

FEMA Awards Vizcaya Museum and Gardens \$3.6 Million for Hurricane Irma Mitigation Measures

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ORLANDO, Fla. – FEMA has approved a grant of \$3,600,000 for Vizcaya Museum and Gardens Trust, Inc. to retrofit the museum for protection from wind and flood during storms.

After Hurricane Irma in 2017, FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) will assist the museum with the installation of impact-resistant windows and doors, and wind protection for other openings such as vents and exhaust fans. The project will reduce damage from future windstorms of up to 182 miles per hour. [The roof will be upgraded, equipment will be elevated and the electrical wiring will be waterproofed.](#)

The grant is funded by the HMGP, an important source of federal disaster assistance. Funding from the program may become available following the president’s declaration of a major disaster, with a goal of strengthening communities by improving buildings, facilities and infrastructure that people use every day.

A 2018 report by the National Institute of Building Sciences found that one dollar spent on hazard mitigation will save more than six dollars of recovery and rebuilding costs.

Generally, the HMGP may provide a state, tribe or territory with additional grants up to 15 percent of the total disaster grants awarded by FEMA for a federally declared disaster. States such as Florida that meet advanced mitigation planning criteria may qualify for a higher percentage.

Florida has a FEMA-approved Enhanced Mitigation Plan, making the state eligible for HMGP funding not to exceed 20 percent of the estimated total amount of grant money spent by FEMA in the Hurricane Irma disaster. From this amount, the HMGP reimburses the state up to 75 percent of eligible costs for hazard mitigation



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projects. The remaining amount comes from other sources such as state and local assets and a combination of cash and in-kind sources.

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