The U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Fiscal Year 2024 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program

The Fiscal Year 2024 PDM grant program is limited to the projects and entities identified by Congress in the FY24 DHS Appropriations Act's Joint Explanatory Statement (JES) (for Division C of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Pub. L. No 118-47)) in the table starting on page 59 entitled "Homeland Security Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending." This funding opportunity is not open for other activities, projects, or entities.

SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF KEY INFORMATION Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program		
Issuing Agency	U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/Resilience/Hazard Mitigation Directorate/Hazard Mitigation Assistance Division (HMA)	
Program Overview	The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program makes federal funds available to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to plan for and implement sustainable cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from future natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future natural disasters.	
Objectives	The objective of the FY 2024 PDM Grant Program is to fund Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) projects for state, local, tribal, and territorial government efforts to plan for, and implement sustainable cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from future natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future disasters.	
Eligible Projects	 Capability and Capacity-Building activities – activities that enhance the knowledge, skills, and expertise of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of mitigation assistance. This includes activities in the following sub-categories: project scoping, hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities, and other activities; Hazard Mitigation Projects – cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure (including natural systems) from a multitude of natural hazards, including drought, wildfire, earthquakes, extreme heat, and the effects of climate change; Management Costs – financial assistance to reimburse the recipient and subrecipient for eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific mitigation measure or project. 	

Deadlines	Application Start Date: 05/24/2024 Notification of system-related issues: 06/28/2024 at 3:00 PM ET Application Submission Deadline: 06/28/2024 at 5:00 PM ET	
Funding	Available Funding for the NOFO: \$190,568,289 The Joint Explanatory Statement (JES) accompanying the FY 2024 DHS Appropriations Act identifies the maximum funding available for each PDM project.	
Eligible Applicants	Eligible FY 2024 PDM grant projects were identified in the JES accompanying the FY 2024 DHS Appropriations Act; only those associated PDM projects are eligible to receive funding under this grant program. Those PDM projects are identified in Appendix A of this NOFO.	
Cost Share	The cost share for the PDM program is 75% federal and 25% non-federal. Cost share for the PDM program is adjusted to 90% federal and 10% non-federal for the following communities: • Local governments meeting the definition of small impoverished community • Federally recognized tribes meeting the definition of small impoverished community	

All entities wishing to do business with the federal government must have a unique entity identifier (UEI). The UEI number is issued by the system. Requesting a UEI using System for Award Management (SAM.gov) can be found at: https://sam.gov/content/entity-registration.

Grants.gov registration information can be found at: https://www.grants.gov/register

Updates in Grant Application Forms:

The Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) Number was replaced by a new, non-proprietary identifier requested in, and assigned by SAM.gov. This new identifier is the Unique Entity Identifier.

Additional Information can be found on Grants.gov: https://www.grants.gov/forms/forms-development/planned-uei-updates

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A. Program Description

1. Issued By

U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)/Resilience/Hazard Mitigation Directorate/Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Division

2. Assistance Listings Number

97.143

3. Assistance Listings Title

Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

4. Funding Opportunity Title

Fiscal Year 2024 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program

5. Funding Opportunity Number

DHS-24-MT-143-00-01

6. Authorizing Authority for Program

Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act) (Pub. L. No. 100-707), amending the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 (Pub. L. No. 93-288) (42 U.S.C. § 5133).

7. Appropriation Authority for Program

Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024, Pub. L. No. 118-47, Title III Protection, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (2024 DHS Appropriations Act)

8. Announcement Type

Initial

9. Program Category

Mitigation: Natural Hazards

10. Program Overview, Objectives, and Priorities

a. Overview

The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program makes federal funds available to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to plan for and implement sustainable cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from future natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future natural disasters.

PDM has invested more than \$1 billion across thousands of projects for mitigation activities throughout the country during its 20-year history and has paved the way for the next generation of mitigation funding. PDM helped initiate an important shift in the nation's focus from planning for response and recovery to assessing risk, proactively identifying projects to mitigate risk, and strategically tackling pre-disaster community resilience initiatives. PDM has supported states, territories, tribes, and

local jurisdictions as they pursued community-wide resilience planning processes and implemented projects to reduce risk nationwide.

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 PDM Grant Program will provide \$190,568,289 in funding to projects identified in the 2024 DHS Appropriations Act's Joint Explanatory Statement (JES) in the table starting on page 59 entitled "Homeland Security Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending."

FEMA will provide financial assistance to eligible PDM applicants for activities in accordance with the JES accompanying the 2024 DHS Appropriations Act and as listed in Appendix A of this NOFO. The authorized projects generally include the following project types:

- 1) Project Scoping process for subapplicants to develop effective mitigation alternatives based on a defined set of requirements that meet the stated purpose and need of the proposed project. The process includes activities such as identification and evaluation of technical feasibility, cost review, and cost effectiveness, as well as environmental and cultural resource considerations.
- 2) Hazard Mitigation Projects (construction) cost-effective projects designed to increase resilience and public safety; reduce injuries and loss of life; and reduce damage and destruction to property, critical services, facilities, and infrastructure, (including natural systems) from a multitude of natural hazards and the effects of climate change; and
- 3) Management Costs financial assistance to reimburse the recipient for eligible and reasonable indirect costs, direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses associated with a specific mitigation measure or project in an amount up to 10 percent of the total federal amount of the grant award. There is no separate funding pool for Recipient Management Cost.

b. Goals, Objectives, and Priorities

PDM aims to implement projects that reduce risks posed by natural hazards and reduce future losses, by funding priority projects and activities. Priorities include risk reduction of both acute events and chronic stressors, which are either observed or expected. To achieve these goals, for FY24 PDM, the 110 identified CDS projects prioritize the following types of activities: infrastructure projects, those that mitigate risk to lifelines, and projects proposed by applicants that reduce reliance on federal disaster funding. FEMA will measure the percent of dollars invested in these priorities, which will indicate that PDM projects expect to meet the goal of reducing both risks posed by natural hazards and future losses.

The objective of the FY 2024 PDM Grant Program is to fund Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) projects for state, local, tribal, and territorial government efforts to plan for, and implement sustainable cost-effective measures designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from future natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future disasters.

There are projects from 35 states, one tribe, and one territory identified for the FY 2024 PDM Grant Program. These targeted community and tribal projects focus primarily on infrastructure improvements to stormwater, drainage, sewer systems and levee systems and/or dams to build community resilience against future flooding. However, other projects focus on addressing other hazard types such as seismic activity and wildfire. Approximately 13 projects address nature-based solutions including greenways, open space, beach revitalization, climate resilience, and shoreline preservation.

The priorities of the FY 2024 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program are to fund projects identified in **Appendix A** of this NOFO. If you are interested in applying to FEMA's other annual mitigation grant programs, like the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program, please go to www.grants.gov for more information.

c. Alignment to Program Purpose and the DHS and FEMA Strategic Plan The PDM Grant Program aligns with the general goal of promoting resilience and adaptation in light of current risks and the 2020-2024 DHS Strategic Plan through pursuing Goal 5: Strengthen Preparedness and Resilience. Specifically, Objective 5.1: Build a National Culture of Preparedness has several sub-objectives that the PDM Grant Program supports. PDM serves primarily to bolster Sub-Objective 5.1.1: Incentivize investments that reduce risk and increase pre-disaster mitigation, including expanding the use of insurance to manage risk through funding mitigation projects, particularly ones that reduce risk to infrastructure. Additionally, project scoping activities that PDM funds also contribute to other sub-objectives. For example, planning, partnerships, and project scoping efforts help improve awareness initiatives to encourage public action to increase preparedness (Sub-Objective 5.1.2), use lessons from past disasters and exercises to inform community investment decisions, anticipate challenges that may emerge during future disasters (Sub-Objective 5.1.3), and coordinate and guide continuity of operations activities through partnerships with government and non-government stakeholders (Sub-Objective 5.1.5).

The 2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan outlines three bold, ambitious goals in order to position 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. The PDM Grant Program supports Goal 2: Lead Whole of Community in Climate Resilience and Goal 3: Promote and Sustain a Ready FEMA and a Prepared Nation.

11. Performance Measures

Based on the statutory requirements of Section 203 and the 2023 HMA Program and Policy Guide, FEMA has specified minimum project criteria including that Applicants must demonstrate mitigation projects are cost effective.

Performance metrics for this program are as follows:

- Percentage of funded projects that result in mitigation activities
- Percentage of funded projects that provide an enhanced level of resilience

FEMA will calculate and analyze the above metrics through a review of recipient Performance Progress Reports and award monitoring to ensure that the funds are expended for their intended purpose and achieve the stated outcomes in the grant application.

PDM aims to implement projects that reduce risks posed by natural hazards and reduce future losses, by funding priority projects and activities. Priorities include risk reduction of both acute events and chronic stressors, which are either observed or expected. To achieve these goals, for FY24 PDM, the 110 identified CDS projects prioritize the following types of activities: infrastructure projects, those that mitigate risk to lifelines, and projects proposed by applicants that reduce reliance on federal disaster funding. FEMA will measure the percent of dollars invested in these priorities, which will indicate that PDM projects expect to meet the goal of reducing both risks posed by natural hazards and future losses.

B. Federal Award Information

1. Available Funding for the NOFO: \$190,568,289

2. Projected Number of Awards: 110

3. Period of Performance: 36 months

Extensions to the period of performance are allowed. For additional information on period of performance extensions, please refer to Section H of this NOFO.

4. Projected Period of Performance Start Date(s): Will vary by award; all

awards must be made no later than September 30, 2024

5. Projected Period of Performance End Date(s): 36 months from date of the

award unless otherwise approved by

FEMA

6. Projected Budget Period(s)

There will be only a single budget period with the same start and end dates as the period of performance.

7. Funding Instrument Type: Grant

C. Eligibility Information

1. Eligible Applicants

Only states, territories, or federally recognized tribal governments with identified projects in **Appendix A** of this NOFO are eligible to apply.

Each state, territory, or federally recognized tribal government with a PDM project identified in **Appendix A** of this NOFO shall designate one agency to serve as the applicant for PDM funding. Each applicant's designated agency may submit only one PDM grant application to FEMA. Contact information for the State Hazard Mitigation Officers is provided on the

FEMA website. A federally recognized tribal government may apply as an applicant directly to FEMA or as a subapplicant.

2. Applicant Eligibility Criteria

Eligible FY 2024 PDM grant projects were identified in the JES accompanying the 2024 DHS Appropriations Act; only those associated PDM projects are eligible to receive funding under this grant program. Those PDM projects are identified in **Appendix A** of this NOFO.

• To be considered for funding, all applicants must submit their FY 2024 PDM grant application to FEMA via Mitigation (MT) eGrants.

All applicants submitting applications must have a FEMA-approved State or Tribal (Standard or Enhanced) Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation in accordance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201.

3. Subawards and Beneficiaries

a. Subaward allowability

FY 2024 PDM subgrant projects were identified in the JES accompanying the 2024 DHS Appropriations Act; only those associated PDM projects are eligible to receive funding under this grant program. Those PDM projects are identified in **Appendix A** of this NOFO.

- One subapplication shall be submitted for each project identified in Appendix A.
- The submitted subapplication via MT eGrants must correspond to a project listed in the JES Table in Appendix A and the project must implement an activity that is consistent with the language provided in the "Project" column of the JES table.
- All subapplicants submitting subapplications must have a FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation in accordance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 201.

b. Subrecipient Eligibility

Local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, and tribal governments (including federally recognized tribes who choose to apply as subapplicants) that are identified in Appendix A of this NOFO are considered subapplicants and must submit subapplications to their state/territory applicant agency. A federally recognized tribal government may apply as an applicant directly to FEMA or as a subapplicant.

c. Beneficiaries or Participants

This NOFO and any subsequent federal awards create no rights or causes of action for any participant or beneficiary.

4. Other Eligibility Criteria/Restrictions

a. Hazard Mitigation Plan

All mitigation projects submitted as part of a PDM grant application must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in a) the current, FEMA-approved State or Tribal (Standard or Enhanced) Mitigation Plan and b) the FEMA-approved Local Hazard Mitigation Plan for the jurisdiction in which the project is located.

b. Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP)

All activities under PDM must be in compliance with all applicable environmental planning and historic preservation (EHP) laws, regulations, executive orders, and agency policies as defined in the <u>G. Environmental and Historic Preservation</u>
<u>Requirements.</u>

c. General Criteria

- All activities under PDM must be in conformance with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local floodplain and land use laws and regulations including 44 C.F.R. § 60.3 (floodplain management criteria).
 - All structure elevation, mitigation reconstruction, and dry floodproofing projects; and all projects where HMA funds are used for new construction, substantial improvement, or to address substantial damage to structures, must meet the minimum standards of FEMA's partial implementation of the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS).
 - See Executive Order (EO) 14030, Climate-Related Financial Risk and the 2023 HMA Program and Policy Guide.
- PDM projects must not include duplicate activities that another federal agency or program has more specific authority to conduct.
- All PDM projects must be in conformance with any other criteria established by FEMA that is specific to the proposed activity.
- Construction activities for which ground disturbance has already been initiated or completed are not eligible for funding. Non-construction activities that have already started may not be considered for funding. However, per the Hazard Eligibility and Local Projects (HELP) Act (Pub. L. 117-332), FEMA may provide assistance for certain acquisition and demolition projects when implementation has already begun. In order to be eligible, the project must: (1) qualify for a categorical exclusion under NEPA; (2) be compliant with applicable floodplain management and protection of wetland regulations and criteria; and (3) not require consultation under any other environmental or historic preservation law or regulation or involve any extraordinary circumstances. An entity seeking assistance under the HELP Act must comply with all other applicable HMA and federal requirements (see Pub. L. No. 117-332).

¹ Refer to <u>44 CFR § 9.4</u> for the definitions of "<u>new construction</u>" and "<u>substantial improvement</u>;" Refer to <u>44 CFR § 59.1</u> for the definition of "<u>substantial damage</u>."

- Mitigation projects must, at a minimum, be in conformance with the latest published editions (meaning either of the two most recently published editions) of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant and energy efficient designs.
- Mitigation projects should account for future climate risk to the proposed project. This can be accomplished by using evidence-based, best-available climate data sets, information resources, and decision-support tools, including Federal resources, to identify current and future climate risks over the project's expected service life. Climate projections, emission scenarios, or other suitable scenario conditions should be specified based on the project's service life and applicant's risk tolerance, as appropriate and available. Applications should document how planned project design and operations are resilient to any identified current and future climate risks. (This can be used to satisfy the requirement to utilize alternative benefit-cost analysis methodology under section D.11.b.3.b.)
- Mitigation projects should adopt nature-based solutions unless alternatives are demonstrated to be more beneficial to society, when the full range of benefits are considered, or nature-based solutions are not technically suitable for project goals.
- Where technically feasible and effective, mitigation projects should use construction materials that have lower embodied greenhouse gas emissions – including lower-carbon concrete, asphalt, and steel. Embodied emissions refer to the amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with the extraction, production, transport, and manufacturing of material.
- Where technically feasible and effective, mitigation projects should encourage designs, operations, and practices that lead to further adoption of technology, development or land use patterns, or behaviors that reduce greenhouse gas emissions within and potentially beyond extent of the project.
- Mitigation projects must be technically feasible and effective.
- Mitigation projects must solve a problem independently or constitute a
 functional portion of a long-term solution for which there is assurance that the
 project as a whole will be completed or there is a reasonable plan and
 available funding for completion.
- All PDM projects must pass technical feasibility and benefit cost analysis as a standalone project; phased projects are not eligible. Mitigation projects must be cost-effective and designed to increase resilience and reduce risk of injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property, including critical services and facilities. This means the project, as documented by the applicant, achieves the following goals:
 - Addresses a problem that has been repetitive or that poses a risk to public health and safety and improved property if left unresolved;
 - Satisfies applicable cost-effectiveness requirements in compliance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-94;
 - o Contributes, to the extent practicable, to a long-term solution to the problem it is intended to address; and

- Accounts for long-term changes to the areas and entities it protects and has manageable future maintenance and modification requirements.
- If the mitigation project is located in a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), it must meet all of the following conditions:
 - The project is in a jurisdiction participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that is not on probation, suspended, or withdrawn.
 - o For structures remaining in the SFHA at the time of project completion, the property owner must obtain and maintain flood insurance for the life of the structure, regardless of transfer of ownership, in an amount at least equal to the project cost or to the maximum limit of coverage made available with respect to the mitigated property, whichever is less. See part 4.J.2 of the 2023 HMA Program and Policy Guide.
 - The project complies with Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) partial implementation requirements in the <u>2023 HMA</u> <u>Program and Policy Guide</u>.
- Project subapplications may change to project scoping or planning should implementation of a project not be feasible at the time of award.

5. Cost Share or Match

Cost share is required under this program. Federal funding is available for up to 75 percent of the eligible activity costs. The remaining 25 percent of eligible activity costs must be derived from non-federal sources.

The non-federal cost share contribution is calculated based on the total cost of the proposed activity. For example, if the total cost is \$400,000 and the non-federal cost share is 25 percent, then the non-federal contribution is \$100,000: 25 percent of \$400,000 is \$100,000. Small impoverished communities are eligible for up to a 90 percent federal cost share for their mitigation planning and project subapplications in accordance with the Stafford Act. A small impoverished community must meet all of the following qualifications:

- Be a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals identified by the state as a rural community that is not a remote area within the corporate boundaries of a larger city;
- Be economically disadvantaged, with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80 percent of the national per capita income, based on best available data. For the most current information, go to the Bureau of Economic Analysis website at http://www.bea.gov; or the United States Census Bureau website at Census.gov; and
- Meet other criteria required by the Applicant in which the community is located.

Federally recognized tribes can identify themselves as small impoverished communities if they meet the above criteria.

Federally recognized tribes meeting the definition of a small impoverished community that apply to FEMA directly as Applicants are eligible for a 90 percent federal cost share for their planning and project subapplications. Recipient Management Cost subapplications are eligible for a 100 percent federal cost share.

Applicants and subapplicants who apply as a small impoverished community must request the federal cost share amount up to 90 percent in the Cost Share section of their planning or project subapplication(s). Applicants must certify small impoverished community status and provide documentation with the subapplication(s) to justify up to a 90 percent federal cost share. If documentation is not submitted with the subapplication, then FEMA will provide no more than 75 percent federal cost share of the total eligible costs.

More detailed information is provided in Part 4, L, Cost Share, of the <u>2023 HMA Program and Policy Guide</u>.

D. Application and Submission Information

- 1. Key Dates and Times
 - a. Application Start Date: 05/24/2024
 - b. Application Submission Deadline: 06/28/2024 at 5:00 PM ET

All applications **must** be received by the established deadline.

The MT eGrants System has a date stamp that indicates when an application is submitted. Applicants will receive an electronic message confirming receipt of their submission. For additional information on how an applicant will be notified of application receipt, see the subsection titled "Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission" in Section D of this NOFO.

FEMA will not review applications that are received after the deadline or consider these late applications for funding. FEMA may, however, extend the application deadline on request for any applicant who can demonstrate that good cause exists to justify extending the deadline. Good cause for an extension may include technical problems outside of the applicant's control that prevent submission of the application by the deadline, other exigent or emergency circumstances, or statutory requirements for FEMA to make an award.

Applicants experiencing technical problems outside of their control must notify FEMA as soon as possible and before the application deadline. Failure to timely notify FEMA of the issue that prevented the timely filing of the application may preclude consideration of the award. "Timely notification" of FEMA means: prior to the application deadline and within 48 hours after the applicant became aware of the issue.

A list of FEMA contacts can be found in Section G of this NOFO, "DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information." For additional assistance using the MT eGrants System, please contact the MT eGrants Service Desk at mtegrants@fema.dhs.gov. The MT eGrants Service Desk is available Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM Eastern Time (ET). For programmatic or grants management questions, please contact your Program Analyst or Grants Specialist. If applicants do not know who to contact or if there are programmatic questions or concerns, please contact the FEMA Grants Information Desk by e-mail at fema.dhs.gov OR by phone at (800) 368-6498, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET.

c. Anticipated Award Date: No later than 08/30/2024

d. Other Key Dates

Event	Suggested Deadline for Completion
Initial registration in SAM.gov includes UEI issuance	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Obtaining a valid Employer Identification Number (EIN)	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Creating an account with login.gov	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Registering in SAM or Updating SAM registration	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Registering in Grants.gov	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Registering in MT eGrants	Four weeks before actual submission deadline
Submitting the final application in MT eGrants	By the submission deadline

2. Agreeing to Terms and Conditions of the Award

By submitting an application, applicants agree to comply with the requirements of this NOFO and the terms and conditions of the award, should they receive an award.

3. Address to Request Application Package

Applications are completed and submitted through FEMA's MT eGrants System. Application forms and instructions are available at Grants.gov. To access these materials, go to http://www.grants.gov.

Hard copies of the NOFO can be downloaded at <u>Grants.gov</u> or obtained via email from the Awarding Office points of contact listed in Section G of this NOFO, "DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information" or by TTY (800) 462-7585.

For a hard copy of the full NOFO, please write a request to:

Gerilee Bennett

Director, Hazard Mitigation Assistance Division, Hazard Mitigation Directorate Resilience

Federal Emergency Management Agency

400 C Street, SW

Washington, DC 20472

4. Requirements: Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) and Register in the System for Award Management (SAM.gov)

Each applicant, unless they have a valid exception under 2 CFR §25.110, must:

- a. Be registered in Sam.Gov before application submission.
- b. Provide a valid UEI in its application.
- c. Continue to always maintain an active SAM registration with current information during the federal award process. Note: Per 2 C.F.R. § 25.300, subrecipients are NOT required to go through the full SAM registration process. First-tier subrecipients (meaning entities receiving

funds directly from the recipient) are only required to obtain a UEI through SAM, but they are not required to complete the full SAM registration in order to obtain a UEI. Recipients may not make subawards unless the subrecipient has obtained and provided the UEI.

Lower-tier subrecipients (meaning entities receiving funds passed through by a higher-tier subrecipient) are not required to have a UEI and are not required to register in SAM. Applicants are also not permitted to require subrecipients to complete a full registration in SAM beyond obtaining the UEI.

5. Steps Required to Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier, Register in the System for Award Management (SAM), and Submit an Application

Applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. Applicants are encouraged to register early as the registration process can take four weeks or more to complete. Therefore, registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact your ability to meet required submission deadlines.

Please review the table above for estimated deadlines to complete each of the steps listed. Failure of an applicant to comply with any of the required steps before the deadline for submitting an application may disqualify that application from funding.

To apply for an award under this program, all applicants must:

- **a.** Apply for, update, or verify their UEI number from SAM.gov and Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service;
- **b.** In the application, provide an UEI number;
- c. Have an account with login.gov;
- **d.** Register for, update, or verify their SAM account and ensure the account is active before submitting the application;
- e. Create a Grants.gov account;
- **f.** Add a profile to a Grants.gov account;
- g. Establish an Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR) in Grants.gov;
- **h.** Register in MT eGrants;
- i. Submit an initial application in Grants.gov;
- **j.** Submit the final application in MT eGrants, including electronically signing applicable forms; and,
- **k.** Continue to maintain an active SAM registration with current information, including information on a recipient's immediate and highest-level owner and subsidiaries, as well on all predecessors that have been awarded a federal contract or grant within the last 3 years, if applicable, at all times during which it has an active federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a federal awarding agency.

Applicants are advised that DHS may not make a federal award until the applicant has complied with all applicable SAM requirements. Therefore, an applicant's SAM registration must be active not only at the time of application, but also during the application review period and when DHS is ready to make a federal award. If an applicant's SAM registration is expired at the time of application, expires during application review, or expires any other time before the federal award, DHS may determine that the applicant is not qualified to

receive a federal award and use that determination as a basis for making a federal award to another applicant. Further, following a federal award, a recipient's SAM registration must remain active for the duration of the federal award. If a recipient's SAM registration expires during the period of performance of the federal award, DHS may take a remedy for noncompliance at 2 C.F.R. § 200.339, which could include terminating the federal award.

Per 2 C.F.R. § 25.110(c)(2)(iii), if an applicant is experiencing exigent circumstances that prevents it from receiving a UEI number and completing SAM registration before receiving a federal award, the applicant must notify FEMA as soon as possible by contacting [See Section G. Contact Information] and providing the details of the circumstances that prevent completion of these requirements. If FEMA determines that there are exigent circumstances and FEMA has decided to make a federal award, the applicant will be required to obtain a UEI number, if applicable, and complete SAM registration within 30 days of the federal award date. The Standard Language for Using Grants.gov to Apply is provided to aid in fulfilling these requirements if applicable, based off of https://www.grants.gov/grantors/grantor-standard-language.html.

Specific instructions on how to apply for, update, or verify a UEI number or SAM registration or establish an AOR are included below in the steps for applying through https://www.grants.gov/.

6. Electronic Delivery

DHS is participating in the Grants.gov initiative to provide the grant community with a single site to find and apply for grant funding opportunities. DHS encourages or requires applicants to submit their applications online through Grants.gov, depending on the funding opportunity.

For this funding opportunity, FEMA requires applicants to submit applications through MT eGrants.

7. How to Register to Apply through Grants.gov

a. General Instructions:

Registering and applying for an award under this program is a multi-step process and requires time to complete. Read the instructions below about registering to apply for FEMA funds. Applicants should read the registration instructions carefully and prepare the information requested before beginning the registration process. Reviewing and assembling the required information before beginning the registration process will alleviate last-minute searches for required information.

The registration process can take up to four weeks to complete. To ensure an application meets the deadline, applicants are advised to start the required steps well in advance of their submission.

Organizations must have an UEI number, an EIN, an active SAM registration and Grants.gov account to apply for a federal award under this funding opportunity.

Organizations must also have a Grants.gov account to apply for an award under this program. Creating a Grants.gov account can be completed online in minutes, but UEI and SAM registrations may take several weeks. Therefore, an organization's registration should be done in sufficient time to ensure it does not impact the entity's ability to meet required application submission deadlines. Complete organization instructions can be found on Grants.gov here:

 $\underline{https://apply07.grants.gov/help/html/help/Register/OrganizationRegistration.htm}$

b. Obtain an UEI Number:

All entities applying for funding, including renewal funding, must have a UEI number. Applicants must enter the UEI number in the applicable data entry field on the SF-424 form.

For more detailed instructions for obtaining a UEI number, refer to: <u>SAM.gov</u>

c. Obtain Employer Identification Number

All entities applying for funding must provide an Employer Identification Number (EIN). The EIN can be obtained from the IRS by visiting: https://www.irs.gov/businesses/small-businesses-self-employed/apply-for-an-employer-identification-number-ein-online.

d. Create a login.gov account:

Applicants must have a login.gov account in order to register with SAM or update their SAM registration. Applicants can create a login.gov account here: https://secure.login.gov/sign_up/enter_email?request_id=34f19fa8-14a2-438c-8323-a62b99571fd3.

Applicants only have to create a login.gov account once. For applicants that are existing SAM users, use the same email address for the login.gov account as with SAM.gov so that the two accounts can be linked.

For more information on the login.gov requirements for SAM registration, refer to: https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/loginFAQ.jsf.

e. Register with SAM:

All applicants applying online through Grants.gov must register with SAM. Failure to register with SAM will prevent an applicant from completing the application in Grants.gov. SAM registration must be renewed annually. Organizations will be issued a UEI number with the completed SAM registration.

For more detailed instructions for registering with SAM, refer to https://apply07.grants.gov/help/html/help/Register/RegisterWithSAM.htm

Note: Per 2 C.F.R. § 25.200, applicants must also provide the applicant's immediate and highest-level owner, subsidiaries, and predecessors that have been awarded federal contracts or federal financial assistance within the last three years, if applicable.

I. ADDITIONAL SAM REMINDERS

Existing SAM.gov account holders should check their account to make sure it is "ACTIVE." SAM registration should be completed at the very beginning of the application period and should be renewed annually to avoid being "INACTIVE." Please allow plenty of time before the grant application submission deadline to obtain an UEI number and then to register in SAM. It may be four weeks or more after an applicant submits the SAM registration before the registration is active in SAM, and then it may be an additional 24 hours before FEMA's system recognizes the information.

It is imperative that the information applicants provide is correct and current. Please ensure that your organization's name, address, and EIN are up to date in SAM and that the UEI number used in SAM is the same one used to apply for all other FEMA awards. Payment under any FEMA award is contingent on the recipient's having a current SAM registration.

II. HELP WITH SAM

The SAM quick start guide for new recipient registration and SAM video tutorial for new applicants are tools created by the General Services Administration (GSA) to assist those registering with SAM. If applicants have questions or concerns about a SAM registration, please contact the Federal Support Desk at https://www.fsd.gov/fsd-gov/home.do or call toll free (866) 606-8220.

f. Register in MT eGrants

Applicants must register in MT eGrants. For more information, see https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_mt-egrants-frequently-asked-questions support document March 2018.pdf.

8. Submitting the Application in MT eGrants

Subapplicants must create project subapplications and submit them to their applicant organization. Subapplicants should contact their applicant agency for information specific to their state's application process. Contact information for the State Hazard Mitigation Officers is provided on the FEMA website at https://www.fema.gov/state-hazard-mitigation-officers. If a subapplicant does not use FEMA's grant application system to submit project subapplications to the applicant, then the applicant must enter the subapplication(s) into MT eGrants on the subapplicant's behalf.

Applicants must review and approve subapplications submitted by their subapplicants.

Applicants must create a PDM grant application and approve the subapplications. The approved project and management costs subapplications may then be submitted and added to the application by the applicant and/or subapplicants.

Applicants will be prompted to submit the standard application information and any program-specific information required as described in Section D.11 of this NOFO, "Content and Form of Application Submission." The Standard Forms (SF) may be accessed in the Forms tab under the SF-424 family on Grants.gov. Applicants should

review these forms before applying to ensure they have all the information required.

After submitting the final application, MT eGrants will provide either an error message or a successfully received transmission in the form of an email sent to the user that submitted the application. Applicants using slow internet connections, such as dial-up connections, should be aware that transmission can take some time before MT eGrants receives your application.

For additional application submission requirements, including program-specific requirements, please refer to the subsection titled "Content and Form of Application Submission" under Section D of this NOFO.

9. Timely Receipt Requirements and Proof of Timely Submission

All applications must be received by the application submission deadline in Section D above. MT eGrants automatically records proof of timely submission and the system generates an electronic date/time stamp when MT eGrants successfully receives the application. The applicants who submit the PDM grant applications prior to the submission deadline will receive a confirmation message, including the assigned PDM application number in FEMA's grant application system (e.g., PDM-01-MA-2017). In addition, once FEMA receives and delegates the PDM grant application to begin the review process, FEMA's grant application system will automatically send an email message to the Point(s) of Contact (POC) identified in the grant application.

Applicants who experience system-related issues will be addressed until 3:00 PM ET on the date applications are due. No new system-related issues will be addressed after this deadline. Applications not received by the application submission deadline will not be accepted.

10. Content and Form of Application Submission

a. Standard Required Application Forms and Information

The following forms or information are required to be submitted via MT eGrants. The Standard Forms (SF) are available at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html. Applicants may require their subapplicants to complete and attach the grant application and/or Assurance and Certifications forms to their subapplications in MT eGrants. Subapplicants should contact their applicant agency for information specific to their state/tribe/territory's application process. Contact information for the State Hazard Mitigation Officers is provided on the FEMA website at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/state-contacts.

I. GRANTS.GOV

- SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, initial application submitted through Grants.gov
- Grants.gov Lobbying Form, Certification Regarding Lobbying, submitted through Grants.gov

II. MT EGRANTS

- SF-424A, Budget Information (Non-Construction), submitted via the forms generated by MT eGrants.
 - o For construction under an award, submit SF-424C, Budget Information (Construction), submitted via the forms generated by MT eGrants, in addition to or instead of SF-424A
- SF-424B, Standard Assurances (Non-Construction), submitted via the forms generated by MT eGrants
 - For construction under an award, submit SF-424D, Standard Assurances (Construction), submitted via the forms generated by MT eGrants, in addition to or instead of SF-424B
- **SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities**, submitted via the forms generated by MT eGrants

Generally, applicants have to submit either the non-construction forms (i.e., SF-424A and SF-424B) or construction forms (i.e., SF-424C and SF-424D), meaning that applicants that only have construction work and do not have any non-construction work need only submit the construction forms (i.e., SF-424C and SF-424D) and not the non-construction forms (i.e., SF-424A and SF-424B), and vice versa. However, applicants who have <u>both</u> construction <u>and</u> non-construction work under this program need to submit both the construction and non-construction forms.

b. Program-Specific Required Forms and Information

The following program-specific forms or information are required to be submitted in MT eGrants:

• Indirect Cost Agreement or Proposal, submitted as an attachment if the budget includes indirect costs and the applicant is required to have an indirect cost rate agreement or proposal. If the applicant does not have or is not required to have an indirect cost rate agreement or proposal, please see Section D.13 of this NOFO, "Funding Restrictions and Allowable Costs," for further information regarding allowability of indirect costs and whether alternatives to an indirect cost rate agreement or proposal might be available or contact the relevant FEMA staff identified in Section G of this NOFO, "DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information" for further instructions.

11. Other Submission Requirements

a. Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) for Mitigation Projects

Applicants and subapplicants applying for mitigation projects must provide a BCA or other documentation that validates cost-effectiveness. FEMA will provide assistance to all applicants and subapplicants with completing their BCA. Through the development of the BCA Toolkit, FEMA created a standardized methodology, specific to mitigation activities, to ensure consistency across applicant and subapplicant benefit cost analyses. In addition to the BCA Toolkit, FEMA provides several streamlined methodologies to demonstrate cost-effectiveness; applicants and

subapplicants should use one of the three standard approaches. In no case will FEMA award a hazard mitigation project that is not cost-effective. Further details on hazard mitigation project cost-effectiveness can be found in the 2023 HMA Program and Policy Guide, Part 5. Cost-Effectiveness or the Benefit-Cost Analysis webpage.

b. NEPA Requirements for Mitigation Projects

Applicants and subapplicants applying for hazard mitigation projects must provide information needed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4370h) and the related Department of Homeland Security and FEMA instructions and directives: DHS Directive 023-01, DHS Instruction Manual 023-01-001-01, FEMA Directive 108-1, and FEMA Instruction 108-1-1. The required information is included in the subapplication in eGrants. EHP Job Aids and Supplements are available on the following webpages: FEMA.gov and FEMA.gov

c. Acquisition Project Requirements

Subrecipients must apply deed-restriction language to all acquired properties to ensure that the property is maintained in perpetuity as open space consistent with natural floodplain functions and allowable uses and structures authorized under 44 C.F.R. Part 80, as agreed to by their accepting FEMA mitigation award funding. Deed-restriction language is applied to acquired properties by recording the open space and deed restrictions with the deed for the property. Subrecipients, as well as recipients and FEMA, are responsible for enforcing open space restrictions.

12. Intergovernmental Review

An intergovernmental review may be required. Applicants must contact their state's Single Point of Contact (SPOC) to comply with the state's process under Executive Order 12372 (See https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/codification/executive-order/12372.html; Intergovernmental Review (SPOC List) (whitehouse.gov)

13. Funding Restrictions and Allowable Costs

All costs charged to federal awards (including both federal funding and any non-federal matching or cost sharing funds) must comply with applicable statutes, rules and regulations, and policies, this NOFO, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. They must also comply with the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements at 2 C.F.R. Part 200 unless otherwise indicated in the NOFO or the terms and conditions of the federal award. This includes, among other requirements, that costs must be incurred and products and services must be delivered within the budget period. 2 C.F.R. § 200.403(h). The following identifies a list of activities for which a recipient may not use federal funds and any cost sharing or matching funds under federal awards:

- Matching or cost sharing requirements for other federal grants and cooperative agreements (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.306)
- Lobbying or other prohibited activities under 18 U.S.C. § 1913 or 2 C.F.R. § 200.450

• Prosecuting claims against the federal government or any other government entity (see 2 C.F.R. § 200.435) See subsections below for information on any other funding restrictions.

a. Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services

Recipients, subrecipients, and their contractors must comply with the prohibitions set forth in Section 889 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019, Pub. L. No. 115-232 (2018) (FY 2019 NDAA) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.216, 200.327, 200.471, and Appendix II to 2 C.F.R. Part 200. The FY 2019 NDAA and these regulations, as they apply to recipients, subrecipients, and their contractors and subcontractors, provide for two distinct prohibitions: (1) prevent the use of federal award funds to procure or obtain covered telecommunications equipment or services; and (2) prevent the use of federal award funds to contract with an entity that uses such covered telecommunications equipment or services. Guidance is available at FEMA Policy #405-143-1 - Prohibitions on Expending FEMA Award Funds for Covered Telecommunications Equipment or Services

Additional guidance is available at <u>Contract Provisions Guide: Navigating Appendix</u> <u>II to Part 200 - Contract Provisions for Non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards (fema.gov).</u>

FEMA recipients and subrecipients **may not** use any FEMA funds under open or new awards to:

- Procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system;
- Enter into, extend, or renew a contract to procure or obtain any equipment, system, or service that uses covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology of any system; or
- Enter into, extend, or renew contracts with entities that use covered telecommunications equipment or services as a substantial or essential component of any system, or as critical technology as part of any system.

I. REPLACEMENT EQUIPMENT AND SERVICES

FEMA grant funding may be permitted to procure replacement equipment and services impacted by this prohibition, provided the costs are otherwise consistent with the requirements of the NOFO.

II. DEFINITIONS

Per section 889(f)(2)-(3) of the FY 2019 NDAA and 2 C.F.R. § 200.216, covered telecommunications equipment or services means:

i. Telecommunications equipment produced by Huawei Technologies Company or ZTE Corporation, (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);

- ii. For the purpose of public safety, security of Government facilities, physical security surveillance of critical infrastructure, and other national security purposes, video surveillance and telecommunications equipment produced by Hytera Communications Corporation, Hangzhou Hikvision Digital Technology Company, or Dahua Technology Company (or any subsidiary or affiliate of such entities);
- iii. Telecommunications or video surveillance services provided by such entities or using such equipment; or
- iv. Telecommunications or video surveillance equipment or services produced or provided by an entity that the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence or the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, reasonably believes to be an entity owned or controlled by, or otherwise connected to, the People's Republic of China.

Examples of the types of products covered by this prohibition include phones, internet, video surveillance, and cloud servers when produced, provided, or used by the entities listed in the definition of "covered telecommunications equipment or services." *See* 2 C.F.R. § 200.471.

b. Pre-Award Costs

Pre-award costs directly related to developing the PDM grant application or subapplication that are incurred prior to the date of the grant award are allowed subject to FEMA's approval at time of award. Such costs may have been incurred prior to application submission, for example gathering NEPA data or developing a BCA (see Section D, Application and Submission Information, of this NOFO), preparing design specifications, or conducting workshops or meetings related to development and submission of subapplications. To be eligible for PDM funding, pre-award costs must be identified as separate line items in the cost estimate of the subapplication. Applicants and subapplicants may identify such pre-award costs as their non-federal cost share.

Pre-award costs may be cost shared or applicants and subapplicants may identify them as their non-federal cost share (see Cost Share or Match subsection in Section C, Eligibility Information, of this NOFO).

Costs associated with implementation of proposed projects in the submitted subapplication that are incurred prior to the date of the grant award are not allowed. Mitigation activities initiated or completed prior to the date of the grant award are not eligible.

Applicants and subapplicants who are not awarded grants or subgrants (awards/subawards) will not receive reimbursement for the corresponding pre-award costs.

c. Indirect Facilities & Administrative (F&A) Costs

Indirect (F&A) costs (IDC) means those costs incurred for a common or joint purpose benefitting more than one cost objective and not readily assignable to the cost objectives specifically benefitted, without effort disproportionate to the results achieved. IDC are allowable by the recipient [and subrecipients] as described in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, including 2 C.F.R. § 200.414. Applicants with a current negotiated IDC rate agreement who desire to charge indirect costs to a federal award must provide a copy of their IDC rate agreement with their applications. Not all applicants are required to have a current negotiated IDC rate agreement. Applicants that are not required to have a negotiated IDC rate agreement but are required to develop an IDC rate proposal must provide a copy of their proposal with their applications. Applicants who do not have a current negotiated IDC rate agreement (including a provisional rate) and wish to charge the de minimis rate must reach out to FEMA for further instructions. Applicants who wish to use a cost allocation plan in lieu of an IDC rate proposal must reach out to the FEMA Point of Contact for further instructions. As it relates to the IDC for subrecipients, a recipient must follow the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.332 and 200.414 in approving the IDC rate for subawards.

e. Management Costs

M&A activities, also referred to as management costs, are those defined as directly relating to the M&A of PDM Grant Program funds, such as financial management and monitoring. A maximum of up to ten percent of the total federal award amount may be used by the recipient for M&A purposes associated with the award. Subrecipients may separately use up to five percent of the project award funds for M&A purposes associated with the award and must include those costs as a separate line item within the project budget.

M&A costs are any indirect costs, any direct administrative costs, and other administrative expenses that are reasonably incurred in administering an award or subaward. Applicant and subapplicant management cost activities directly related to the implementation of the PDM Grant Program, such as subapplication development, geocoding mitigation projects, delivery of technical assistance, or managing awards and staff salary costs, are eligible for PDM funding in accordance with the 2023 HMA Program and Policy Guide.

Applicants may apply for Recipient Management Costs of up to ten percent of the total federal share of each project subaward to manage that specific project. If the applicant would like to apply for Recipient Management Costs, it must be deducted from the subrecipient's JES amount, up to ten percent per subapplication. The recipient must report on the Recipient Management Costs per 2 CFR 200 and the 2023 HMA Program and Policy Guide. Funding appropriated for one project may only be used for that project. Applicant requests for Recipient Management Costs must be submitted in a separate management costs subgrant application in FEMA's grant application system. Recipient Management Costs are 100 percent federally funded.

Subapplicants may include subapplicant management costs of up to five percent of the total of their planning or project subapplication to manage the proposed activity. Subapplicant management cost activities must be added to the Scope of Work section and reflected in the Cost Estimate section of subgrant applications in FEMA's grant application system. Subapplicant management costs must be funded at the project cost share of up to 75% federal share and 25% local share for most projects, or 90% federal and 10% cost share for tribal and small impoverished community projects.

Management costs are only awarded in conjunction with awarded project, project scoping or planning subapplications. Applicants and subapplicants who do not receive awards/subawards for any planning, advance assistance or project subapplications will not receive reimbursement for management costs (see the Review and Selection Process subsection in Section E of this NOFO).

M&A are not operational costs but are necessary costs incurred in direct support of the federal award or as a consequence of it, such as travel, meeting-related expenses, and salaries of full/part-time staff in direct support of the program. As such, M&A costs can be itemized in financial reports.

E. Application Review Information

1. Application Evaluation Criteria

a. Programmatic Criteria

Applications will be reviewed to ensure completeness, adherence to programmatic guidelines, and cost allowability.

b. Financial Integrity Criteria

Prior to making a federal award, FEMA is required by 31 U.S.C. § 3354, as enacted by the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-117 (2020); 41 U.S.C. § 2313; and 2 C.F.R. § 200.206 to review information available through any Office of Management and Budget (OMB)-designated repositories of governmentwide eligibility qualification or financial integrity information, including whether SAM.gov identifies the applicant as being excluded from receiving federal awards or is flagged for any integrity record submission. FEMA may also pose additional questions to the applicant to aid in conducting the pre-award risk review. Therefore, application evaluation criteria may include the following risk-based considerations of the applicant:

- i. Financial stability.
- ii. Quality of management systems and ability to meet management standards.
- iii. History of performance in managing federal award.
- iv. Reports and findings from audits.
- v. Ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements.

c. Supplemental Financial Integrity Criteria and Review

Prior to making a federal award where the anticipated total federal share will be greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, currently \$250,000:

- i. FEMA is required by 41 U.S.C. § 2313 and 2 C.F.R. § 200.206(a)(2) to review and consider any information about the applicant, including information on the applicant's immediate and highest-level owner, subsidiaries, and predecessors, if applicable, that is in the designated integrity and performance system accessible through the System for Award Management (SAM), which is currently the Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS).
- ii. An applicant, at its option, may review information in FAPIIS and comment on any information about itself that a federal awarding agency previously entered.
- iii. FEMA will consider any comments by the applicant, in addition to the other information in FAPIIS, in making a judgment about the applicant's integrity, business ethics, and record of performance under federal awards when completing the review of risk posed by applicants as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.206.

2. Review and Selection Process

FEMA will review subapplications submitted by each applicant to ensure compliance with federal laws and regulation, the HMA Guidance and this NOFO. This includes eligibility of the applicant and subapplicant, eligibility of proposed activities and costs, completeness of the subapplication, cost-effectiveness and engineering feasibility of mitigation projects, eligibility and availability of the non-federal cost share, and alignment with approved State Mitigation Plan and Local and/or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan for mitigation projects. **The deadline to respond to any final Request For Information (RFI) is August 1, 2024.** Subapplicants must submit a formal withdrawal letter for any project not advancing in the awarding process. For more detailed information, see Part 6, Application and Submission Information, of the 2023 HMA Program and Policy Guide.

FEMA will work with applicants and subapplicants to get projects as close to eligible as possible, however, appeals will not be allowed or approved.

F. Federal Award Administration Information

1. Notice of Award

Before accepting the award, the AOR and recipient should carefully read the award package. The award package includes instructions on administering the grant award and the terms and conditions associated with responsibilities under federal awards. Recipients must accept all conditions in this NOFO as well as any specific terms and conditions in the Notice of Award to receive an award under this program.

FEMA will provide the federal award package to the applicant electronically via MT eGrants. Award packages include an Award Letter, Summary Award Memo, Agreement Articles, and Obligating Document. An email notification of the award package will be sent through MT eGrants.

Notification of award approval is made through the MT eGrants system through an automatic electronic mail to the recipient's authorized official listed in the initial application. The recipient should follow the directions in the notification to confirm acceptance of the award.

Recipients must accept their awards no later than 60 days from the award date. The recipient shall notify FEMA of its intent to accept and proceed with work under the award or provide a notice of intent to decline through the MT eGrants system. For instructions on how to accept or decline an award in the MT eGrants system, please see the MT eGrants System Applicant Quick Reference Guide, which is available at fema_mt-egrants-system-reference-guide-for-recipients support <a href="mailto:document_docu

Funds will remain on hold until the recipient accepts the award through the MT eGrants system and all other conditions of the award have been satisfied or until the award is otherwise rescinded. Failure to accept a grant award within the 60-day timeframe may result in a loss of funds.

2. Pass-Through Requirements

Awards made to the State Awarding Agency (SAA) must be passed through to the entities identified in **Appendix A** of this NOFO.

3. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

In addition to the requirements of in this section and in this NOFO, FEMA may place specific terms and conditions on individual awards in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

a. DHS Standard Terms and Conditions

All successful applicants for DHS grant and cooperative agreements are required to comply with DHS Standard Terms and Conditions, which are available online at: DHS Standard Terms and Conditions.

The applicable DHS Standard Terms and Conditions will be those in effect at the time the award was made. What terms and conditions will apply for the award will be clearly stated in the award package at the time of award.

b. Ensuring the Protection of Civil Rights

As the Nation works towards achieving the <u>National Preparedness Goal</u>, it is important to continue to protect the civil rights of individuals. Recipients and subrecipients must carry out their programs and activities, including those related to the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities, in a manner that respects and ensures the protection of civil rights for protected populations.

Federal civil rights statutes, such as Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, along with DHS and FEMA regulations, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, limited English proficiency, or economic status in connection with programs and activities receiving <u>federal financial assistance</u> from FEMA, as applicable.

The DHS Standard Terms and Conditions include a fuller list of the civil rights provisions that apply to recipients. These terms and conditions can be found in the DHS Standard Terms and Conditions. Additional information on civil rights provisions is available at https://www.fema.gov/about/offices/equal-rights/civil-rights.

Monitoring and oversight requirements in connection with recipient compliance with federal civil rights laws are also authorized pursuant to 44 C.F.R. Part 7 or other applicable regulations.

In accordance with civil rights laws and regulations, recipients and subrecipients must ensure the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment.

c. Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (EHP) Compliance
As a federal agency, FEMA is required to consider the effects of its actions on the
environment and historic properties to ensure that all activities and programs funded
by FEMA, including grant-funded projects, comply with federal EHP laws, Executive
Orders, regulations, and policies, as applicable.

Recipients and subrecipients proposing projects that have the potential to impact the environment, including, but not limited to, the construction of communication towers, modification or renovation of existing buildings, structures, and facilities, or new construction including replacement of facilities, must participate in the FEMA EHP review process. The EHP review process involves the submission of a detailed project description along with any supporting documentation requested by FEMA in order to determine whether the proposed project has the potential to impact environmental resources including, but not limited to, threatened or endangered species and historic properties; and identify mitigation measures and/or alternative courses of action that may lessen any impact to those resources.

In some cases, FEMA is also required to consult with other regulatory agencies and the public in order to complete the review process. Federal law requires EHP review to be completed before federal funds are released to carry out proposed projects. FEMA may not be able to fund projects that are not in compliance with applicable EHP laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and policies. FEMA may recommend mitigation measures and/or alternative courses of action to lessen any impact to environmental resources and bring the project into compliance with EHP requirements.

Guidance on the EHP process is found at <u>Environmental Planning and Historic</u> <u>Preservation</u>. The site contains links to various documents including those identifying agency EHP responsibilities and program requirements, such as implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act and other EHP laws, regulations, and

Executive Orders. DHS and FEMA EHP policy is also found in the EHP Directive & Instruction.

All FEMA actions, including grant-funded actions, must comply with National Flood Insurance Program criteria or any more restrictive federal, state, or local floodplain management standards or building code (44 CFR § 9.11(d)(6)).

All FEMA-funded non-critical actions in 1% annual chance floodplains (also known as 100-year floodplains) that involve structure elevation, mitigation reconstruction, dry floodproofing, new construction, repair of substantial damage or substantial improvement of structures must be elevated or floodproofed, at a minimum, to the lower of:

- Two feet above the 1% annual chance flood elevation (also known as the base flood elevation), in accordance with the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) "Freeboard Value Approach" (FVA); or
- The 0.2% annual chance flood elevation. Where 0.2% annual chance flood elevations are not available, such actions must be elevated to at least two feet above the 1% annual chance flood elevation.

All FEMA-funded critical actions in 1% annual chance floodplains or 0.2% annual chance floodplains (also known as 500-year floodplains) that involve structure elevation, mitigation reconstruction, dry floodproofing, new construction, repair of substantial damage or substantial improvement of structures must be elevated, at a minimum, to the higher of:

- Three feet above the 1% annual chance flood elevation; or
- The 0.2% annual chance flood elevation. Where 0.2% annual chance flood elevations are not available, such actions must be elevated to at least three feet above the 1% annual chance flood elevation.

See Executive Order 11988, *Floodplain Management*, as amended by Executive Order 13690, *Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input*, and the <u>2023 HMA Program and Policy Guide</u>.

Individual FEMA programs have separate procedures to conduct and document EHP review. Guidance for individual grant programs is available from applicable program offices.

Presidential EO 11988: Floodplain Management and EO 11990: Protection of Wetlands require that all federal actions in or affecting the floodplain or wetlands be reviewed for opportunities to relocate, and be evaluated for social, economic, historical, environmental, legal and safety considerations. FEMA's regulations at 44 C.F.R. Part 9 implement the EOs and require an 8-step review process if a proposed action is located in a floodplain or wetland consistent with 44 C.F.R. § 9.6. The regulation also requires that the federal agency provide public notice of the proposed action at the earliest possible time to provide the opportunity for public involvement

in the decision-making process (44 C.F.R. § 9.8). Where there is no opportunity to relocate the federal action, FEMA is required to undertake a detailed review to determine what measures can be taken to minimize future damages to the floodplain or wetland.

Through this NOFO, FEMA is giving notice of projects that may be funded under the PDM program, consistent with the requirements of Section 9.8. The public is invited to participate in the process of identifying alternatives to locating a proposed project in the floodplain or wetland and analyzing the impacts of the alternatives on the floodplain or wetland. Comments may be provided by emailing fema-oehp-nofoquestions@fema.dhs.gov within 15 days of its issuance. While analyzing alternatives, FEMA may determine there are no practicable alternatives to carrying out the proposed work within the floodplain or wetland. Relocating facilities may not be practicable and could adversely impact affected communities socially and economically.

In addition, no alternative actions may be practicable that serve the same purpose and have less potential to affect or be affected by the floodplain. The no action option would not be appropriate as it would fail to meet the purpose and need of the community. In the course of developing project proposals, subsequent public notices will be published, if necessary, as more specific information becomes available.

d. Construction Project Requirements

Acceptance of federal funding requires FEMA, the recipient, and any subrecipients to comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations prior to the start of any construction activity. Failure to obtain all appropriate federal, state, and local environmental permits and clearances may jeopardize federal funding. Also:

- a. Any change to the approved scope of work will require re-evaluation by FEMA for recipient and subrecipient compliance with the NEPA and other laws, regulations and executive orders.
- b. If ground-disturbing activities occur during construction, the recipient and any subrecipients must ensure monitoring of ground disturbance, and if any potential archaeological resources are discovered, the subrecipient will immediately cease construction in that area and notify the recipient and FEMA.
- c. In compliance with 42 U.S.C. 4012a(a), when financial assistance is approved for acquisition or construction purposes within the SFHA, for structures in the SFHA at the time of project completion, flood insurance shall be maintained for the life of the property regardless of transfer of ownership for any properties.

e. Mandatory Disclosures

The non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. (2CFR 200.113)

Please note applicants and recipients may report issues of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, or other criminal or noncriminal misconduct to the <u>Office of</u>

<u>Inspector General (OIG) Hotline</u>. The toll-free numbers to call are 1 (800) 323-8603, and TTY 1 (844) 889-4357.

4. Reporting

Recipients are required to submit various financial and programmatic reports as a condition of award acceptance. Future awards and funds drawdown may be withheld if these reports are delinquent.

a. Financial Reporting Requirements

I. FEDERAL FINANCIAL REPORT (FFR)

Recipients must report obligations and expenditures through the FFR form (SF-425) to FEMA.

Recipients may review the Federal Financial Reporting Form (FFR) (SF-425) at https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/forms/sample/SF425-V1.0.pdf

Recipients must file the FFR electronically using the Payment and Reporting Systems (PARS).

II. FFR REPORTING PERIODS AND DUE DATES

An FFR must be submitted quarterly throughout the POP, including partial calendar quarters, as well as in periods where no grant award activity occurs. The final FFR is due within 120 calendar days after the end of the POP. Future awards and fund drawdowns may be withheld if these reports are delinquent, demonstrate lack of progress, or are insufficient in detail.

Except for the final FFR due at 120 days after the end of the POP for purposes of closeout, the following reporting periods and due dates apply for the FFR:

Reporting Period	Report Due Date
October 1 – December 31	January 30
January 1 – March 31	April 30
April 1 – June 30	July 30
July 1 – September 30	October 30

b. Programmatic Performance Reporting Requirements

I. PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT (PPR)

In addition to the FFR reports, Recipients must report on the progress of the grant on a quarterly basis to DHS/FEMA using the Quarterly Performance Report (QPR) in MT eGrants. The QPRs must be submitted electronically in FEMA's grant application system quarterly throughout the POP, including partial calendar quarters, as well as for periods where no grant award activity occurs. Reports are

due within 30 days from the end of the first federal quarter following the initial grant award and thereafter until the grant ends.

c. Closeout Reporting Requirements

I. CLOSEOUT REPORTING

Within 120 calendar days after the end of the period of performance for the prime award or after an amendment has been issued to close out an award before the original POP ends, recipients must liquidate all financial obligations and must submit the following:

- i. The final request for payment, if applicable.
- ii. The final FFR (SF-425).
- iii. The final progress report detailing all accomplishments, including a narrative summary of the impact of those accomplishments throughout the period of performance. If applicable The recipient must include with the final progress report an inventory of all construction projects.
- iv. Other documents required by this NOFO, terms and conditions of the award, or other FEMA guidance. If the final FFR and performance report periods coincide with the end of the period of performance, FEMA has discretion under 2 C.F.R. Part 200 to waive the last quarterly/semiannual/annual reports and only require the final FFR and performance report for closeout purposes. The recipient is responsible for returning any balances of unobligated or unliquidated funds that have been drawn down that are not authorized to be retained per 2 C.F.R. § 200.344(d).

In addition, pass-through entities are responsible for closing out their subawards as described in 2 C.F.R. § 200.344; subrecipients are still required to submit closeout materials within 90 calendar days of the period of performance end date. When a subrecipient completes all closeout requirements, pass-through entities must promptly complete all closeout actions for subawards in time for the recipient to submit all necessary documentation and information to FEMA during the closeout of the prime award.

After the prime award closeout reports have been reviewed and approved by FEMA, a closeout notice will be completed to close out the grant. The notice will indicate the period of performance as closed, list any remaining funds that will be deobligated, and address the requirement of maintaining the grant records for at least three years from the date of the final FFR. The record retention period may be longer, such as due to an audit or litigation, for equipment or real property used beyond the period of performance, or due to other circumstances outlined in 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

The recipient is responsible for refunding to FEMA any balances of unobligated cash that FEMA paid that are not authorized to be retained per 2 C.F.R. § 200.344(d).

II. ADMINISTRATIVE CLOSEOUT

Administrative closeout is a mechanism for FEMA to unilaterally move forward with closeout of an award using available award information in lieu of final reports from the recipient per 2 C.F.R. § 200.344(h)-(i). It is a last resort available to FEMA, and if FEMA needs to administratively close an award, this may negatively impact a recipient's ability to obtain future funding. This mechanism can also require FEMA to make cash or cost adjustments and ineligible cost determinations based on the information it has, which may result in identifying a debt owed to FEMA by the recipient.

When a recipient is not responsive to FEMA's reasonable efforts to collect required reports needed to complete the standard closeout process, FEMA is required under 2 C.F.R. § 200.344(h) to start the administrative closeout process within the regulatory timeframe. FEMA will make at least three written attempts to collect required reports before initiating administrative closeout. If the recipient does not submit all required reports in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.344, this NOFO, and the terms and conditions of the award, FEMA must proceed to administratively close the award with the information available within one year of the period of performance end date. Additionally, if the recipient does not submit all required reports within one year of the period of performance end date, per 2 C.F.R. § 200.344(i), FEMA must report in Contracting Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) the recipient's material failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the award.

If FEMA administratively closes an award where no final FFR has been submitted, FEMA uses that administrative closeout date in lieu of the final FFR submission date as the start of the record retention period under 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

In addition, if an award is administratively closed, FEMA may decide to impose remedies for noncompliance per 2 C.F.R. § 200.339, consider this information in reviewing future award applications, or apply special conditions to existing or future awards.

d. Additional Reporting Requirements

I. DISCLOSING INFORMATION PER 2 C.F.R. § 180.335

This reporting requirement pertains to disclosing information related to government-wide suspension and debarment requirements. Before a recipient enters into a grant award with FEMA, the recipient must notify FEMA if it knows if it or any of the recipient's principals under the award fall under one or more of the four criteria listed at 2 C.F.R. § 180.335:

- i. Are presently excluded or disqualified;
- ii. Have been convicted within the preceding three years of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a) or had a civil judgment rendered against it or any of the recipient's principals for one of those offenses within that time period;

- iii. Are presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a governmental entity (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses listed in 2 C.F.R. § 180.800(a); or
- iv. Have had one or more public transactions (federal, state, or local) terminated within the preceding three years for cause or default.

At any time after accepting the award, if the recipient learns that it or any of its principals falls under one or more of the criteria listed at 2 C.F.R. § 180.335, the recipient must provide immediate written notice to FEMA in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 180.350.

II. REPORTING OF MATTERS RELATED TO RECIPIENT INTEGRITY AND PERFORMANCE

Appendix XII to 2 C.F.R. Part 200 sets forth a term and condition related to recipient integrity and performance matters that will apply to all federal awards under this funding opportunity. If the total value of currently active grants, cooperative agreements, and procurement contracts from all federal awarding agencies exceeds \$10,000,000 for any period of time during the period of performance of a federal award under this funding opportunity, then a recipient must maintain the currency of information reported in the Contracting Performance Assessment Reporting System (CPARS) about civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings described in paragraph 2 of Appendix XII at the reporting frequency described in paragraph 4 of Appendix XII.

III. SINGLE AUDIT REPORT

A recipient that expends \$750,000 or more during the recipient's fiscal year in federal awards (as defined by 2 C.F.R. § 200.1) must have a single audit conducted in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.514 except when it elects to have a program-specific audit conducted in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.501. The audit must be conducted in accordance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F and, as required by 2 C.F.R. § 200.514, in accordance with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards, which can be found on the Yellow Book page of the GAO website.

5. Monitoring and Oversight

The regulation at 2 C.F.R. § 200.337 provides DHS and any of its authorized representatives with the right of access to any documents, papers, or other records of the recipient [and any subrecipients] that are pertinent to a federal award in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts. The right also includes timely and reasonable access to the recipient's or subrecipient's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents. Pursuant to this right and per 2 C.F.R. § 200.329, DHS may conduct desk reviews and make site visits to review project accomplishments and management control systems to evaluate project accomplishments and to provide any required technical assistance. During site visits, DHS may review a recipient's or subrecipient's files pertinent to the federal award and interview and/or discuss these files with the recipient's or subrecipient's personnel. Recipients and subrecipients must respond in a timely and accurate manner to DHS requests for information relating to a federal award.

Effective monitoring and oversight help FEMA ensure that recipients use grant funds for their intended purpose(s); verify that projects undertaken are consistent with approved plans; and ensure that recipients make adequate progress toward stated goals and objectives. Additionally, monitoring serves as the primary mechanism to ensure that recipients comply with applicable laws, rules, regulations, program guidance, and requirements. FEMA regularly monitors all grant programs both financially and programmatically in accordance with federal laws, regulations (including 2 C.F.R. Part 200), program guidance, and the terms and conditions of the award. All monitoring efforts ultimately serve to evaluate progress towards grant goals and proactively target and address issues that may threaten grant success during the period of performance.

FEMA staff will periodically monitor recipients to ensure that administrative processes, policies and procedures, budgets, and other related award criteria are meeting Federal Government-wide and FEMA regulations. Aside from reviewing quarterly financial and programmatic reports, FEMA may also conduct enhanced monitoring through either desk-based reviews, onsite monitoring visits, or both. Enhanced monitoring will involve the review and analysis of the financial compliance and administrative processes, policies, activities, and other attributes of each federal assistance award, and it will identify areas where the recipient may need technical assistance, corrective actions, or other support.

Financial and programmatic monitoring are complementary processes within FEMA's overarching monitoring strategy that function together to ensure effective grants management, accountability, and transparency; validate progress against grant and program goals; and safeguard federal funds against fraud, waste, and abuse. Financial monitoring primarily focuses on statutory and regulatory compliance with administrative grant requirements, while programmatic monitoring seeks to validate and assist in grant progress, targeting issues that may be hindering achievement of project goals and ensuring compliance with the purpose of the grant and grant program. Both monitoring processes are similar in that they feature initial reviews of all open awards, and additional, in-depth monitoring of grants requiring additional attention.

Recipients and subrecipients who are pass-through entities are responsible for monitoring their subrecipients in a manner consistent with the terms of the federal award at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, including 2 C.F.R. § 200.332. This includes the pass-through entity's responsibility to monitor the activities of the subrecipient as necessary to ensure that the subaward is used for authorized purposes, in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the subaward; and that subaward performance goals are achieved.

In terms of overall award management, recipient and subrecipient responsibilities include, but are not limited to: accounting of receipts and expenditures, cash management, maintaining adequate financial records, reporting and refunding expenditures disallowed by audits, monitoring if acting as a pass-through entity, or other assessments and reviews, and ensuring overall compliance with the terms and conditions of the award or subaward, as applicable, including the terms of 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

Cost overruns are not allowed.

G. DHS Awarding Agency Contact Information

1. Contact and Resource Information

a. Program Office Contact

General questions about the PDM Grant Program can be directed to the appropriate FEMA Regional Office or State Hazard Mitigation Officer. Contact information for FEMA Regional Offices is provided at Contact Us | FEMA.gov. Contact information for the State Hazard Mitigation Officers is provided at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/state-contacts.

For questions about FY24 PDM, contact the HMA Helpline by telephone at 1-866-222-3580 or email FEMA-ASK-PDM@fema.dhs.gov.

For questions about cost-effectiveness and FEMA's BCA software, contact the BC Helpline by telephone 1-855-540-6744 or email BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov.

The Feasibility and Effectiveness Helpline is available for guidance on FEMA Building Science publications by email FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov.

For questions about NEPA or EHP requirements, the EHP Helpline is available by email <u>FEMA-EHPHELPLINE@fema.dhs.gov</u>.

Resources intended to help applicants and subapplicants prepare planning subapplications are available on FEMA's webpage at <u>Hazard Mitigation Planning</u> as well as <u>Tribal Mitigation Planning</u> and <u>HMA Grant Application Development (2021)</u> and <u>Considerations for Local Mitigation Planning Grant Subapplication</u>.

FEMA publications that specify the documentation and information necessary for FEMA to review project applications for feasibility and effectiveness, cost-effectiveness, and potential impacts on environmental and cultural resources are available on the FEMA website at https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools.

b. FEMA Grants News

FEMA Grants News is a non-emergency comprehensive management and information resource developed by FEMA for grants stakeholders. This channel provides general information on all FEMA grant programs and maintains a comprehensive database containing key personnel contact information at the federal, state, and local levels. When necessary, recipients will be directed to a federal point of contact who can answer specific programmatic questions or concerns. FEMA Grants News Team can be reached by e-mail at fema.dhs.gov OR by phone at (800) 368-6498, Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM ET.

c. FEMA Regional Offices

FEMA Regional Offices manage, administer, and conduct the application budget review, create the award package, approve, amend, and close out awards, as well as conduct cash analysis, financial and programmatic monitoring, and audit resolution for PDM. The Regions also provide technical assistance to PDM recipients.

FEMA Regional Office contact information is available at https://www.fema.gov/fema-regional-contacts.

d. Equal Rights

The FEMA Office of Equal Rights (OER) is responsible for compliance with and enforcement of federal civil rights obligations in connection with programs and services conducted by FEMA and recipients of FEMA financial assistance. All inquiries and communications about federal civil rights compliance for FEMA grants under this NOFO should be sent to FEMA-CivilRightsOffice@fema.dhs.gov.

e. Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation

The FEMA Office of Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation (OEHP) provides guidance and information about the EHP review process to FEMA programs and FEMA's recipients and subrecipients. All inquiries and communications about EHP compliance for FEMA grant projects under this NOFO or the EHP review process should be sent to fema-oehp-nofoquestions@fema.dhs.gov.

2. Systems Information

a. Mitigation eGrants (MT eGrants)

For technical assistance with the MT eGrants, please contact the Mitigation eGrants Helpdesk at mtegrants@fema.dhs.gov.

Information, training, and resources on MT eGrants are available on the FEMA website at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/mitigation-egrants-system-resources. Frequently asked question can be found at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_mt-egrants-frequently-asked-questions_support_document_March_2018.pdf

b. Payment and Reporting System (PARS)

FEMA uses the <u>Payment and Reporting System (PARS)</u> for financial reporting, invoicing, and tracking payments. FEMA uses the Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT) method of payment to recipients. If you have questions about the online system, please call the Customer Service Center at (866) 927-5646 or email <u>ask-GMD@fema.dhs.gov</u>.

H. Additional Information

1. Termination Provisions

FEMA may terminate a federal award in whole or in part for one of the following reasons. FEMA and the recipient must still comply with closeout requirements at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.344-200.345 even if an award is terminated in whole or in part. To the extent that subawards are permitted under this NOFO, pass-through entities should refer to 2 C.F.R. § 200.340 for additional information on termination regarding subawards.

a. Noncompliance

If a recipient fails to comply with the terms and conditions of a federal award, FEMA may terminate the award in whole or in part. If the noncompliance can be corrected, FEMA may first attempt to direct the recipient to correct the noncompliance. This

may take the form of a Compliance Notification. If the noncompliance cannot be corrected or the recipient is non-responsive, FEMA may proceed with a Remedy Notification, which could impose a remedy for noncompliance per 2 C.F.R. § 200.339, including termination. Any action to terminate based on noncompliance will follow the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.341-200.342 as well as the requirement of 2 C.F.R. § 200.340(c) to report in FAPIIS the recipient's material failure to comply with the award terms and conditions. See also the section on Actions to Address Noncompliance in this NOFO.

b. With the Consent of the Recipient

FEMA may also terminate an award in whole or in part with the consent of the recipient, in which case the parties must agree upon the termination conditions, including the effective date, and in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.

c. Notification by the Recipient

The recipient may terminate the award, in whole or in part, by sending written notification to FEMA setting forth the reasons for such termination, the effective date, and in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. In the case of partial termination, FEMA may determine that a partially terminated award will not accomplish the purpose of the federal award, so FEMA may terminate the award in its entirety. If that occurs, FEMA will follow the requirements of 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.341-200.342 in deciding to fully terminate the award.

2. Program Evaluation

Federal agencies are required to structure NOFOs that incorporate program evaluation activities from the outset of their program design and implementation to meaningfully document and measure their progress towards meeting agency priority goal(s) and program outcomes.

OMB Memorandum M-21-27, Evidence-Based Policymaking: Learning Agendas and Annual Evaluation Plans, implementing Title I of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018, Pub. L. No. 115-435 (2019) (Evidence Act), urges federal awarding agencies to use program evaluation as a critical tool to learn, improve equitable delivery, and elevate program service and delivery across the program lifecycle. Evaluation means "an assessment using systematic data collection and analysis of one or more programs, policies, and organizations intended to assess their effectiveness and efficiency." Evidence Act, § 101 (codified at 5 U.S.C. § 311).

As such, recipients and subrecipients are required to participate in a DHS-, Component, or Program Office-led evaluation if selected, which may be carried out by a third-party on behalf of the DHS, its component agencies, or the Program Office. Such an evaluation may involve information collections including but not limited to surveys, interviews, or discussions with individuals who benefit from the federal award program operating personnel, and award recipients, as specified in a DHS-, component agency-, or Program Office-approved evaluation plan. More details about evaluation requirements may be provided in the federal award, if available at that time, or following the award as evaluation

requirements are finalized. Evaluation costs incurred during the period of performance are allowable costs (either as direct or indirect) Recipients and subrecipients are also encouraged, but not required, to participate in any additional evaluations after the period of performance ends, although any costs incurred to participate in such evaluations are not allowable and may not be charged to the federal award.

3. Period of Performance Extensions

Extensions to the period of performance (POP) for this program are allowed. Extensions to the POP identified in the award will only be considered through formal, written requests to the recipient's FEMA Program Analyst and must contain specific and compelling justifications as to why an extension is required. Recipients are advised to coordinate with the FEMA Program Analyst as needed when preparing an extension request.

All extension requests must address the following:

- a. The grant program, fiscal year, and award number;
- b. Reason for the delay –including details of the legal, policy, or operational challenges that prevent the final outlay of awarded funds by the deadline;
- c. Current status of the activity(ies);
- d. Approved POP termination date and new project completion date;
- e. Amount of funds drawn down to date:
- f. Remaining available funds, both federal and, if applicable, non-federal;
- g. Budget outlining how remaining federal and, if applicable, non-federal funds will be expended;
- h. Plan for completion, including milestones and timeframes for achieving each milestone and the position or person responsible for implementing the plan for completion; and
- i. Certification that the activity(ies) will be completed within the extended POP without any modification to the original statement of work, as described in the investment justification and as approved by FEMA.

Extension requests will be granted only due to compelling legal, policy, or operational challenges. Extension requests will only be considered for the following reasons:

- Contractual commitments by the recipient or subrecipient with vendors prevent completion of the project, including delivery of equipment or services, within the existing POP;
- The project must undergo a complex environmental review that cannot be completed within the existing POP;
- Projects are long-term by design, and therefore acceleration would compromise core programmatic goals; or
- Where other special or extenuating circumstances exist.

Recipients should submit all proposed extension requests to FEMA for review and approval at least 60 days prior to the end of the POP to allow sufficient processing time. Based on sufficiency of justification, the FEMA Regional Administrator can issue extensions of the POP not to exceed September 30, 2028.

No additional federal funds will be awarded as part of period of performance extensions.

4. Disability Integration

Pursuant to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, recipients of FEMA financial assistance must ensure that their programs and activities do not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities.

Grant and cooperative agreement recipients should engage with the whole community to advance individual and community preparedness and to work as a nation to build and sustain resilience. In doing so, recipients are encouraged to consider the needs of individuals with disabilities into the activities and projects funded by the grant or cooperative agreement.

FEMA expects that the integration of the needs of people with disabilities will occur at all levels, including planning; alerting, notification, and public outreach; training; purchasing of equipment and supplies; protective action implementation; and exercises/drills.

The following are examples that demonstrate the integration of the needs of people with disabilities in carrying out FEMA awards:

- Include representatives of organizations that work with/for people with disabilities on planning committees, work groups and other bodies engaged in development and implementation of the grant programs and activities.
- Hold all activities related to the grant in locations that are accessible to persons with physical disabilities and intellectual disabilities to the extent practicable.
- Provide auxiliary aids and services, including American Sign Language interpreters, that provide public information across the community and in shelters.
- Ensure shelter-specific grant funds are in alignment with FEMA's <u>Guidance on Planning for Integration of Functional Needs Support Services in General Population Shelters.</u>
- If making alterations to an existing building to a primary function area utilizing federal funds, complying with the most recent codes and standards and making path of travel to the primary function area accessible to the greatest extent possible.
- Implement specific procedures used by public transportation agencies that include evacuation and passenger communication plans and measures for individuals with disabilities.
- Identify, create, and deliver training to address any training gaps specifically aimed toward whole-community preparedness. Include and interact with individuals with disabilities, aligning with the designated program capability.
- Establish best practices in inclusive planning and preparedness that consider physical access, needs of individuals with intellectual disabilities, and information access

FEMA grant recipients can fund projects towards the resiliency of the whole community, including people with disabilities, such as training, outreach and safety campaigns, provided that the project aligns with this NOFO and the terms and conditions of the award.

5. Conflicts of Interest in the Administration of Federal Awards or Subawards

For conflicts of interest under grant-funded procurements and contracts, refer to the section on Procurement Integrity in this NOFO and 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.327.

To eliminate and reduce the impact of conflicts of interest in the subaward process, recipients and pass-through entities must follow their own policies and procedures regarding the elimination or reduction of conflicts of interest when making subawards. Recipients and pass-through entities are also required to follow any applicable federal and state, local, tribal, or territorial (SLTT) statutes or regulations governing conflicts of interest in the making of subawards.

The recipient or pass-through entity must disclose to the respective Program Analyst or Program Manager, in writing, any real or potential conflict of interest that may arise during the administration of the federal award, as defined by the federal or SLTT statutes or regulations or their own existing policies, within five days of learning of the conflict of interest. Similarly, subrecipients, whether acting as subrecipients or as pass-through entities, must disclose any real or potential conflict of interest to the recipient or next-level pass-through entity as required by the recipient or pass-through entity's conflict of interest policies, or any applicable federal or SLTT statutes or regulations.

Conflicts of interest may arise during the process of FEMA making a federal award in situations where an employee, officer, or agent, any members of his or her immediate family, his or her partner has a close personal relationship, a business relationship, or a professional relationship, with an applicant, subapplicant, recipient, subrecipient, or FEMA employees.

6. Procurement Integrity

Through audits conducted by the DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) and FEMA grant monitoring, findings have shown that some FEMA recipients have not fully adhered to the proper procurement requirements at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.327 when spending grant funds. Anything less than full compliance with federal procurement requirements jeopardizes the integrity of the grant as well as the grant program. To assist with determining whether an action is a procurement or instead a subaward, please consult 2 C.F.R. § 200.331. For detailed guidance on the federal procurement standards, recipients and subrecipients should refer to various materials issued by FEMA's Procurement Disaster Assistance Team (PDAT), such as the PDAT Field Manual and Contract Provisions Guide. Additional resources, including an upcoming trainings schedule can be found on the PDAT Website: https://www.fema.gov/grants/procurement.

The below highlights the federal procurement requirements for FEMA recipients when procuring goods and services with federal grant funds. FEMA will include a review of recipients' procurement practices as part of the normal monitoring activities. All procurement activity must be conducted in accordance with federal procurement standards at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.327. Select requirements under these standards are listed below. The recipient and any of its subrecipients must comply with all requirements, even if they are not listed below.

Under 2 C.F.R. § 200.317, when procuring property and services under a federal award, states (including territories) must follow the same policies and procedures they use for procurements from their non-federal funds; additionally, states must now follow 2 C.F.R. § 200.321 regarding socioeconomic steps, 200.322 regarding domestic preferences for procurements, 200.323 regarding procurement of recovered materials, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.327 regarding required contract provisions.

All other non-federal entities, such as tribes (collectively, non-state entities), must have and use their own documented procurement procedures that reflect applicable SLTT laws and regulations, provided that the procurements conform to applicable federal law and the standards identified in 2 C.F.R. Part 200. These standards include, but are not limited to, providing for full and open competition consistent with the standards of 2 C.F.R. § 200.319 and the required procurement methods at § 200.320.

a. Important Changes to Procurement Standards in 2 C.F.R. Part 200

States are now required to follow the socioeconomic steps in soliciting small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms per 2 C.F.R. § 200.321. All non-federal entities should also, to the greatest extent practicable under a federal award, provide a preference for the purchase, acquisition, or use of goods, products, or materials produced in the United States per 2 C.F.R. § 200.322. More information on OMB's revisions to the federal procurement standards can be found in Purchasing Under a FEMA Award: OMB Revisions Fact Sheet.

The recognized procurement methods in 2 C.F.R. § 200.320 have been reorganized into informal procurement methods, which include micro-purchases and small purchases; formal procurement methods, which include sealed bidding and competitive proposals; and noncompetitive procurements. The federal micro-purchase threshold is currently \$10,000, and non-state entities may use a lower threshold when using micro-purchase procedures under a FEMA award. If a non-state entity wants to use a micro-purchase threshold higher than the federal threshold, it must follow the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.320(a)(1)(iii)-(v). The federal simplified acquisition threshold is currently \$250,000, and a non-state entity may use a lower threshold but may not exceed the federal threshold when using small purchase procedures under a FEMA award. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.1 (citing the definition of simplified acquisition threshold from 48 C.F.R. Part 2, Subpart 2.1).

See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.216, 200.471, and Appendix II as well as section D.13.a of the NOFO regarding prohibitions on covered telecommunications equipment or services.

b. Competition and Conflicts of Interest

Among the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.319(b) applicable to all non-federal entities other than states, in order to ensure objective contractor performance and eliminate unfair competitive advantage, contractors that develop or draft specifications, requirements, statements of work, or invitations for bids or requests for proposals must be excluded from competing for such procurements. FEMA considers these actions to be an organizational conflict of interest and interprets this restriction as applying to contractors that help a non-federal entity develop its grant application.

project plans, or project budget. This prohibition also applies to the use of former employees to manage the grant or carry out a contract when those former employees worked on such activities while they were employees of the non-federal entity.

Under this prohibition, unless the non-federal entity solicits for and awards a contract covering both development <u>and</u> execution of specifications (or similar elements as described above), and this contract was procured in compliance with 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.327, federal funds cannot be used to pay a contractor to carry out the work if that contractor also worked on the development of those specifications. This rule applies to all contracts funded with federal grant funds, including pre-award costs, such as grant writer fees, as well as post-award costs, such as grant management fees.

Additionally, some of the situations considered to be restrictive of competition include, but are not limited to:

- Placing unreasonable requirements on firms for them to qualify to do business;
- Requiring unnecessary experience and excessive bonding;
- Noncompetitive pricing practices between firms or between affiliated companies;
- Noncompetitive contracts to consultants that are on retainer contracts;
- Organizational conflicts of interest;
- Specifying only a "brand name" product instead of allowing "an equal" product to be offered and describing the performance or other relevant requirements of the procurement; and
- Any arbitrary action in the procurement process.

Per 2 C.F.R. § 200.319(c), non-federal entities other than states must conduct procurements in a manner that prohibits the use of statutorily or administratively imposed SLTT geographical preferences in the evaluation of bids or proposals, except in those cases where applicable federal statutes expressly mandate or encourage geographic preference. Nothing in this section preempts state licensing laws. When contracting for architectural and engineering services, geographic location may be a selection criterion provided its application leaves an appropriate number of qualified firms, given the nature and size of the project, to compete for the contract.

Under 2 C.F.R. § 200.318(c)(1), non-federal entities other than states are required to maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of their employees engaged in the selection, award, and administration of contracts. No employee, officer, or agent may participate in the selection, award, or administration of a contract supported by a federal award if he or she has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Such conflicts of interest would arise when the employee, officer or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization that employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract. The officers, employees, and agents of the non-federal entity may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts. However, non-federal entities may set standards for situations in which the financial interest is not

substantial, or the gift is an unsolicited item of nominal value. The standards of conduct must provide for disciplinary actions to be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the non-federal entity.

Under 2 C.F.R. 200.318(c)(2), if the recipient or subrecipient (other than states) has a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization that is not a state, local, tribal, or territorial government, the non-federal entity must also maintain written standards of conduct covering organizational conflicts of interest. In this context, organizational conflict of interest means that because of a relationship with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the non-federal entity is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a procurement action involving a related organization. The non-federal entity must disclose in writing any potential conflicts of interest to FEMA or the pass-through entity in accordance with applicable FEMA policy.

c. Supply Schedules and Purchasing Programs

Generally, a non-federal entity may seek to procure goods or services from a federal supply schedule, state supply schedule, or group purchasing agreement.

I. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION SCHEDULES

States, tribes, and local governments, and any instrumentality thereof (such as local education agencies or institutions of higher education) may procure goods and services from a General Services Administration (GSA) schedule. GSA offers multiple efficient and effective procurement programs for state, tribal, and local governments, and instrumentalities thereof, to purchase products and services directly from pre-vetted contractors. The GSA Schedules (also referred to as the Multiple Award Schedules and the Federal Supply Schedules) are long-term government-wide contracts with commercial firms that provide access to millions of commercial products and services at volume discount pricing.

Information about GSA programs for states, tribes, and local governments, and instrumentalities thereof, can be found at https://www.gsa.gov/resources-for/programs-for-State-and-local-governments and https://www.gsa.gov/buying-selling/purchasing-programs/gsa-schedules/schedule-buyers/state-and-local-governments.

For tribes, local governments, and their instrumentalities that purchase off of a GSA schedule, this will satisfy the federal requirements for full and open competition provided that the recipient follows the GSA ordering procedures; however, tribes, local governments, and their instrumentalities will still need to follow the other rules under 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 – 200.327, such as solicitation of minority businesses, women's business enterprises, small businesses, or labor surplus area firms (§ 200.321), domestic preferences (§ 200.322), contract cost and price (§ 200.324), and required contract provisions (§ 200.327 and Appendix II).

II. OTHER SUPPLY SCHEDULES AND PROGRAMS

For non-federal entities other than states, such as tribes, local governments, and nonprofits, that want to procure goods or services from a state supply schedule, cooperative purchasing program, or other similar program, in order for such procurements to be permissible under federal requirements, the following must be true:

- The procurement of the original contract or purchasing schedule and its use by the non-federal entity complies with state and local law, regulations, and written procurement procedures;
- The state or other entity that originally procured the original contract or purchasing schedule entered into the contract or schedule with the express purpose of making it available to the non-federal entity and other similar types of entities;
- The contract or purchasing schedule specifically allows for such use, and the work to be performed for the non-federal entity falls within the scope of work under the contract as to type, amount, and geography;
- The procurement of the original contract or purchasing schedule complied with all the procurement standards applicable to a non-federal entity other than states under at 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 200.327; and
- With respect to the use of a purchasing schedule, the non-federal entity must follow ordering procedures that adhere to applicable state, tribal, and local laws and regulations and the minimum requirements of full and open competition under 2 C.F.R. Part 200.

If a non-federal entity other than a state seeks to use a state supply schedule, cooperative purchasing program, or other similar type of arrangement, FEMA recommends the recipient discuss the procurement plans with its FEMA Program Analyst.

d. Procurement Documentation

Per 2 C.F.R. § 200.318(i), non-federal entities other than states and territories are required to maintain and retain records sufficient to detail the history of procurement covering at least the rationale for the procurement method, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, and the basis for the contract price. States and territories are encouraged to maintain and retain this information as well and are reminded that in order for any cost to be allowable, it must be adequately documented per 2 C.F.R. § 200.403(g).

Examples of the types of documents that would cover this information include but are not limited to:

- Solicitation documentation, such as requests for quotes, invitations for bids, or requests for proposals;
- Responses to solicitations, such as quotes, bids, or proposals;
- Pre-solicitation independent cost estimates and post-solicitation cost/price analyses on file for review by federal personnel, if applicable;
- Contract documents and amendments, including required contract provisions; and

- Other documents required by federal regulations applicable at the time a grant is awarded to a recipient.
- Additional information on required procurement records can be found on pages 24-26 of the PDAT Field Manual.

7. Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure

a. Build America, Buy America Act

Recipients and subrecipients must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA), which was enacted as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act §§ 70901-70927, Pub. L. No. 117-58 (2021); and Executive Order 14005, Ensuring the Future is Made in All of America by All of America's Workers. See also 2 C.F.R. Part 184 and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-24-02, Implementation Guidance on Application of Buy America Preference in Federal Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure.

None of the funds provided under this program may be used for a project for infrastructure unless the iron and steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in that infrastructure are produced in the United States.

The Buy America preference only applies to articles, materials, and supplies that are consumed in, incorporated into, or affixed to an infrastructure project. As such, it does not apply to tools, equipment, and supplies, such as temporary scaffolding, brought to the construction site and removed at or before the completion of the infrastructure project. Nor does a Buy America preference apply to equipment and furnishings, such as movable chairs, desks, and portable computer equipment, that are used at or within the finished infrastructure project but are not an integral part of the structure or permanently affixed to the infrastructure project.

For FEMA's official policy on BABAA, please see FEMA Policy 207-22-0001: Buy American Preference in FEMA Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure available at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_build-america-buy-america-act-policy.pdf. To see whether a particular FEMA federal financial assistance program is considered an infrastructure program and thus required to include a Buy America preference, please see Programs and Definitions: Build-America, Buy America Act | FEMA.gov. and https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_build-america-buy-america-act-policy.pdf

b. Waivers

When necessary, recipients (and subrecipients through their pass-through entity) may apply for, and FEMA may grant, a waiver from these requirements.

A waiver of the domestic content procurement preference may be granted by the agency awarding official if FEMA determines that:

• Applying the domestic content procurement preference would be inconsistent with the public interest.

- The types of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality.
- The inclusion of iron, steel, manufactured products, or construction materials produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25%.

For FEMA awards, the process for requesting a waiver from the Buy America preference requirements can be found on FEMA's website at: "Buy America" Preference in FEMA Financial Assistance Programs for Infrastructure | FEMA.gov.

c. Definitions

For BABAA specific definitions, please refer to the FEMA Buy America website at: "Programs and Definitions: Build America, Buy America Act | FEMA.gov."

Please refer to the applicable DHS Standard Terms & Conditions for the BABAA specific term applicable to all FEMA financial assistance awards for infrastructure.

8. Record Retention

a. Record Retention Period

Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other non-Federal entity records pertinent to a Federal award generally must be maintained for <u>at least</u> three years from the date the final FFR is submitted. *See* 2 C.F.R. § 200.334. Further, if the recipient does not submit a final FFR and the award is administratively closed, FEMA uses the date of administrative closeout as the start of the general record retention period.

The record retention period may be longer than three years or have a different start date in certain cases. These include:

- Records for real property and equipment acquired with Federal funds must be retained for **three years after final disposition of the property**. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.334(c).
- If any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the three-year period, the records **must be retained until** all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records **have been resolved and final action taken**. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.334(a).
- The record retention period will be extended if the non-federal entity is notified in writing of the extension by FEMA, the cognizant or oversight agency for audit, or the cognizant agency for indirect costs, or pass-through entity. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.334(b).
- Where FEMA requires recipients to report program income after the period of performance ends, the **program income record retention period begins at the end of the recipient's fiscal year in which program income is earned**. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.334(e).
- For indirect cost rate computations and proposals, cost allocation plans, or any similar accounting computations of the rate at which a particular group of costs is

chargeable (such as computer usage chargeback rates or composite fringe benefit rates), the start of the record retention period depends on whether the indirect cost rate documents were submitted for negotiation. If the indirect cost rate documents were submitted for negotiation, the record retention period begins from the date those documents were submitted for negotiation. If indirect cost rate documents were not submitted for negotiation, the record retention period begins at the end of the recipient's fiscal year or other accounting period covered by that indirect cost rate. See 2 C.F.R. § 200.334(f).

b. Types of Records to Retain

FEMA requires that non-federal entities maintain the following documentation for federally funded purchases:

- Specifications
- Solicitations
- Competitive quotes or proposals
- Basis for selection decisions
- Purchase orders
- Contracts
- Invoices
- Cancelled checks

Non-federal entities should keep detailed records of all transactions involving the grant. FEMA may at any time request copies of any relevant documentation and records, including purchasing documentation along with copies of cancelled checks for verification. *See*, *e.g.*, 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.318(i), 200.334, 200.337.

In order for any cost to be allowable, it must be adequately documented per 2 C.F.R. § 200.403(g). Non-federal entities who fail to fully document all purchases may find their expenditures questioned and subsequently disallowed.

9. Actions to Address Noncompliance

Non-federal entities receiving financial assistance funding from FEMA are required to comply with requirements in the terms and conditions of their awards or subawards, including the terms set forth in applicable federal statutes, regulations, NOFOs, and policies. Throughout the award lifecycle or even after an award has been closed, FEMA or the pass-through entity may discover potential or actual noncompliance on the part of a recipient or subrecipient. This potential or actual noncompliance may be discovered through routine monitoring, audits, civil rights complaint investigations and compliance reviews, closeout, or reporting from various sources.

In the case of any potential or actual noncompliance, FEMA may place special conditions on an award per 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.208 and 200.339, FEMA may place a hold on funds until the matter is corrected, or additional information is provided per 2 C.F.R. § 200.339, or it may do both. Similar remedies for noncompliance with certain federal civil rights laws are authorized pursuant to 44 C.F.R. Parts 7 and 19 or other applicable regulations.

In the event the noncompliance is not able to be corrected by imposing additional conditions or the recipient or subrecipient refuses to correct the matter, FEMA may take other remedies allowed under 2 C.F.R. § 200.339. These remedies include actions to disallow costs, recover funds, wholly or partly suspend or terminate the award, initiate suspension and debarment proceedings, withhold further federal awards, or take other remedies that may be legally available. For further information on termination due to noncompliance, see the section on Termination Provisions in the NOFO.

FEMA may discover and take action on noncompliance even after an award has been closed. The closeout of an award does not affect FEMA's right to disallow costs and recover funds as long as the action to disallow costs takes place during the record retention period. See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.334, 200.345(a). Closeout also does not affect the obligation of the non-federal entity to return any funds due as a result of later refunds, corrections, or other transactions. 2 C.F.R. § 200.345(a)(2).

The types of funds FEMA may attempt to recover include, but are not limited to, improper payments, cost share reimbursements, program income, interest earned on advance payments, or equipment disposition amounts.

FEMA may seek to recover disallowed costs through a Notice of Potential Debt Letter, a Remedy Notification, or other letter. The document will describe the potential amount owed, the reason why FEMA is recovering the funds, the recipient's appeal rights, how the amount can be paid, and the consequences for not appealing or paying the amount by the deadline.

If the recipient neither appeals nor pays the amount by the deadline, the amount owed will become final. Potential consequences if the debt is not paid in full or otherwise resolved by the deadline include the assessment of interest, administrative fees, and penalty charges; administratively offsetting the debt against other payable federal funds; and transferring the debt to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for collection.

FEMA notes the following common areas of noncompliance for FEMA's grant programs:

- Insufficient documentation and lack of record retention.
- Failure to follow the procurement under grants requirements.
- Failure to submit closeout documents in a timely manner.
- Failure to follow EHP requirements.
- Failure to comply with the POP deadline.

10. Audits

FEMA grant recipients are subject to audit oversight from multiple entities including the DHS OIG, the GAO, the pass-through entity, or independent auditing firms for single audits, and may cover activities and costs incurred under the award. Auditing agencies such as the DHS OIG, the GAO, and the pass-through entity (if applicable), and FEMA in its oversight capacity, must have access to records pertaining to the FEMA award. Recipients and subrecipients must retain award documents for at least three years from the date the final FFR is submitted, and even longer in many cases subject to the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.334. In the case of administrative closeout, documents must be retained for at least three years from the date of closeout, or longer subject to the requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

If documents are retained longer than the required retention period, the DHS OIG, the GAO, and the pass-through entity, as well as FEMA in its oversight capacity, have the right to access these records as well. See 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.334, 200.337.

Additionally, non-federal entities must comply with the single audit requirements at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F. Specifically, non-federal entities, other than for-profit subrecipients, that expend \$750,000 or more in federal awards during their fiscal year must have a single or program-specific audit conducted for that year in accordance with Subpart F. 2 C.F.R. § 200.501. A single audit covers all federal funds expended during a fiscal year, not just FEMA funds. The cost of audit services may be allowable per 2 C.F.R. § 200.425, but non-federal entities must select auditors in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.509, including following the proper procurement procedures. For additional information on single audit reporting requirements, see section F of this NOFO under the header "Single Audit Report" within the subsection "Additional Reporting Requirements."

The objectives of single audits are to:

- Determine if financial statements conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP);
- Determine whether the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is presented fairly;
- Understand, assess, and test the adequacy of internal controls for compliance with major programs; and
- Determine if the entity complied with applicable laws, regulations, and contracts or grants.

For single audits, the auditee is required to prepare financial statements reflecting its financial position, a schedule of federal award expenditures, and a summary of the status of prior audit findings and questioned costs. The auditee also is required to follow up and take appropriate corrective actions on new and previously issued but not yet addressed audit findings. The auditee must prepare a corrective action plan to address the new audit findings. 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.508, 200.510, 200.511.

Non-federal entities must have an audit conducted, either single or program-specific, of their financial statements and federal expenditures annually or biennially pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.504. Non-federal entities must also follow the information submission requirements of 2 C.F.R. § 200.512, including submitting the audit information to the <u>Federal Audit Clearinghouse</u> within the earlier of 30 calendar days after receipt of the auditor's report(s) or nine months after the end of the audit period. The audit information to be submitted include the data collection form described at 2 C.F.R. § 200.512(c) and Appendix X to 2 C.F.R. Part 200 as well as the reporting package described at 2 C.F.R. § 200.512(b).

The non-federal entity must retain one copy of the data collection form and one copy of the reporting package for three years from the date of submission to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse. 2 C.F.R. § 200.512; see also 2 C.F.R. § 200.517 (setting requirements for retention of documents by the auditor and access to audit records in the auditor's possession).

FEMA, the DHS OIG, the GAO, and the pass-through entity (if applicable), as part of monitoring or as part of an audit, may review a non-federal entity's compliance with the

single audit requirements. In cases of continued inability or unwillingness to have an audit conducted in compliance with 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart F, FEMA and the pass-through entity, if applicable, are required to take appropriate remedial action under 2 C.F.R. § 200.339 for noncompliance, pursuant to 2 C.F.R. § 200.505.

11. Payment Information

FEMA uses the Direct Deposit/Electronic Funds Transfer (DD/EFT) method of payment to recipients.

FEMA utilizes the Payment and Reporting System (PARS) for financial reporting, invoicing and tracking payments. For additional information, refer to https://isource.fema.gov/sf269/execute/LogIn?sawContentMessage=true.

12. Whole Community Preparedness

Preparedness is a shared responsibility that calls for the involvement of everyone—not just the government—in preparedness efforts. By working together, everyone can help keep the nation safe from harm and help keep it resilient when struck by hazards, such as natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and pandemics.

Whole Community includes:

- Individuals and families, including those with access and functional needs
- Businesses
- Faith-based and community organizations
- Nonprofit groups
- Schools and academia
- Media outlets
- All levels of government, including state, local, tribal, territorial, and federal partners

The phrase "Whole Community" often appears in preparedness materials, as it is one of the guiding principles. It means two things:

- 1. Involving people in the development of national preparedness documents.
- 2. Ensuring their roles and responsibilities are reflected in the content of the materials.

13. Report issues of fraud, waste, abuse

Please note, when applying to this notice of funding opportunity and when administering the grant, applicants may report issues of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, or other criminal or noncriminal misconduct to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Hotline. The toll-free numbers to call are 1 (800) 323-8603, and TTY 1 (844) 889-4357.

14. Extraordinary Circumstances

Applicants and subapplicants must have an approved hazard mitigation plan at the time of application submission and at the time of the award; hazard mitigation plans pending adoption are not sufficient. For subawards, FEMA may grant an exception to this requirement through Extraordinary Circumstances (EC) when justification is provided and with concurrence from FEMA Headquarters (Hazard Mitigation Assistance and National Mitigation Planning Program) prior to granting an exception. If this exception is granted, a local or Tribal Mitigation Plan must be approved by FEMA within 12 months of the award of

the project subaward to that community. EC must be requested by the applicant or subapplicant prior to award. Funding holds may **not** be used in lieu of EC to grant an exception for the Planning requirement. EC exists when a determination is made by the applicant, FEMA Region, and FEMA HQ that the proposed project is consistent with the priorities and strategies identified in the State or Tribal (Standard or Enhanced) Mitigation Plan and that the jurisdiction meets at least one of the criteria below.

- The jurisdiction meets the small impoverished community criteria per section C.4 of this NOFO;
- The jurisdiction has been determined to have had insufficient capacity due to lack of available funding, staffing, or other necessary expertise to satisfy the mitigation planning requirement prior to the current disaster or application deadline;
- The jurisdiction has been determined to have been at low risk from hazards because of low frequency of occurrence or minimal damage from previous occurrences as a result of sparse development;
- The jurisdiction experienced significant disruption from a declared disaster or another event that impacts its ability to complete the mitigation planning process prior to award or final approval of a project award; or
- The jurisdiction does not have a mitigation plan for reasons beyond the control of the state, federally recognized tribe, or local community, such as Disaster Relief Fund restrictions that delay FEMA from granting a subaward prior to the expiration of the local or Tribal Mitigation Plan.

For PDM, the applicant must provide written justification that identifies the specific criteria from above or circumstance, explains why there is no longer an impediment to satisfying the mitigation planning requirement, and identifies the specific actions or circumstances that eliminated the deficiency. When a PDM project funding is awarded under EC, the recipient shall acknowledge in writing to the Regional Administrator that a plan will be completed within 12 months of the subaward. The recipient must provide a work plan for completing the local or Tribal Mitigation Plan, including milestones and a timetable, to ensure that the jurisdiction will complete the plan in the required time. This requirement shall be incorporated into the award (both the planning and project subaward agreements, if a planning subaward is also awarded). Written concurrence must be obtained from the Regional Administrator with HQ concurrence.

15. Inflation Reduction Act

Hazard mitigation projects should focus on building resilient communities and when possible reduce climate effects by incentivizing investments in greenhouse-gas reduction strategies, such as the use of low-carbon materials, and low-carbon and net-zero energy projects through implementation of the <u>Inflation Reduction Act of 2022</u> (IRA) as explained in FEMA's <u>Implementation memorandums</u>.

SEC. 70006. FEMA BUILDING MATERIALS PROGRAM.

Through September 30, 2026, the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may provide financial assistance under sections 203(h), 404(a),

and 406(b) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5133(h), 42 U.S.C. 5170c(a), 42 U.S.C. 5172(b)) for:

- (1) costs associated with low-carbon materials; and
- (2) incentives that encourage low-carbon and net-zero energy projects.

Under Section 70006, an applicant is free to propose the use of low-carbon materials as long as the project meets existing program eligibility and compliance criteria.

FEMA encourages the use of environmentally friendly construction practices when completing PDM hazard mitigation projects. In particular, FEMA encourages that PDM projects follow the FEMA building materials program and consider the use of low carbon materials and the development of low-carbon and net-zero energy projects, as defined in the FEMA's IRA Implementation memorandum.

- When subapplications include eligible low-carbon materials, FEMA encourages that these materials follow the definition of low-carbon materials presented in the Inflation Reduction Act Implementation Memorandum for FEMA Public Assistance and Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs.
- Subrecipients should ensure that federally funded infrastructure investments reduce life cycle emissions of construction materials, specifically concrete, asphalt, glass, steel, and assemblies comprised of at least 80% of these materials.
- Subrecipients should request disclosure of Environmental Product Declarations (EPD) and provide these so FEMA may evaluate eligibility. A product-specific Type III (third-party verified) EPD must be shown and reported in a third-party dataset, such as the Embodied Carbon in Construction Calculator (EC3) and could be used to evaluate the eligibility of these lower-carbon materials. See the FEMA Inflation Reduction Act Implementation memorandum for additional information.

16. Hazard-Resistant Building Codes

Hazard-resistant building codes are a foundational element of a more resilient nation, safeguarding communities and lives against natural disasters, with an estimated \$11:1 return on investment. The adoption, enforcement and application of modern building codes mitigates community vulnerabilities, reduces disaster recovery costs, and strengthens nationwide capability. FEMA is working to promote and support building codes in all areas of its work in support of the multi-agency National Initiative to Advance Building Codes. In the interest of building a stronger, more resilient nation, FEMA encourages all grant recipients and subrecipients to meet current published editions of relevant consensus-based building codes, specifications and standards, and to exceed them where feasible.

Appendix A

Recipient (State, Tribe, or Territory)	Subrecipient	Project Name	Project Federal Amount
AK	Kenai Peninsula Borough	Seward Bear Creek Service Area Flood Mitigation Projects	\$655,000.00
	Matanuska-Susitna Borough	Flood Mitigation for Acquisition of High Hazard Areas	\$2,500,000.00
	City of Demopolis	Demopolis Storm Shelter	\$2,700,000.00
AL	City of Daphne	City of Daphne Main Street Utility Relocation Project	\$5,000,000.00
AR	City of North Little Rock	North Little Rock East Bethany Road Drainage Improvements	\$3,300,000.00
	City of North Little Rock	North Little Rock Magnolia and Olive Street Drainage Improvements	\$4,700,000.00
	City of Heber Springs	Heber Springs Stormwater Improvements	\$4,700,000.00
AZ	City of Maricopa	City of Maricopa Desert Sunrise High School Box Culvert Project	\$1,383,069.00
	City of Glendale Fire Department	Wildfire Fuel Reduction and Hazardous Brush Abatement	\$75,000.00
	City of Capitola	Capitola Cliff Drive Infrastructure	\$450,000.00
	West Valley Water District	Emergency Generator Project	\$525,000.00
	County of San Luis Obispo	Arroyo Grande Creek Levees	\$1,200,000.00
	County of San Diego	Critical Infrastructure Wildfire Vulnerability Assessment	\$1,275,000.00
CA	City of Agoura Hills	City of Agoura Hills Civic Center Microgrid Project	\$1,383,068.00
	City of Thousand Oaks	City of Thousand Oaks Water Pumps Microgrid Project	\$1,383,068.00
	City of Hidden Hills	City of Hidden Hills Utility Undergrounding Project	\$1,383,069.00
	Town of Atherton	Upper Atherton Channel Flood Mitigation Project	\$1,383,069.00
	City of Foster City	Foster City Lagoon Pump Station Seismic Rehabilitation and Capacity Enhancement	\$1,383,069.00
	County of San Joaquin	Countywide Back-up Generators and Pumps	\$1,383,069.00

Recipient (State, Tribe, or Territory)	Subrecipient	Project Name	Project Federal Amount
	County of Napa	Napa's Lake Hennessey & Deer Park Fuel Reduction and Community Infrastructure Protection	\$1,383,069.00
	East Bay Regional Park District	Wildfire Mitigation, and Safe, Resilient Forests and Communities	\$1,383,069.00
	Ouray County	Corbett Creek Bridge Installation	\$1,034,000.00
СО	City of Golden	Bachman Farms Park/Flood Attenuation Facility	\$1,383,069.00
CT	City of Hartford	City of Hartford for North Main Street Corridor Drainage System	\$4,500,000.00
DC	District Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency	2nd Street Bioretention Flood Mitigation Project	\$1,383,069.00
FL	Town of Briny Breezes	Briny Breezes Stormwater Pump Stations	\$1,383,069.00
	City of St. Petersburg	St. Petersburg Storm Drainage Improvement	\$1,383,069.00
	Boynton Beach Community Redevelopment Agency	Boynton Harbor Marina Seawall Replacement	\$1,383,069.00
HI	Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency	Backup Generator for Pali Momi Medical Center	\$1,383,069.00
IA	City of Dubuque	Dubuque Flood Mitigation Gates and Pumps	\$8,000,000.00
ID	Idaho Office of Emergency Management	Mackay Dam Rehabilitation	\$7,082,856.00
	City of Crystal Lake	Re-Establishment of Crystal Creek	\$1,383,069.00
IL	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District	Metropolitan Water Reclamation District Farmers- Prairie Creek Project	\$1,383,069.00
	Town of Normal	Storm Water Improvements	\$1,550,000.00
IN	City of Indianapolis	City of Indianapolis Mars Hill Flood Control Improvement District	\$1,383,069.00
KY	City of Ravenna	Ravenna Stormwater Improvements	\$2,160,391.00
LA	East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness	South Flannery Road Bridge & Channel Improvements	\$3,520,950.00
MA	City of Everett	Island End River Flood Resilience Project	\$123,413.00

Recipient (State, Tribe, or Territory)	Subrecipient	Project Name	Project Federal Amount
-	City of Quincy	Sea Wall along Manet Ave in Houghs Neck	\$450,000.00
	City of Cambridge	Cambridge Community Center Resilience Hub	\$1,000,000.00
	City of Chelsea	Mill Creek Resilience Project	\$1,000,000.00
	City of Melrose	Lebanon and Sylvan Street Stormwater Management System	\$1,000,000.00
	City of Boston	Climate Resilience & Equity in Downtown Boston for a Resilient Christopher Columbus Park & Long Wharf	\$1,150,000.00
	Chelmsford Water District	Watershed Lane Culvert Replacement Project	\$1,275,000.00
	Weymouth	Climate Resilient Neighborhood in the Coastal Fort Point Road Community	\$1,383,069.00
	Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency	Scituate Harbor Seawall	\$5,500,000.00
	City of Annapolis	Jonas and Anne Catharine Green Park Coastal Restoration Project	\$450,000.00
	Maryland Department of Emergency Management	City of Rockville Potomac Woods Storm Drain Improvements	\$900,000.00
	Frederick County	Frederick County Microgrid Project	\$1,275,000.00
MD	Maryland Department of Emergency Management	Flooding Control in Anacostia River Watershed for Environmental Justice	\$1,383,069.00
	City of Annapolis	Annapolis City Dock Resilience Project	\$1,383,069.00
	Town of Cheverly	Town of Cheverly Flood Mitigation Project	\$1,688,000.00
ME	Town of Greenville	Greenville Stormwater Management Improvements	\$975,000.00
	Town of Dover-Foxcroft	Town of Dover-Foxcroft—Lincoln St Bridge Project	\$1,455,000.00
MI	Charter Township of Chocolay	Chocolay River Flood Mitigation Feasibility Study	\$112,000.00
	Charter Township of East China	East China Belle River Pump Station Flood Mitigation	\$294,000.00
	Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority	Lake St Clair Metropark Electrical Grid	\$1,420,000.00

Recipient (State, Tribe, or Territory)	Subrecipient	Project Name	Project Federal Amount
	City of St. Clair Shores	Sewer Separation of the St. Clair Shores Martin Drain District	\$1,755,303.00
MN	City of New Ulm	New Ulm 18th South Street Storm Sewer Lift Station	\$1,125,000.00
	The City of Yazoo	Yazoo City Community Safehouse	\$1,027,000.00
MS	University of Mississippi Medical Center	UMMC Electrical Infrastructure Modernization	\$2,215,000.00
	City of Ridgeland	Purple Creek Flood Mitigation and Restoration	\$4,000,000.00
	Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)	Mississippi College/Hinds County Saferoom	\$5,063,000.00
	City of Passaic	McDonald Brook Channel and Benson Avenue Realignment Flood Control Project	\$380,000.00
NJ	Borough of Bay Head	Bay Head Flood Mitigation Project	\$815,250.00
	Neptune Township	Shark River Living Shoreline— Phase II	\$1,145,000.00
	Stafford Township	Stafford Bulkhead	\$1,340,000.00
	New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs	Bosque Redondo Memorial at Fort Sunmer Historic Site Fire Mitigation	\$150,000.00
NM	New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs	Fort Stanton Historic Site Fire Mitigation	\$250,000.00
	City of Aztec	City of Aztec—Flood Mitigation	\$300,000.00
	Los Alamos County	Jemez Mountain Fire Mitigation	\$450,000.00
	Town of Estancia	Town of Estancia Flood Mitigation Project	\$1,040,000.00
NV	Clark County	Rural Fire Station Emergency Generators	\$588,572.00
	City of Reno	City of Reno—Swan Lake Irrigation Pipeline	\$2,869,000.00
NY	New York State Thruway Authority	New York State Thruway Authority Clarkstown Flood Mitigation	\$375,000.00
	NYC Department of Homeless Services	Borden Avenue Veterans Shelter Flood Resilience Project	\$1,383,069.00
	City of New York	Financial District-Seaport Flood Mitigation Project	\$1,999,348.00
	Town of Clarkstown	Jeffrey Court Flood Prevention	\$2,100,000.00
	Incorporated Village of Floral Park	West End Recharge Basin	\$4,050,000.00

Recipient (State, Tribe, or Territory)	Subrecipient	Project Name	Project Federal Amount
OK	City of Oklahoma City	Hefner Water Treatment Plant Emergency Power Generation Project	\$10,000,000.00
OR	City of Warrenton	Iredale Tidegate and Culvert Project—City of Warrenton	\$1,087,000.00
	David Douglas School District 40	Mill Park Elementary School Seismic Rehabilitation Project, Portland, OR	\$1,383,069.00
	Borough of Bridgeville	Bridgeville Commercial Street Culvert Replacement	\$750,000.00
	Redevelopment Authority of the City of Harrisburg	Paxton Creek Dechannelization Project	\$750,000.00
PA	Lackawanna County	Lackawanna County Dam No. 5 and Spillway Rehabilitation Project	\$1,383,069.00
	City of Philadelphia	Increasing Flood Resilience in Eastwick, Philadelphia	\$1,383,069.00
	City of Williamsport	Williamsport Levee Flood Control Project	\$3,500,000.00
	Town of North Providence	Town Hall Generator	\$33,000.00
RI	City of Pawtucket	The Arc of the Blackstone Valley Generator	\$112,000.00
	Town of North Providence	Town of North Providence for Flood Mitigation	\$639,000.00
Tribe	Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin	Powerline Conversion	\$845,000.00
	City of Glenn Heights	City of Glenn Heights Emergency Warning System Replacement Project	\$510,000.00
	City of Dallas	Dallas Resilience Hub-Kiest Recreation Center	\$1,383,069.00
	City of Harlingen	5th and 7th Streets Storm Sewer Drainage Improvements	\$1,383,069.00
TX	City of San Antonio	Concepcion Creek—Phase 1	\$1,383,069.00
	Harris County Flood Control District	P118–08–00 Conveyance and Detention Improvements	\$1,383,069.00
	El Paso County	Replacing Aging Emergency Generator and Adding Solar Capacity	\$1,383,069.00
	City of Houston	Kingwood Diversion Channel— Walnut Lane Bridge Project	\$4,000,000.00

Recipient (State, Tribe, or Territory)	Subrecipient	Project Name	Project Federal Amount
UT	City of Payson	Payson City Pre-Disaster Mitigation Project	\$1,500,000.00
	Millcreek City	Neffs Canyon Debris Basin Project	\$2,400,000.00
VA	County of Franklin	Franklin County Emergency Shelter Generator	\$705,000.00
	City of Hampton Office of Emergency Management	Resilient Hampton Property Acquisition in Flood Prone Areas	\$1,383,069.00
	City of Hampton, VA	Joint Base Langley-Eustis (JBLE)—Langley Access Protection Project	\$2,000,000.00
VT	Town of Calais	Renovate Curtis Pond Dam	\$525,000.00
	Port of Longview	Portable Backup Generators	\$272,000.00
WA	The Seattle Public Library	Seattle Public Library University Branch Seismic Structural Upgrade	\$1,383,069.00
	Yakima County Public Services	Yakima County Gap to Gap Protection Project	\$4,000,000.00
WV	City of Hinton	Bellepoint Park Stormwater Drain Replacement	\$480,000.00
	Town of Hendricks	Hendricks Stormwater Improvement Project	\$1,296,000.00
	Saint Albans	Rams Horn Stormwater System Improvements	\$2,873,000.00