



# THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MASSACHUSETTS EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
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DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION & RECREATION  
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## To Potential Hazard Mitigation Grant Applicants:

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are pleased to announce the availability of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)** funding. This post-disaster mitigation grant funding is **now available** statewide as a result of the federal disaster declaration for the January 2015 Severe Winter Storm.

The federally-funded Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides significant opportunities to reduce, minimize, or eliminate potential damages to property and infrastructure from natural hazard events. Funding for hazard mitigation plans and projects can reduce overall risks to the population, structures and infrastructure, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal disaster assistance for disaster recovery.

As of February 27, 2015, Hazard Mitigation Assistance guidance was issued by FEMA, which contained major programmatic changes. These changes affect this funding opportunity, as well as all future funding under the Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs.

- *Who's eligible to apply?* State and local governments, tribal organizations and certain private non-profits are eligible to apply as sub-applicants. For projects that benefit individual home or business owners, the local government must be the sub-applicant. **Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Requirement:** To be eligible for HMGP project grants, sub-applicants must have a locally adopted and FEMA-approved Local Natural Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 201) by the application deadline.
- *What type of work is eligible?* Stormwater, drainage and culvert improvements, flood control, property acquisition, slope stabilization, infrastructure protection, seismic and wind retrofits, structure elevations, etc. **Please note that major changes to project eligibility are now in effect with this revised guidance.** All proposed project applications must include a formal Benefit-Cost Analysis (using FEMA-approved BCA v5.1 software) to document the project's cost-effectiveness. Planning and HMGP 5% Initiative applications do not have this BCA requirement. Community participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) may also be a requirement for sub-applicant and project eligibility. See Part III, Section E.1 of the FEMA Guidance for additional details.
- *What is the grant cost share?* Sub-applicants must commit to the non-federal share of the proposed application cost; this is 25% (or more) of the total estimated project cost. In-kind services are allowable as part of the non-federal match.
- *How do I learn more?* Formal grant briefings and technical assistance opportunities are available prior to the application deadlines. Before attending a briefing, you should familiarize yourself with the Grant Program Guidance, which can be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/hazard-mitigation/grants/hazard-mitigation-assistance-hma-unified-guidance.html>
- *What is the grant application deadline?* The first deadline is Monday, August 3, 2015. The second deadline is Monday, November 23, 2015. Before submitting your application, please schedule a Technical Assistance Meeting OR contact a Mitigation Grants Coordinator.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs are not intended as a source of funding for repair, replacement or deferred maintenance activities, but are designed to assist sub-applicants in implementing long-term, cost-effective improvements that will reduce, minimize or eliminate risk to people and property from the effects of natural hazards. Projects that address operation, deferred or future maintenance, repairs or replacement (without a change in the level of protection provided) of existing structures, facilities, or infrastructure (e.g., dredging, debris removal, replacement of obsolete utility systems, bridges and facility repair) are not eligible mitigation grant activities.

**MEMA and DCR strongly encourage all interested grant applicants to attend a formal grant briefing.** The grant program briefings will provide an overview of the HMGP program, available funding, relevant application process and deadlines. Significant changes in these programs will also be covered, including, the NEW 2015 HMA Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200 Super Circular, addition of the eligibility of flood control projects, and much more. Please see the grant briefing schedule on the following page. Technical assistance for individual applications will be available by appointment.

**The State has established two deadlines for complete grant applications:**

**AUGUST 3, 2015:** Applications for mitigation projects and hazard mitigation planning, submitted by August 3, 2015, will be reviewed and, if appropriate, recommended to FEMA for advanced funding. These applications must meet all HMA program requirements, have a complete application package, and display strong commitment for implementation at the time of award.

**NOVEMBER 23, 2015:** The second application deadline of November 23, 2015 is for those projects and plans that need additional refinement and application development work before an application can be submitted. This will be the final deadline for submission of applications under this grant program.

Details including the grant application form, instructions, and other funding opportunities will be available on the 'Disaster Recovery & Mitigation' page of the MEMA website ([www.mass.gov/mema](http://www.mass.gov/mema)) in the near future.

For general inquiries regarding the program, please contact us at MEMA or DCR:

Dave Woodbury, Hazard Mitigation Grants Coordinator, MEMA, 508-820-2034, [David.Woodbury@state.ma.us](mailto:David.Woodbury@state.ma.us)

Sarah White; Mitigation Unit Supervisor, MEMA, 508-820-2053, [Sarah.White@state.ma.us](mailto:Sarah.White@state.ma.us)

Richard Zingarelli; State Hazard Mit. Officer, NFIP Coord., DCR, 617-626-1406, [Richard.Zingarelli@state.ma.us](mailto:Richard.Zingarelli@state.ma.us)

## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Briefing Schedule

To assist potential sub-applicants who are considering applying for FEMA HMGP mitigation funding, MEMA/DCR will be hosting a series of grant program briefings. The grant program briefings will provide an overview of the HMGP program, available funding, relevant application process and deadlines. For interested sub-applicants without a currently FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan, a Planning Grant briefing will be held in Taunton on June 16, and will focus specifically on planning grant eligibility and scopes of work.

Interested sub-applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of these briefings as details regarding the grant program will be described and discussed in detail. Technical assistance for individual applications will be available by appointment. The briefings will cover the following:

- ✓ Discuss proposed project applications (including eligibility of proposed activities);
- ✓ Answer specific questions regarding grant application procedures and/or requirements;
- ✓ Discuss which FEMA mitigation grant program(s) may be most appropriate based on the type of activity/project proposed;
- ✓ Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), environmental/historic or other technical issues associated with project proposals; and,
- ✓ Other questions regarding FEMA-funded mitigation grant programs.

To attend a grant briefing, please RSVP your attendance to: [mitigation@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:mitigation@massmail.state.ma.us)

**RSVP's are required** so that we can notify participants in the event that the briefing logistics (date/time/location) must be changed or postponed due to weather or other events.

<b><u>HMGP Grant Project and Planning Briefings</u></b>	
<b>Tuesday, June 2, 2015</b> 10:30am-12:30pm Kingston Fire HQ 105 Pembroke St., Kingston	<b>Wednesday, June 3, 2015</b> 10:00am-12:00pm Lanesborough Fire HQ 180 South Main St., Lanesborough
<b>Thursday, June 4, 2015</b> 1:30pm-3:30pm 21 <sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room One Ashburton Pl., Boston	<b>Monday, June 8, 2015</b> 10:00am-12:00pm MEMA Region III/IV 1002 Suffield St., Agawam
<b>Tuesday, June 9, 2015</b> 1:30pm-3:30pm MEMA Region 1 365 East St., Tewksbury	<b>Wednesday, June 10, 2015</b> 10:00am-12:00pm FRCOG Office 12 Olive St., Greenfield
<b>Thursday, June 11, 2015</b> 10:00am-12:00pm Oxford Police Department 503 Main St., Oxford	<b><u>Planning Grant Briefing</u></b> <b>Tuesday June 16, 2015</b> 10:00am-12:00pm MassDOT District 5 Headquarters 1000 County St., Taunton

*Please do not contact these facilities directly with questions about the briefings.*