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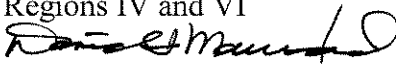
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mary Lynne Miller
Acting Regional Director
FEMA Region IV

William E. Peterson
Regional Director
FEMA Region VI

Federal Coordinating Officers
Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma

ATTENTION: Mitigation Division Directors
Regions IV and VI

FROM: 
David I. Maurstad
Acting Director
Mitigation Division

SUBJECT: HMGP Expanded Mitigation Strategies Planning Grant
Pilot for Gulf Coast States with Hurricanes Katrina, Rita
and Wilma Declarations

With this memorandum I am providing you with the guidance for the HMGP Expanded Mitigation Strategies Planning Grant Pilot (the Pilot) for Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in the following States: Louisiana (DR-1603 and DR-1607), Texas (DR-1606), Mississippi (DR-1604), Alabama (DR-1605) and Florida (DR-1602 and DR-1609).

The Gulf Coast recovery challenge ahead presents an unprecedented opportunity for FEMA to work with States and communities to incorporate mitigation directly into the recovery process and, thereby, create more disaster resistant communities in the future. The ability of communities in the Gulf Coast to recover from Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma in a manner that will reduce future vulnerability to natural hazards is directly linked to having access to sound technical advice and professional input across a wide spectrum of disciplines. Planning, technical recommendations, and engineering and design studies are all important components of effective mitigation project planning and scoping that will lead to more disaster-resistant communities. Sound professional assistance and technical information enables communities to make informed decisions that will ensure implementation of effective mitigation initiatives following disaster events.

This Pilot is designed to bridge the gap between Local Mitigation Plan (LMP) strategies and the implementation of actual mitigation projects as part of the overall disaster

recovery effort. This Pilot will assist Applicants in identifying and evaluating specific mitigation activities in their LMPs to ensure they would be feasible to implement upon availability of funding, such as the HMGP funding specific to the identified disaster declarations. Assessing feasibility of mitigation activities in the LMP under this Pilot would include, for example, cost-effectiveness, environmental issues, and technical feasibility. There are three Pilot project-type combinations of activities that are eligible for funding under this new Pilot:

- Adjustments to Plan under Development and Project Scoping: Applicants may apply for funding to make adjustments to an LMP under development if there has been a change of relevant State and/or local regulations or ordinances, or if the Applicant has experienced an extreme hazard occurrence that resulted in new hazard information (including the issuance of FEMA-generated Advisory Base Flood Elevations (ABFEs)) and unique mitigation opportunities which change the previously completed risk assessment, mitigation goals, strategy and mitigation priorities. Project scoping is included under this activity.
- Plan Update and Project Scoping: An Applicant with an approved LMP may apply for funding to update the plan if there has been a change of relevant State and/or local regulations or ordinances, or if the Applicant has experienced an extreme hazard occurrence that resulted in new hazard information (including the issuance of FEMA-generated ABFEs) and unique mitigation opportunities which change the previously completed risk assessment, mitigation goals, strategy, and mitigation priorities. Project scoping is included under this activity.
- Plan Amendment and Project Scoping: An Applicant with an approved LMP may apply for funding to develop detailed project scoping data for mitigation projects identified in the LMP. Project scoping must conform to the LMP mitigation strategy goals or identified projects, programs and/or activities.

Since this is a Pilot, FEMA requires the use of a Cooperative Agreement (CA) between FEMA, the State and the Applicant rather than the usual subgrant agreement. This CA will require closer interactive coordination at specifically designated Key Coordination Points which are identified in the attached Guidance. In implementing the Pilot planning grant-type, the State must use the language found in the Model Cooperative Agreement, Appendix A of the Guidance. The project activities entered into NEMIS for this Pilot planning grant-type should be coded as Local Multihazard Mitigation Plans, with a notation under the Comments Section that the activity type is an Expanded Mitigation Strategies Planning Grant Pilot.

My staff and I look forward to working with you to implement this Pilot in order to better support the recovery process in the Gulf Coast. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Deb Ingram, Chief, Risk Reduction Branch, Mitigation Division at (202) 646-2856.

Attachment



FEMA

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (HMGP) EXPANDED MITIGATION STRATEGIES PLANNING GRANT PILOT GUIDANCE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The HMGP Expanded Mitigation Strategies Planning Grant Pilot will provide funds for eligible HMGP Applicants to identify and plan feasible mitigation projects, and incorporate those projects into their Local Mitigation Plans (LMPs). The mitigation planning process assists eligible Applicants in setting short and long-range mitigation goals and objectives. Mitigation planning is a collaborative process whereby hazards affecting the community are identified, hazard vulnerability is assessed and analyzed, and consensus is reached on how to minimize or eliminate the effects of these hazards. Because LMPs are the foundation of a strong mitigation strategy, the Pilot will bridge the gap between mitigation planning strategies and the implementation of actual mitigation projects as part of the overall disaster recovery effort.

USE OF PILOT FUNDS

Funding Source: Eligible activities under this Pilot can be funded using HMGP planning funds made available in the following States for the disasters specified: Florida (DR-1602 and DR-1609), Louisiana (DR-1603 and DR-1607), Mississippi (DR-1604), Alabama (DR-1605), and Texas (DR-1606). Up to 7% of the States' HMGP grant may be used to develop State, tribal and/or local mitigation plans to meet the planning criteria outlined in 44 C.F.R. Part 201.

Eligible Activities:

- Conducting feasibility analyses (i.e. project planning/scoping);
- Preliminary engineering investigations, studies, designs and construction cost estimates for potential mitigation projects and activities;
- Environmental scoping, including identification of historic resources;
- Gathering data and performing benefit cost-analyses for potential mitigation projects and activities;
- Plan Adjustments, or Updates to the risk assessment and mitigation strategy sections of the LMP, in association with project scoping activities;
- Local coordination of the LMP mitigation strategy activities at the community level;
- Other related activities.

Cost-share: HMGP funds are provided on a 75% Federal cost-share basis. The State and/or eligible Applicants are responsible for the remaining 25% non-Federal cost share.

Three project-type combinations:

1. Adjustments to Plan under Development and Project Scoping;
2. Plan Update and Project Scoping; or
3. Mitigation Scoping and Plan Amendment.

KEY FEATURES

Ineligible Project Activities:

- Flood studies or flood mapping;
- Activities directly related to long-term recovery planning;
- Mapping activities that are not part of a risk assessment;
- Costs related to the submission of mitigation project grant applications, including costs for grant writers, and any activities related to grant application preparation; and
- Any activity for which another Federal agency has primary authority.

Planning Requirement: Eligibility for an Expanded Mitigation Strategies Planning grant is dependent on the Applicant having completed at least the Hazard Identification phase of the LMP process.

Cooperative Agreement Requirement:

FEMA will require the use of a Cooperative Agreement between FEMA, the State and the Applicant instead of the usual subgrant agreement. This requires closer than usual coordination at specifically designated Key Coordination Points.