



News from Region 10

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Newsletter Ideas?

*Do you want to spread the word about an upcoming event or recent success story? Let us know what you'd like to see in future issues! Articles can be up to 500 words and may include pictures. **Email:** RXNewsletter@starr-team.com.*

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program News and Updates

There are several recent updates from FEMA on various Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs and guidance, which are summarized below.

2024 HMA Program and Policy Guide (HMA Guide) Release

FEMA recently released the 2024 HMA Guide. The newest version reflects policy changes and stakeholder feedback received since the 2023 HMA Guide publication.

The HMA Guide provides helpful information for prospective applicants and subapplicants from state, local, tribal and territorial governments on the application and grant processes for four hazard mitigation grant programs.

To read more about the HMA Guide and access the document itself, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance>.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Application Procedure Changes

On August 15, HMGP announced a final rule called the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Application Period Extension to increase the flexibility of its application procedures.

The final rule implements four changes and will be effective immediately. This change aims to help communities become more resilient by providing emergency management partners with better opportunities to address current and future high-level risks to natural disasters.

The four changes are summarized below:

- The initial 12-month application period was extended to 15 months.
- If an applicant needs more time to submit applications, FEMA increased the amount of time to request extensions from 180 days to 240 days. This approval is granted at the FEMA regional level and can be in 30 to 120-day increments.
- If an applicant needs more time beyond 240 days based on extenuating circumstances beyond their control, they can request additional time. FEMA will consider these requests on a case-by-case basis.
- FEMA can re-open closed application periods to allow applicants to maximize the use of HMGP funding. This change is a response to comments FEMA received about the length of the application period and the inability to re-open the application period.

Adding more flexibility to HMGP highlights the importance of FEMA's continued commitment to putting "people first" and helping communities, families and businesses build climate resilience.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/press-release/20240815/fema-updates-application-procedures-hazard-mitigation-grant-program-provide>.

Swift Current Application Window Opens

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Swift Current effort provides funding to mitigate buildings insured through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) after a major disaster declaration following a flood-related disaster event to reduce risk against future flood damage.

Funds will be made available to states, territories, and federally recognized tribal governments that receive a major disaster declaration following a flood-related disaster event and meet all other eligibility criteria. Swift Current funding is only available to property owners that have a current flood insurance policy under the

NFIP and a history of repetitive or substantial damage from flooding.

The application window opened on **June 1, 2024**, and the last eligible disaster declaration date is **May 31, 2025**.

To learn more about Swift Current, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/flood-mitigation-assistance/swift-current>.

To view the full funding opportunity announcement, please visit <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/354620>.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs provide state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) governments with funding for eligible activities and mitigation measures to help communities build disaster and climate resilience. Brief descriptions of the different HMA programs follow:

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding is available when it is authorized through a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration. HMGP funding is provided to SLTT governments for post-disaster rebuilding efforts that reduce future disaster losses.



Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Post Fire

The HMGP Post Fire program provides funding to SLTT governments to implement hazard mitigation measures following a wildfire. Areas that receive a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declaration are eligible for HMGP Post Fire funding, regardless of whether a Major Disaster Declaration was issued for the wildfire incident.



Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) is an annual grant program that supports communities with implementing hazard mitigation projects to reduce the risks from future disasters and natural hazards. FEMA also offers non-financial Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) under BRIC which communities can use to receive tailored support for a range of purposes.



Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program is a competitive program open to SLTT governments. FMA provides funding for projects aiming to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings that are insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).



For more information regarding HMA programs, visit <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation>



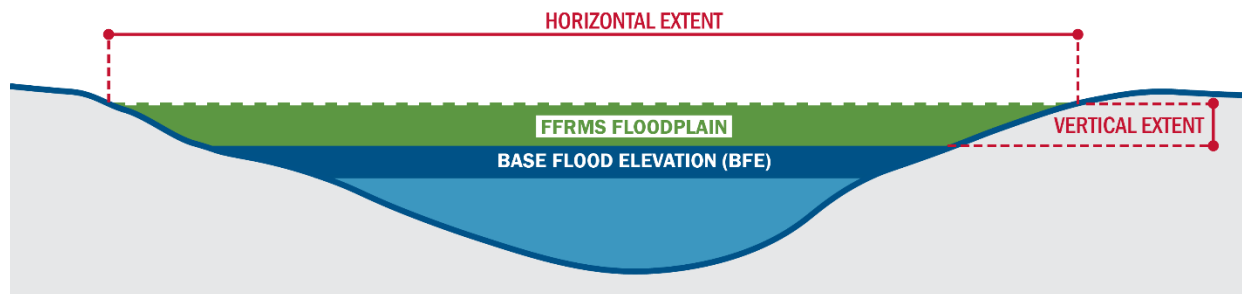
The above image was developed as part of the FEMA Region 10 Mitigation Spotlight campaign. For more information regarding HMA programs, visit <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation>.

FEMA Publishes Final Agency Rule on the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

On July 11, 2024, FEMA published a Final Rule and Policy on implementing the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) to address increased flood risk, make communities more resilient, and help reduce the damage caused by both current and future flooding. The final rule published in the Federal Register amends Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 9: Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands and will be effective on September 9, 2024.

The FFRMS is a flexible framework to increase resilience against flooding and help preserve the benefits of floodplains across the nation, such as the ability to store floodwaters and create rich soils. Specifically, the rule will apply to projects that FEMA funds under all its grant programs that involve new construction, substantial improvement, or repairs to address substantial damage. Communities will benefit by being able to avoid or recover from future disasters more efficiently and effectively as a result of the rulemaking updates. The FFRMS will focus on reducing flood risk by encouraging communities to build outside the floodplain, elevate structures, or use nature-based solutions. By incorporating the use of natural features or nature-based solutions into project design wherever possible, communities may see benefits beyond flood reduction such as a reduction in greenhouse gases and improvements to water quality and public health.

Regarding floodplain management, the FFRMS will increase the flood elevation and floodplain horizontal extent to reflect the increased flood risk for actions subject to the standard. Implementing the rule will ensure that the agency expands floodplain management from the current base flood level (the 100-year flood) to a higher vertical elevation and corresponding horizontal floodplain for projects funded by FEMA. Prior to the FFRMS, FEMA and other federal agencies required the standard of the 1% annual chance (100-year) flood for most federally funded projects and the 0.2% annual chance (500-year) flood for critical actions, such as the construction of fire and police stations, hospitals, and facilities that store hazardous materials. Using the previous standard, communities saw repeated flooding and recovery cycles again and again, with a continuous risk to public health and finance. FEMA's implementation of the rule will now empower communities to avoid building or constructing in flood prone areas and protect their structures and facilities.



The FFRMS Floodplain will have expanded vertical and horizontal extents under FEMA's Final Rule and policy for the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS), which will be effective on September 9, 2024.

This rule and policy apply only to FEMA-funded projects. In cases where multiple federal agencies fund the same projects, the federal agencies will coordinate to determine appropriate FFRMS implementation. Projects that do not involve federal funding are not subject to the FFRMS.

Region 10 has dedicated two staff positions to supporting internal grant reviews as well as coordination with other federal agencies and regional partners. Please reach out to either Erin Cooper (erin.cooper@fema.dhs.gov) or Scott Van Hoff (scott.vanhoff@fema.dhs.gov) with your questions.

This article, with minor edits, was submitted by a newsletter contributor. For more information on the new rule and policy, please visit www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/intergovernmental/federal-flood-risk-management-standard.

Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Mitigation: Regional Guidance for Oregon

In August 2024, FEMA Region 10 released the Floodplain Habitat Assessment and Mitigation guidance document as part of its continuing efforts to improve floodplain management practices and assist communities in meeting the requirements of the Endangered Species Act. It is intended to assist environmental planners, fisheries biologists, and other qualified floodplain and river management professionals who may potentially write or review habitat assessments (HAs).

This 2024 Update is meant to address the interim measures for implementing the Oregon Biological Opinion (BiOp).

To download the document and learn more about NFIP – Endangered Species Act Integration in Oregon, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/about/organization/region-10/oregon/nfip-esa-integration>.

This article was included after a newsletter subscriber inquired about the Oregon BiOp.

Public Comment Period for Proposed Changes to FEMA’s Community Rating System

FEMA is seeking public comments on redesigning the Community Rating System under the NFIP to enhance the program’s effectiveness, promote resilience, and mitigate the financial impacts of flooding on communities.

All virtual meetings to provide comments have concluded. However, the public may submit a comment on the Federal Register or in writing until **September 9, 2024**. You can do so by visiting <https://www.regulations.gov/document/FEMA-2024-0022-0001>.

For more information, including instructions on submitting comments, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/event/public-comment-period-proposed-alternatives-femas-community-rating-system>.

Open Public Comment Period for FEMA's Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide

FEMA is requesting public comments on its Operational Draft Preliminary Damage Assessment Guide, which defines how state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) government officials and FEMA staff collect, validate, quantify, and document the cause, location, and details of damage following a disaster.

The public may submit comments through **September 12, 2024**.

For more information, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/event/open-public-comment-period-femas-preliminary-damage-assessment-guide>.

Resilience Analysis & Planning Tool Resource Update

FEMA's Resilience Analysis & Planning Tool (RAPT) gives everyone access to powerful data and GIS mapping that can help everyone understand their community. RAPT has more than 100 preloaded layers that include community resilience indicators, current census data, infrastructure and hazards. The tools are easy to use and download.

In July 2024, FEMA released a version of RAPT built on Esri's new WebApp tool ArcGIS Experience Builder, called Future RAPT. Future RAPT looks different and some of the analysis tools have different steps. Because Esri will stop supporting RAPT's current platform, WebApp Builder, at the of 2024, users will need to transition to Future RAPT in 2025. Participants are encouraged to explore Future RAPT and provide feedback by emailing FEMA-TARequest@fema.dhs.gov

For more information on RAPT, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/about/reports-and-data/resilience-analysis-planning-tool>.

NORFMA 2024 Annual Conference



The Northwest Regional Floodplain Management Association will host their 2024 annual conference in Pasco, WA, from **September 17 – 20, 2024**. The keynote speaker this year is Nick Zentner, an award-winning educator in the earth sciences and host of the PBS TV show “Nick on the Rocks.” Join the conference for an exciting opportunity to socialize, learn, and network with other floodplain management professionals.

To register for the conference, visit <https://norfma.org/meet-req1.php?id=141>. CFM Continuing Education Credits (CECs) will be available for participants.

For more information on the conference and other NORFMA events, please visit NORFMA’s website at <https://norfma.org/>.

Community Disaster Resilience Zones

Community Disaster Resilience Zones (CDRZs) are meant to build disaster resilience across the nation by driving federal, public, and private resources to the most at-risk and in-need jurisdictions. In November 2023, FEMA announced the first 483 CDRZs, which can be found across all 50 states.

The vision for this program is to harness the power of collaboration and cross-sector coordination across governmental agencies, philanthropic foundations, private non-profits, universities, the insurance industry, and private businesses. The goal is to ensure the most at-risk and most in-need communities have the support, resources, and opportunities they need to improve their resilience.

A CDRZ designation offers opportunities for private entities and public private partnerships to reap the benefits of resilience investing, leveraging the up to 13:1 return on investment for mitigation and resilience projects. Collaboration between government, non-profits, and private business facilitates experimentation with service delivery models including innovative financing methodologies.

For more information about Community Disaster Resilience Zones, please visit <https://www.fema.gov/partnerships/community-disaster-resilience-zones>.

This article was included after a newsletter subscriber inquired about the program.

Ask the Help Desk:

The Region 10 Service Center is here to help local community officials and stakeholders with technical, training, mitigation, and mapping questions. **Email:** RegionXHelpDesk@starr-team.com.

Online Training Calendar

(All times Pacific)

Course	Date/Time	Continuing Education Credits (CECs)
STARR II: Tools for Determining BFE	September 12, 10 am	1.5
CRS: Annual CRS Requirements	September 17, 10 am	1
CRS: Repetitive Loss Properties and the CRS	September 18, 10 am	1
STARR II: NFIP Basics	September 26, 10 am	1
STARR II: Technical Bulletins	October 10, 10 am	1
CRS: Introduction to the CRS	October 15, 10 am	1
CRS: CRS and Higher Regulatory Standards	October 16, 10 am	1
STARR II: Preparing for a CAC/CAV	October 17, 10 am	1
STARR II: Substantial Damage and DRRA 1206	October 31, 10 am	1.5

 To register for online courses, visit STARR II's training site: j.mp/starronlinetraining, or email RXTraining@starr-team.com.

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