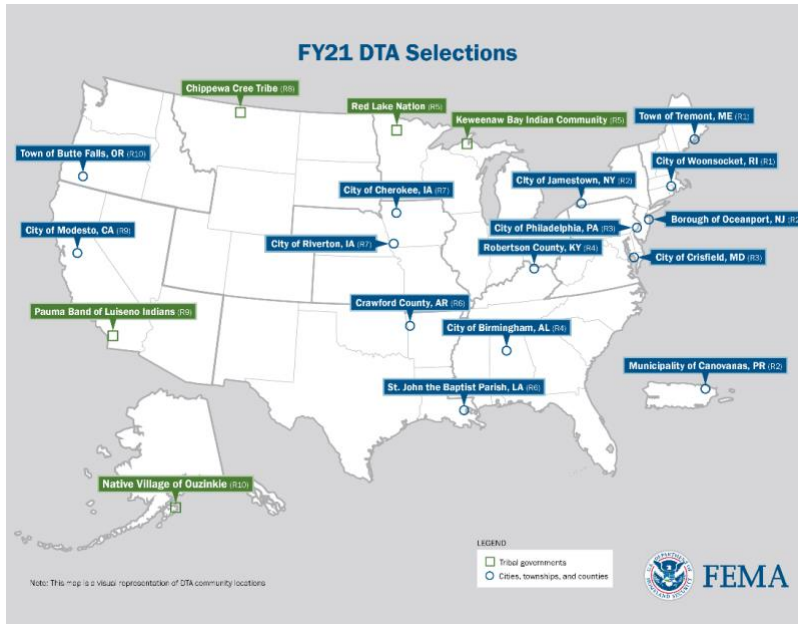


Figure 20. This map shows BRIC DTA selections for FY 2021.

BRIC DTA Metrics

- Total number of communities: 28 (FY 2020 – 8, FY 2021 – 20)
- Number of regions represented: 10
- FY 2021 communities (excluding tribes) are located across 13 states and 1 territory
- Number of tribes in FY 2021 selections: 5 tribes (8 total tribes across both years)
- Number of submissions received for FY 2021: 101
- Average CDC SVI score for FY 2021 selections (excluding Canovanas, Puerto Rico, which does not have an SVI score): 0.67

For the FY 2022 cycle, FEMA has announced we will select 40 communities for the BRIC DTA initiative, which will increase the capacity and capability of many more communities and help strengthen resilience throughout the country.

17. Updated Program Support Materials

The HMA Division develops and maintains a robust library of educational materials to ensure stakeholders are proficient in all HMA grant programs and changes to policies and the programs. Featured content in 2022 includes:

- [Summary of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Programs](#): This summary fact sheet outlines FEMA’s five HMA grant programs. These mitigation programs provide funding for eligible activities that reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from future disasters. These are pre- and post-disaster grants. Eligible applicants for these grants include SLTT governments.

- [BRIC Program Support Materials](#): Resources that provide important information on various activities under the BRIC grant program to support building codes, partnerships, project scoping, nature-based solutions, and more.
- [The Mitigation Action Portfolio](#): A resource to introduce stakeholders to the BRIC grant program and the array of eligible hazard mitigation activities that can benefit stakeholders.
- [FMA Program Support Materials](#): Materials that provide important information on various activities under the grant program to support project scoping, community flood mitigation projects, geospatial file requirements, and more.
- [HMGP Cost Share Information for Section 311 of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2022](#): This document provides guidance for SLTT governments about the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2022. The law includes a provision that increases the federal cost share for HMGP to not less than 90% for all emergency or major disaster declarations occurring, or an incident period beginning, between Jan. 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2021.
- [Extreme Temperatures Fact Sheet](#): FEMA's HMA grant programs fund eligible mitigation measures that build climate resilience. As the climate crisis continues making heat waves more intense and frequent, these funds can be used to plan for and manage risks posed by natural hazards, including extreme temperatures. This fact sheet identifies opportunities for hazard mitigation assistance, gives an overview of considerations and identifies other available FEMA resources.

In addition, in 2022 HMGP developed a series of [project-type specific guidance and support materials](#) to help subapplicants submit complete and eligible applications. The materials cover 13 of the most requested HMGP project types:

- Acquisition and demolition
- Acquisition and relocation
- Dry floodproofing
- Elevation
- Flood risk reduction
- Generators
- Hurricane wind retrofit
- Safe rooms
- Seismic retrofit
- Soil stabilization
- Wildfire (including post-wildfire soil stabilization and post wildfire flood risk reduction)

18. Hazard Mitigation Assistance Webinars

The HMA Division hosts webinars to keep stakeholders engaged and informed.

In spring of 2022, to support SLTT capability and capacity building efforts and increase program awareness, HMGP launched its first national webinar series. Each webinar focused on building subapplicant capacity and capability to successfully apply for and receive HMGP funding. The spring series included:

- **HMGP 101 Program Overview:** This webinar gives an overview of HMGP, including program requirements and how to put together a complete application. View the recording [here](#).
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** This webinar provides an overview of how to incorporate nature-based solutions into mitigation projects, the benefits of these solutions, and examples of successful projects. View the recording [here](#).
- **Benefit-Cost Analysis 101:** This webinar provides an overview of the fundamental concepts of BCA, with specific instructions on completing a BCA—an HMGP application requirement—using the FEMA BCA Toolkit. View the recording [here](#).
- **Cost Estimation:** This webinar covers the basics of construction cost estimates for common HMA program project types. It explains the principles of reviewing cost estimates for HMA projects throughout the grant lifecycle and for determining “reasonable costs” as part of each grant application review. View the recording [here](#).

The HMA Outreach and Communications Branch planned and hosted the HMA Summer Engagement Series webinars throughout the summer of 2022. This series of virtual engagements brought FEMA subject matter experts and partners together to provide technical information, best practices, tools, and resources about BRIC, FMA, and HMGP.



The webinars were designed for SLTT leaders, as well as private sector entities, nonprofit organizations, and individuals interested in learning more about the HMA grant programs and strategies for how to apply for them. More than 4,000 people attended these events.

The HMA Summer Engagement Series included 10 content-based webinars and four office hours sessions. Topics of the series included:

- **C&CB Funding in the BRIC and FMA Programs: What Does It Mean for Me?:** This webinar discusses opportunities in both the BRIC and FMA grant programs for applicants and subapplicants to apply for funding or technical assistance to help them increase their capacity and capability as it relates to natural hazard mitigation. View the recording [here](#).
- **System-Based Mitigation: Building Enduring Community Resilience Webinar:** This webinar focuses on the concept of building community resilience at a “systems” level. The BRIC program supports the use of system-based mitigation approaches in projects. This includes prioritizing equity, addressing future conditions due to climate change, enhancing mitigation planning and building code enforcement, supporting nature-based solutions, and leveraging partnerships. View the recording [here](#).
- **Mitigating Severe Repetitive Loss and Repetitive Loss Properties Webinar:** This webinar focuses on funding available through the FMA grant program to mitigate repetitively flood-damaged buildings insured under the NFIP. The webinar also discusses strategies in how HMA programs can be used to acquire or elevate individual residential homes. View the recording [here](#).
- **BRIC and FMA FY 2022 NOFO Webinar #1:** This webinar was the first review of the FY 2022 NOFOs for BRIC and FMA. Topics include a review of the BRIC and FMA program priorities for the FY 2022 grant cycle and an overview of the types of funding available in each program. View the recording [here](#).
- **Application Pitfalls Webinar:** This webinar addresses common grant application errors and how to avoid them in the BRIC and FMA grant programs. View the recording [here](#).
- **BRIC and FMA FY 2022 NOFO Webinar #2:** This webinar was the second review of the FY 2022 NOFOs for BRIC and FMA. View the recording [here](#).
- **BRIC FY 2022 NOFO Tribal Webinar:** This webinar is a review of the FY 2022 NOFO for BRIC, tailored specifically to tribal applicants. View the recording [here](#).
- **BRIC FY 2022 NOFO Technical and Qualitative Criteria:** This webinar gives an overview and information about the FY 2022 BRIC Application Technical and Qualitative Criteria, as outlined in the NOFO. View the recording [here](#).
- **Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation Review 101:** This webinar discusses details on how communities should factor in environmental and historic preservation regulations, executive orders, and laws when planning projects. View the recording [here](#).

- **Using Grant Funding to Build Resilience: The How, When and Where of Applying for HMGP:** This webinar gives information and an overview to applicants and subapplicants on how to develop and submit applications for HMGP, which includes the HMGP Post Fire program. View the recording [here](#).

Additionally, HMA offered four office hours sessions for FEMA regions, including tribal stakeholders, to review applicants' questions on their FMA and BRIC NOFO applications.

19. Hazard Mitigation Assistance Training

The HMA Division supports the training needs of internal and external partners throughout their learning journey by strengthening their knowledge, skills, and capabilities for grant application development, hazard mitigation planning, and Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA). In 2022, the HMA Division supplemented the HMA Onboarding and Learning Plan through topical webinars, including both live delivery and posting of recordings. These webinars included technical topics, such as BCA for power line mitigation, and introductory material on hazard mitigation assistance. The HMA Division identified interests in grant application development and tailored training for programs such as BRIC and HMA, as well as additional course formats on those topics. The HMA Division developed and distributed the HMA Subapplication Development Best Practices for Regions to use both internally and with external partners as a companion to the credited Developing Quality Application Elements course. The HMA Division began developing training on the STORM revolving loan funds program tailored to SLTT partners to promote a successful first round of applications.

In 2022, the HMA Division delivered 158 training sessions, including foundational HMA courses and specialized topics. Continued use of the virtual environment allowed training to reach a broad audience, with more than 2,000 internal and external participants completing more than 1,000 hours of training. The HMA Division also celebrated a successful return to in-person training in July 2022 by delivering “HMA: Application Review and Evaluation” and “HMA: Project Implementation and Closeout” for attendees at the Emergency Management Institute. Continued use of this hybrid—virtual and in-person—approach will expand the number and efficacy of HMA training deliveries throughout 2023.

20. FEMA GO

FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) continues to simplify the grants management lifecycle process through a user-centered, business-driven approach founded on active engagement with grant stakeholders and training and outreach. The grants management system is being used for FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER), and BRIC and FMA grant programs. It will be used for 12 additional FEMA grant programs during FY 2023 appropriated funding opportunities.

The FEMA GO development team continues to look for ways to streamline and improve software previously deployed for the three fire grants and to expand that functionality to support the BRIC and FMA grant programs. Since these mitigation grant programs pass funding through to subrecipients

who manage the projects funded by the grant, functionality was added to the system to provide visibility on grant projects at a more granular level.

FEMA is continuously gathering business requirements across all grant programs for system development to meet full operational capability. Currently, the development of remaining post-award functionality, including the ability to close out grants, is a top priority with a release target of the fourth quarter of FY 2023. FEMA is completing the design of pre-award consultative project development functions needed for hazard mitigation disaster grants to comply with Stafford Act requirements.

FEMA continues to offer training opportunities to stakeholders. FEMA's Grant Programs Directorate (GPD) expanded its training capacity by onboarding two additional trainers and conducted more than 25 customized training webinars with FEMA regional HMA staff, including Grant Management Specialists and Assistance Officers.

FEMA continues to conduct outreach with stakeholders. GPD hosted five FEMA GO Quarterly Status Briefings, reaching more than 3,000 individuals including BRIC and FMA stakeholders. Additionally, GPD conducts semiannual FEMA GO usability and design surveys to solicit feedback from all FEMA GO stakeholders registered in FEMA GO, including BRIC and FMA applicants and subapplicants. The results of these surveys and other user engagements are a key part of the User Experience (UX) design approach that FEMA GO employs in its system design, testing and delivery. UX design helps ensure that we are achieving agency and program strategic objectives to reduce complexity, simplify grant management processes, and make FEMA programs more accessible to applicants.

FEMA GO is being developed around an incremental, iterative approach to delivering high-quality software functionality. This includes frequent deliveries to ensure value throughout the process for its stakeholders. A high value is placed on people working together with the ability to respond to change based on user feedback. FEMA will identify enhancements through user feedback sessions, consulting with the grant programs on best practices and solutions throughout the development process. Stakeholders are involved in every stage of development, from the planning and design phase through validating functionality.

FEMA hosts multiple working groups, user research interviews, and outreach sessions to keep stakeholders informed about the development of FEMA GO. For more information or to get involved with the planning efforts, please email FEMAGO@fema.dhs.gov.

21. HMA Guide Published for Public Comment

The HMA Division has continued its effort to update the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide (HMA Guide), which replaced the 2015 HMA Guidance and HMA Guidance Addendum. The HMA Guide update has been a multi-year effort and includes the most up-to-date policies on the HMA grant programs, including HMGP, HMGP Post-Fire, BRIC, and FMA. The purpose of the update was to incorporate existing policies published after the release of the 2015 HMA Guidance and to reflect various other changes, including the new BRIC program.

During 2022, the updated HMA Guide was sent to the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Management and Budget for review and concurrence. The document was then made available for a 30-day public comment period that began on Aug. 24 and ran until Sept. 23, 2022.

During the public comment period, HMA received 54 comment submissions from stakeholders across the nation, which resulted in over 700 individual comments.

FEMA incorporated public comments where possible via the update process. The agency tracked all comments to ensure that stakeholder feedback is delivered to the program areas, while forming policy priorities for the coming year and beyond.

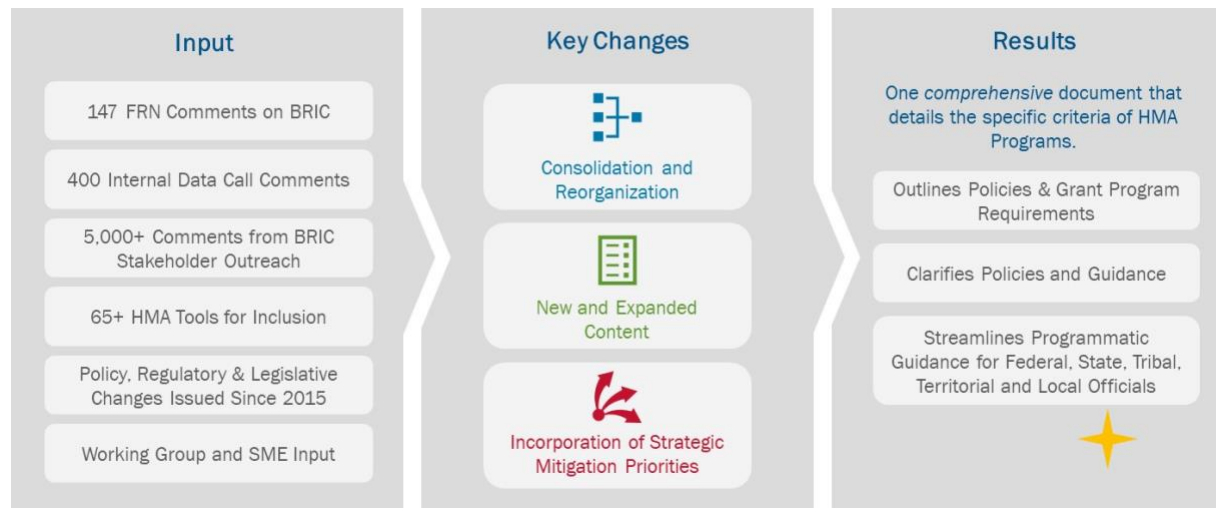


Figure 20. This graphic shows the process for updating the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide (HMA Guide)

The HMA Guide was released in March 2023. Additionally, work will continue to develop a web-based version of the guide to allow for ease of use, real-time updating capabilities, and additional user functionality.

Foster Connection

HMA Impact Statement: HMA brings people and communities together to help them consider risk and mitigation in all investment decisions.

22. External Stakeholder Working Group Engagement

The HMA External Stakeholder Working Group (ESWG) is composed of 12 hazard mitigation professionals from across the United States who represent states, tribes, local jurisdictions, and FEMA regions. FEMA's HMA Division convenes these diverse stakeholders to gather feedback on how to best promote investments in risk reduction. Each year, the ESWG engages in deep-dive discussions and problem-solving through workstreams and by rotating topics in quarterly meetings.

For the first time in more than two years, the ESWG returned to in-person meetings to foster stronger connections between members, FEMA, and local staff, and to gain new perspectives from members on local mitigation endeavors.

- The second-quarter meeting in Washington, D.C., included visits from leadership and HMA personnel to discuss FEMA's Strategic Plan, HMA Equity Action Plan, and IIJA, more commonly known as BIL, as well as site visits to learn about local flood mitigation projects.
- The third quarter meeting, hosted by Brynne Walker representing Pierce County, Washington, included presentations and site visits to learn about equity, extreme heat, wildfires, and seismic mitigation around Tacoma and Seattle.
- Alumni attended many of the presentations during the quarterly meetings this year, helping to draw connections between agenda topics, their day-to-day challenges, and practical solutions.



Members shared that the best parts of participating in the ESWG were “...the walking tours, visits from leadership, meeting the team members, interesting site visits, and the ability to directly engage with each other.”

The 2022 ESWG workstream groups supported efforts to improve and expand equitable access to mitigation funding and resources. The STORM workstream provided valuable perspective and input to help shape the development of the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund. The first of its kind at FEMA, the workstream was part of a pilot for meeting format options to ensure high-quality feedback at stakeholder listening sessions. The Swift Current workstream focused on the application process, reviewing contractor support with application development, incorporating Justice40 into the program, and developing Swift Current 2.0. The Mitigation Needs Assessment workstream helped to establish a framework for evaluating unmet mitigation needs nationwide. The Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) workstream identified key components in the development of resources that communities can use to incorporate NBS in mitigation projects.

23. Federal Interagency Coordination

The HMA Division coordinates with other federal agencies through the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) and its task forces. The MitFLG operates according to the National Mitigation Framework (NMF) and its mission is to strengthen the nation’s disaster resilience by expanding mitigation awareness, coordination, and action. It integrates federal efforts to deliver the mitigation core capabilities in the NMF, assesses the effectiveness of these capabilities across the United States, catalyzes risk reduction measures across the country by gathering interagency perspectives on mitigation policy, and increases coordination in support of federal agency priorities. With the National Mitigation Investment Strategy as its Guiding Documents, the MitFLG also serves as a catalyst to identify and promote investments in mitigation. The group collaborates across multiple levels of government, seeking input from partner organizations to develop tools and resources that increase community resilience holistically and measure success.

On Jun. 1, 2022, FEMA announced the launch of the National Initiative to Advance Building Codes (NIABC). They charged the MitFLG to lead the effort to better align federal programs with modern building codes. This initiative aims to help SLTT governments in their efforts to adopt the latest building codes and standards. This enables communities to be more resilient to hurricanes, flooding, windstorms, wildfires, and other extreme weather events that are intensifying due to climate change. It also allows families to save money on utility bills through improved energy efficiency. The Building Codes Task Force (BCTF) led by the MitFLG comprises 16 federal and SLTT partners. Since June 2022, the BCTF has conducted a Federal Alignment Landscape Analysis, six stakeholder workshops, and several other engagements to socialize and build momentum to support a unified whole community commitment toward the adoption and enforcement of building codes and standards. Through the end of 2022 and into 2023, federal agencies are developing plans to incorporate modern building code incentives into funding opportunities and programming. The BCTF began in December 2022 to deliver regular progress reports on the NIABC to the Council on Environmental Quality.

24. External Stakeholder Coordination

Our partnerships are important to the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Division's continued successes, and in 2022 we maintained a robust outreach schedule to message the importance of our programs. We accepted numerous speaking engagements this year, including:

- National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies
- National Emergency Management Association
- International Association of Emergency Managers
- Association of State Floodplain Managers
- International Code Council
- Georgetown Climate Center
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation
- Council of Governors
- Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop
- National Academies of Science.

We also delivered 10 content-based webinars and four office hours sessions during the 2022 HMA Summer Engagement Series to provide technical information, best practices, tools, and resources about our programs. Guest speakers and partners for the 2022 webinar series included:

- New York City Emergency Management
- Kentucky Office of Energy Policy
- Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government
- CDM Smith
- Harris County Flood Control District
- Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government

The HMA Division continues to coordinate with a variety of external stakeholders to increase whole community resilience.

Looking Ahead

The past year brought change to the HMA Division and billions of dollars in funding through new executive orders, initiatives, and [IIJA](#), more commonly known as the BIL. We remain flexible and ready to adapt despite the challenges of climate change and increasing disaster risks. FEMA continues to evolve mitigation grants to be more equitable, reduce complexity, and address climate resilience. FEMA also remains focused on reducing barriers to accessing funding to those who need it the most and building capacity and capability to deliver mitigation grant programs. In this incoming year, HMA will continue to support FEMA's vision for a prepared and resilient nation with a "people first" approach.