

FMA Project Scoping Activities

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program makes federal funds available to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). This fact sheet provides detailed information on Project Scoping activities eligible under the FMA program.

Overview

Project Scoping is one of five FMA program priorities in FY 2020. For the purposes of the FMA program, Project Scoping is defined as follows:

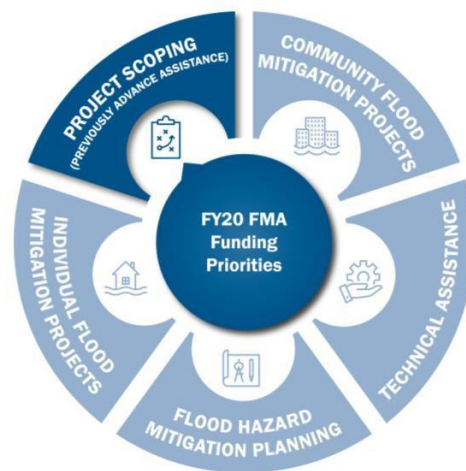
Activities designed to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data to prioritize, select, and develop complete applications in a timely manner that result in either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project.

Project Scoping is the successor to Advance Assistance used under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program, and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program. This change was made to align the name of the activity with the purpose of this project type. As detailed below, many of the activities eligible under Advance Assistance will remain eligible for Project Scoping under FMA.

FEMA will select subapplications up to the available FMA funding amount of \$200 million¹ in the order of the program priorities.

Project Scoping – Up to \$4 million available nationwide

FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for Project Scoping from each Applicant for a \$600,000 total federal cost share. Project Scoping can be used to develop community flood mitigation projects and/or individual flood mitigation projects for future funding based on current FEMA-approved mitigation plans. In



FY20 FMA Funding Priorities

¹ The amount of funding for the FY20 FMA NOFO published on August 4, 2020 has increased an additional \$40 million as a result of the identification of recovered funds – available funds for projects from previous grant cycles that were completed under budget or were not implemented, which can now be made available.



accordance with Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 79 and the *Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance* (HMA Guidance), Project Scoping subapplications will be evaluated to ensure that the end result will lead to an eligible project subapplication that will provide benefits to the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Consideration of Project Scoping early in the decision-making process can help facilitate the development of a viable project, as well as project implementation. Fiscal year (FY) 2020 Project Scoping projects are not eligible for FY 2020 community flood mitigation project or traditional flood mitigation project funding. An award for Project Scoping does not guarantee future Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) project funding.

Required Subapplication Elements

All Project Scoping subapplications must:

- Use the Project Scoping application type within FEMA’s grant application system to be considered
- Be designated as a Project Scoping project in the subapplication title “Project Scoping for X”
- Prove that the proposed project benefits NFIP-insured properties by submitting a benefitting area map and associated geospatial file(s) (e.g., Shapefile, KML/KMZ, geodatabase, or other geographic information system [GIS]-enabled document) delineating:
 - Proposed project footprint boundary (if available)
 - Area benefitting from project
 - Active NFIP policies (if data available)

For more information on developing a benefitting area map, please consult the Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria Job Aid at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_geospatial-eligibility-criteria_flood-mitigation-grant-applications.pdf.

Eligible Project Scoping Activities

Project Scoping can be used to obtain data and to prioritize, select, and develop the following projects for future funding based on a current FEMA-approved mitigation plan:

- Community flood mitigation projects
- Individual flood mitigation projects – new for FY 2020: Severe Repetitive (SRL) and Repetitive Loss (RL) property mitigation (elevation, acquisition, relocation, and reconstruction)

The following non-exhaustive list represents eligible Project Scoping activities that benefit NFIP-insured properties, recognizing that Applicants and subapplicants may have needs that extend beyond what has been included here. There will be an FMA Project Scoping cap of \$600,000 per Applicant. All Project Scoping activities should result in

either an improvement in the capability to identify appropriate mitigation projects or in the development of an application-ready mitigation project for FMA or another funding opportunity. Project Scoping activities may include:

- Conducting meetings, outreach, and coordination with subapplicants and community residents
- Developing or conducting engineering, environmental feasibility, and/or Benefit-Cost Analyses
- Undertaking activities that lead to development of project applications
- Evaluating facilities to identify mitigation actions
- Using staff or resources to develop cost-share strategies

Project Scoping Scoring Criteria

For FY 2020, Project Scoping subapplications submitted to FMA will be scored and selected based on FEMA scoring criteria. The following table outlines the specific criteria with a brief description of each. More information on eligibility and scoring criteria can be found in the FY 2020 FMA Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO).

Table 1: Final Priority Scoring Criteria for FMA Community Flood Mitigation Projects & Project Scoping

Priority	Description	Total Points
National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)-Insured Multiple Loss Communities	Communities with 50 or more Repetitive Loss (RL) or Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) structures that have received NFIP claims in a county that has received an Individual Assistance declaration for flooding in the past 10 years.	Up to 200
NFIP Policy Holder	Points will be assessed for every NFIP policy that is active as of the FMA application start date (Section D, Application and Submission Information, Key Dates and Times) and is verified to be within the benefitting area of the project.	5 x each NFIP policy
SRL and RL Properties	Points will be assessed for each SRL or RL structure that is verified to be within the benefitting area of the project.	5 x each RL property 10 x each SRL property
Private-Partnership Cost Share	Cost share taken on by private organizations/businesses emphasizing community participation, collaboration, and investment. Points will be assigned based on percentage of private cost share invested.	150

Priority	Description	Total Points
Community Rating System (CRS) Participation	The CRS recognizes and encourages community floodplain-management activities that exceed the minimum NFIP standards. Depending on the level of participation, flood insurance premium rates for policyholders can be reduced up to 45%. The highest weight will be assigned to class 1 and so on descending through lower classes. (Graded Scale: 1 = 100, 2= 90, 3 = 80, 4 = 70, 5 = 60, 5 = 50, 6 = 40, 7 = 30, 8 = 20, 9 = 10)	10–100
Cooperating Technical Partners Program (CTP) Participation	The CTP is a qualified partnership program in which communities commit to collaborate in maintaining up-to-date flood hazard maps and other flood hazard information. Points will be assigned to CTP-participating communities.	30

Period of Performance

Under the FMA program, Project Scoping subawards have a period of performance to achieve project completion of 36 months starting on the date of the Recipient’s federal Award.

More information on the period of performance and other programmatic requirements can be found in the FY 2020 FMA NOFO or at the FMA website at <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>.

Project Scoping within FEMA GO

The new FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) grants management system will be used for the FMA program, and is where FMA Applicants and subapplicants will submit, track, and manage all applications. The eGrants system will not be used to process FMA applications or subapplications. This section provides a brief synopsis on how to submit Project Scoping activity subapplications in FEMA GO, including information on selecting the correct activity type and an overview of the required narrative questions. For more information on navigating the new FEMA GO system and the full application process, please reference the FEMA GO guide at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go>.

The following section offers tips on selecting and submitting a Project Scoping subapplication within FEMA GO.

- *Choose the “Subapplication Type”*
 - Select the “Project Scoping” Subapplication Type within FEMA GO to begin.
- *“Scope of Work” Section*
 - Select the Primary Activity Type which best describes your activity.
 - Select a Primary Community Lifeline; if applicable, select secondary and tertiary lifelines as well.
 - Project Scoping Scope of Work questions are distinct from both project and planning subapplications.

- Q: “Will it result in a complete project application for future funding opportunities?”
 - Project scoping applications are intended to lead to future mitigation projects or project applications. Describe how your project scoping activity successfully builds toward this outcome.
- “Cost Effectiveness” Section
 - Under the Cost Effectiveness Section, select “Not Applicable”.

Additional Resources

The links below provide additional information related to the FMA Program and resources to assist Applicants and subapplicants in their development of FMA projects.

- FMA program website: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>
- HMA Guidance: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance-and-addendum-fy15>
- Job Aid: New Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria in Flood Mitigation Grant Applications: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_geospatial-eligibility-criteria-flood-mitigation-grant-applications.pdf