

# Flood Mitigation Assistance - Capability and Capacity Building Activities

FEMA makes funds available through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program to state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. This fact sheet provides detailed information on Capability and Capacity Building activities eligible for FMA funding. This document is intended for guidance only and is not a request for information.

## Fiscal Year 2022 Flood Mitigation Assistance Overview

Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB) activities are one of three program priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 grant application cycle. Previously C&CB activities were referred to as hazard mitigation plans, technical assistance, and project scoping. Out of \$800 million in total funding for Fiscal Year 2022, FEMA will select up to \$60 million for the federal cost share funding of Capability and Capacity Building activities.

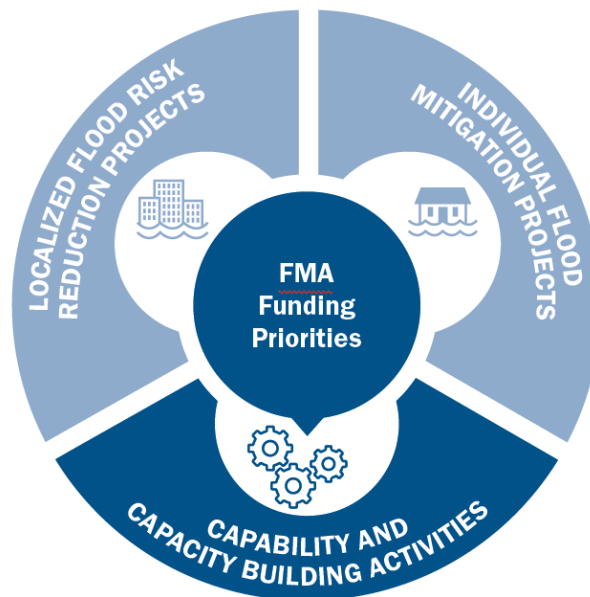


Figure 1: Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Priorities



**FEMA**

Awards made under this Notice of Funding Opportunity will be funded, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The BIL is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, which will grow a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable economy by enhancing U.S. competitiveness, driving the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, and ensuring stronger access to economic and environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities. The BIL appropriates billions of dollars to FEMA to promote resilient infrastructure, respond to the impacts of climate change, and equip our nation with the resources to combat its most pressing threats.

## Capability & Capacity Building Activities – Up to \$60 million Available

FEMA will select up to \$60 million of C&CB activities which enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of flood mitigation assistance. In addition, C&CB activities may develop future Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects and/or Individual Flood Mitigation Projects that will subsequently reduce flood claims against the National Flood Insurance Program.



**Figure 2: Capability-and Capacity-Building Activities**

The funding priority and funding caps for Fiscal Year 2022 C&CB activities are as follows:

1. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans under Title 42 United States Code 4104c(c)(3)(F) - \$100,000 per applicant with maximums of \$50,000 for state multi-hazard mitigation planning and \$25,000 for local multi-hazard mitigation planning
2. Technical Assistance to states (Title 42 United States Code 4104c(c)(3)(J)) - \$50,000 per applicant
3. Project Scoping - \$900,000 per subapplication
4. Additional Capability and Capacity Building Activities (Partnership Development; Enhancing Local Floodplain Management; Severe Repetitive Loss/Repetitive Loss Strategy Plan Development; and other eligible C&CB activities under Title 42 United States Code 4104c(c)(3)(G)) - \$300,000 per subapplication

# Eligibility Requirements

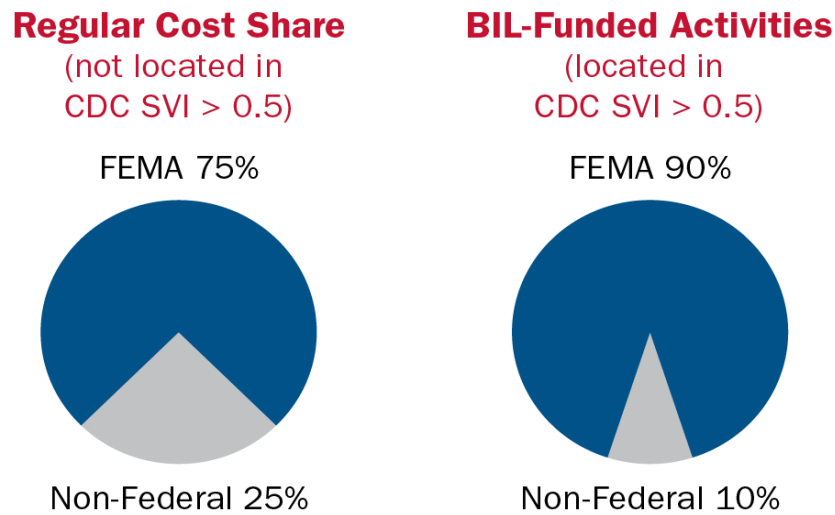
The following requirements apply to applicants and/or subapplicants submitting a C&CB activity for Flood Mitigation Assistance funding:

- All C&CB subapplications must demonstrate that the project will reduce flood claims against the National Flood Insurance Program. C&CB activities should result in a resource, strategy, or tangible hazard mitigation product that will reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future flooding, increase resilience, and promote a culture of preparedness.
- All subapplicants must be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program, and not be withdrawn, on probation, or suspended.
  - The status of a participating community can be verified in the National Flood Insurance Program [Community Status Book](#).
- Structures identified in the subapplication must have an active National Flood Insurance Program policy (including a Group Flood Insurance Policy) in effect prior to the opening of the application period and the policy must be maintained throughout the life of the structure. For details see Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Section 77.6.
- Applicants must have a FEMA-approved State or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201 by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of the award. For detailed information please review the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance available on the FEMA website.
- Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201 by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds.
  - All C&CB subapplications must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the current, FEMA-approved State or Tribal (Standard or Enhanced) Hazard Mitigation Plan, and the local hazard mitigation plan for the jurisdiction in which the project is located.
  - Current hazard mitigation plans are not required for subapplicants submitting planning subapplications to develop a new multi-hazard mitigation plan or to update an existing multi-hazard mitigation plan. Hazard mitigation plans are an eligibility requirement for all other C&CB activities.
  - C&CB activities (Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans, Technical Assistance to states, Project Scoping, Additional C&CB Activities [Partnership Development, Enhancing Local Floodplain Management, Severe Repetitive Loss/Repetitive Loss Strategy Plan Development, and other eligible C&CB activities under Title 42 United States Code 4104c(c)(3)(G)], and management costs subapplications) do not require a Benefit-Cost-Analysis.

## Cost Share

Generally, federal cost share funding is available for up to 75% of the eligible activity costs. However, based on funding allocated from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), FEMA may contribute up to 90% federal cost share

funding for C&CB activities that impact properties that have National Flood Insurance Program insurance and are located within a census tract with a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) score of not less than 0.5001. Applicants and subapplicants can view their community's CDC SVI score [on this webpage](#).



**Figure 3: Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Program Cost Share for Capability-and-Capacity-Building Activities**

## Capability and Capacity Building Activity Scoring Criteria

For Fiscal Year 2022, subapplications submitted to FMA will be scored and selected based on the Final Priority Scoring for C&CB, as needed. In case of a tie, FEMA will use the highest CDC SVI for the project benefitting area as a tiebreaker for projects. The following table outlines the specific criteria including brief descriptions. More information on eligibility and scoring criteria can be found within the Fiscal Year 2022 FMA Notice of Funding Opportunity.

**Table 1: Final Priority Scoring Criteria for Capability and Capacity Building Activities**

Priority	Description	Available Points
CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) and NFIP Properties	<p>The average SVI of all census tracts included in a benefitting area will determine the project's SVI score. The benefitting area maps are used to determine which census tracts will be considered for assessment of these points. Points will be assessed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Projects that benefit area(s) with an average SVI score of greater than or equal to 0.8 are eligible for this point priority will receive 10 points.</li> <li>Projects that benefit area(s) with an average SVI score of greater than or equal to 0.6, and less than 0.8 are eligible for this point priority will receive 5 points.</li> <li>Projects that benefit area(s) with an average SVI score less than 0.6 will not receive points in this category.</li> </ul>	Up to 10

Priority	Description	Available Points
National Violation Tracker (NVT)	Points are assessed for communities in good standing in the NFIP, which is determined by number of floodplain management property violations identified in NVT. Communities will receive points if they do not have any outstanding violations.	3
Community Rating System (CRS) Participation	The CRS recognizes and encourages community floodplain-management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards. Depending on the level of participation, flood insurance premium rates for policyholders can be reduced up to 45%.	3
Private-Partnership Cost Share	Cost share contributed by private organizations/businesses. Points will be assigned based on percentage of private cost share invested in the non-federal match. Points will be assessed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equal to or greater than 51%, applicants will receive 2 points.</li> <li>• Between 25% and 50%, applicants will receive 1 point.</li> </ul>	Up to 2
Cooperating Technical Assistance 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.	2

## Period of Performance

Under the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, C&CB subawards have a period of performance of 36 months starting on the date of the recipient’s federal award. More information on the period of performance can be found on the Flood Mitigation Assistance webpage.

## Entering Capability and Capacity Building Activities in FEMA Grants Outcomes

All applications must be submitted in the FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) grants management system. Applicants and subapplicants can submit, track, and manage all applications in this program. For more information on the application process and navigating the FEMA GO system, please reference the *FEMA GO for Hazard Mitigation Grants* webpage. All applicants must submit a Flood Mitigation Assistance grant application in FEMA GO by the application deadline to be considered for funding. The required format for applications and subapplications is built into FEMA GO, and for C&CB activities includes the following:

- Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans activities must be submitted in a plan subapplication type.

- Technical Assistance to states (for recipients to which FEMA obligated a Fiscal Year 2021 Flood Mitigation Assistance award of at least \$1 million federal share) must be submitted in a technical assistance subapplication.
- Project Scoping activities must be submitted in a plan subapplication type.
- Additional C&CB Activities (Partnership Development; Enhancing Local Floodplain Management; Severe Repetitive Loss/Repetitive Loss Strategy Plan Development; and other eligible C&CB activities must be submitted in a technical assistance subapplication.

## Additional Resources

The links below provide additional information related to the program and resources to assist applicants and subapplicants in their development of Flood Mitigation Assistance applications.

- Flood Mitigation Assistance program webpage: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods>
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance>
- New Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria in Flood Mitigation Grant Applications Job Aid: [https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema\\_geospatial-eligibility-criteria-flood-mitigation-grant-applications.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_geospatial-eligibility-criteria-flood-mitigation-grant-applications.pdf)
- FEMA GO system: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go/hazard-mitigation-assistance-grants>

# ADDENDUM

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## Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plans Title 42 United States Code 4104c(c)(3)(F)

FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for the development or update of a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The maximum federal cost share funding is \$100,000 per applicant for hazard mitigation planning with maximums of \$50,000 for state hazard mitigation plans and \$25,000 for local hazard mitigation plans. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan subapplications will be evaluated to ensure that the end result will provide benefits to the National Flood Insurance Program. Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning subapplications will be funded based on eligibility. The following list presents multi-hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities eligible for Flood Mitigation Assistance funding; this list is not exhaustive. In addition to preparing a new multi-hazard mitigation plan or updating an existing multi-hazard mitigation plan, planning activities may include:

- Updating or improving the quality of sections of the current FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan, such as:
  - Updating the risk and vulnerability assessment based on new information, including supporting studies, such as economic analyses, mapping, risk assessment, and planning
  - Strengthening the hazard mitigation strategy section by incorporating actions to reduce vulnerabilities over the long-term, as well as linking proposed actions to available funding
  - Augmenting the risk assessment and/or hazard mitigation strategy section by incorporating climate adaptation, green building, nature-based solutions, smart growth principles, or historic properties and cultural resources information
  - Incorporating diverse and/or underserved populations that have unique needs into the planning process, risk assessment, and hazard mitigation strategy
  - Collaborating with floodplain management and integrating specific components from the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System to maximize points for the community and increase resilience to future flood events

## Additional Hazard Mitigation Planning Resources

This section provides links to information on hazard mitigation planning. This information explains how FEMA approaches hazard mitigation planning and can help applicants and subapplicants develop a flood hazard mitigation planning subapplication for the program.

- [Considerations for Local Mitigation Planning Grant Subapplications](#)
- [Tribal Mitigation Planning Grant Application Development HMA Job Aid](#)
- [State Mitigation Planning Resources](#)

- [Local Mitigation Planning Resources](#)
- [Tribal Mitigation Planning Resources](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Ideas](#)
- [Plan Integration: Linking Local Planning Efforts](#)
- [Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for Community Officials \(2013\)](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Planning and the Community Rating System: Key Topics Bulletin](#)

## Technical Assistance to states (Title 42 United States Code 4104c(c)(3)(J))

FEMA will award \$50,000 to each applicant that meets the eligibility criteria for this funding. Technical Assistance to states funding is provided to maintain a viable Flood Mitigation Assistance program over time. To be eligible to receive this funding, the applicant must have received a Fiscal Year 2021 Flood Mitigation Assistance award of at least \$1 million federal cost share funding. Technical Assistance to states subapplications will be funded based on eligibility.

## Project Scoping

FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for Project Scoping from each applicant not to exceed \$900,000 total federal cost share funding per subapplication. Project Scoping can be used to obtain data and to prioritize, select, and develop Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects and/or Individual Flood Mitigation Projects for future funding. 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. There is no guarantee for future Hazard Mitigation Assistance project funding if Project Scoping is awarded.

### 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

### All Project Scoping subapplications must:

- Prove that the proposed project benefits National Flood Insurance Program insured properties by submitting a map and associated geospatial file(s) (e.g., Shapefile, KML/KMZ, Geodatabase, or other GIS enabled document) delineating the estimated area benefitting from the project. If a proposed benefitting area map is not provided, FEMA will default to the subapplicant jurisdiction to determine National Flood Insurance Program benefits and CDC SVI score for prioritization.
- For more information on developing a benefitting area map, please consult the Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria Job Aid on [FEMA's website](#).



# Additional Capability and Capacity Building Activities

Additional Capability and Capacity Building activities can enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of flood mitigation assistance. Additional C&CB Activity subapplications will not exceed \$300,000 total federal cost share funding.

Additional Capability and Capacity Building activities may include:

- Partnership Development
- Enhancing Local Floodplain Management
- Severe Repetitive Loss/Repetitive Loss Strategy Plan Development
- Other eligible Capability and Capacity Building activities

## Partnership Development

The following is a list of potential partnership activities eligible under Flood Mitigation Assistance. The goal of partnership activities is to enhance the knowledge, skills, and expertise of applicants and subapplicants to build community resilience:

- Conducting a capability gap analysis (or partner network analysis) to determine where partnerships could be helpful or where funding matching opportunities can be leveraged
- Providing or attending training on evaluating, pursuing, or sustaining partnerships
- Supporting partner identification or partnership development activities (e.g., hosting a partner fair, pursuing initiatives with higher education institutions, engaging with economic development organizations)
- Developing a partner database or online portal to submit and share partnership case studies
- Pursuing opportunities for knowledge transfer between partners (e.g., mentoring or shadowing programs)
- Attending state, local, Tribal, territorial, regional, or national conferences to support knowledge sharing and partnership development
- Hosting a forum to share best practices and lessons learned or conducting mitigation-related tabletop exercises to build relationships
- Sustaining existing partnership initiatives or capitalizing on existing networks
- Implementing other innovative partnership approaches identified by the applicant or subapplicant to meet stated needs

These activities may be pursued at the applicant or subapplicant level to support partnership building efforts or may be provided by applicants to subapplicants to enhance the capability of communities to develop and sustain partnerships.

## Enhancing Local Floodplain Management

FEMA's Office of Floodplain Management helps prevent or reduce the risk of flooding, thus improving a community's resilience. Floodplain Management offers tools and resources to help communities navigate National Flood Insurance Program requirements and implement higher standards of floodplain management. The section advocates for continued education on floodplain management and encourages states and communities to adopt higher standards for building codes, zoning, and enforcement to improve community resilience. Staff provide

support to states and communities to help manage floodplain risk, promote inter-governmental collaboration, increase conversations of floodplains and wildlife, understand financial options, and operate the Community Rating System (CRS) program.

### **Severe Repetitive Loss/Repetitive Loss Strategy Plan Development**

The program focuses on building state and local floodplain management expertise and capability; improving coordination of state knowledge and expertise between itself and participating communities; and reducing flood losses of the National Flood Insurance Program.

### **Other Capability and Capacity Building Activities under Title 42 United States Code. 4104c(c)(3)(G)**

Applicable activities may be pursued to enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of flood mitigation assistance.