

*Number of Respondents:* 5.  
*Estimated Time Per Response:* 5 hours.

*Frequency of Response:* Annual reporting requirement.

*Total Annual Burden:* 25 hours.

*Annual Reporting and Recordkeeping Cost Burden:* N/A.

*Needs and Uses:* The Responsible Accounting Officer (RAO) letter requires that carriers' independent auditors disclose in writing all relationships between the auditor and its related entities and the carrier and its related entities that in the auditor's professional judgment may reasonably be thought to bear on independence; confirm in writing in its professional judgment it is independent of the carrier; and discuss the auditor's independence. The information will be used to determine whether the independent auditors are performing their audits independently and unbiased of the carrier they audit.

Federal Communications Commission.

**Marlene H. Dortch,**

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 03-4830 Filed 2-28-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6712-01-P

## FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

### Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program

**AGENCY:** Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

**ACTION:** Notice of availability of Pre-Disaster Mitigation planning grants.

**SUMMARY:** FEMA gives notice of the availability of mitigation planning grants for fiscal year (FY) 2003 under the Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program, authorized by section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. 5133, as amended by section 102 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA), Public Law 106-390, 114 Stat. 1552. Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, H.J. Res. 2 (February 20, 2003), directs FEMA to provide \$250,000 of the FY 2003 appropriation to each of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa for eligible State and local (to include Indian Tribal governments) hazard mitigation planning. However, a general provision in the law directs that every program, project, and activity be reduced by .65 percent. Therefore, the maximum Federal share is \$248,375.

FEMA will contribute up to 75 percent of the cost of activities approved for funding up to a maximum of \$248,375. At least 25 percent of the total eligible costs must be provided from a non-Federal source. There will be no additional FEMA funding available for cost overruns.

All contributions, cash and in-kind, are accepted as part of the non-Federal matching share. Except as allowed by Federal statute, no other Federal funds can be used as a match. Requirements for in-kind contributions can be found in 44 CFR 13.24. In-kind contributions must be comprised of eligible program costs. The following documentation is required for in-kind contributions: record of source of donor, dates, rates, amounts, and deposit slips (cash contributions only).

Grants awarded to small, impoverished communities may receive a Federal cost share of up to 90 percent of the total cost to implement eligible PDM activities. A small, impoverished community must meet all of the following criteria:

- It must be a community of 3,000 or fewer individuals that is identified by the State as a rural community, and is not a remote area within the corporate boundaries of a larger city;
- It must be economically disadvantaged, with residents having an average per capita annual income not exceeding 80 percent of national per capita income, based on best available data;
- It must have a local unemployment rate that exceeds by one percentage point or more, the most recently reported, average yearly national unemployment rate; and
- It must meet any other factors as determined by the State in which the community is located.

**DATES:** Each of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa must submit a grant application to the appropriate FEMA Regional Office by April 30, 2003. If an applicant cannot meet the April 30, 2003, application deadline due to budget issues related to cost share, a letter of intent must be submitted to the Regional Director by April 30, 2003. The letter should indicate the intent to submit a FY 2003 PDM planning grant application, include an explanation of relevant budget issues, and provide a list of proposed activities and sub-grantees. Grant applications from applicants that submit a letter of intent by April 30, 2003, are due to FEMA by July 31, 2003.

**ADDRESSES:** FEMA Regional Offices:

*Serving Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts:* FEMA Region I, Federal Regional Center, Building A, 63 Old Marlboro Road, Maynard, MA 01754-2147.

*Serving New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands:* FEMA Region II, 26 Federal Plaza, Rm. 1337, New York, NY 10278-0002.

*Serving the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia:* FEMA Region III, 1 Independence Mall, 6th Floor, 615 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-4404.

*Serving Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee:* FEMA Region IV, 3003 Chamblee Tucker Road, Atlanta, GA 30341.

*Serving Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin:* FEMA Region V, 536 S. Clark Street, 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60605.

*Serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas:* FEMA Region VI, FRC 800 North Loop 288, Denton, TX 76201-3698.

*Serving Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska:* FEMA Region VII, 2323 Grand Avenue, Suite 900, Kansas City, MO 64108.

*Serving Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming:* FEMA Region VIII, Denver Federal Center, Building 710, Box 25267, Denver, CO 80225-0267.

*Serving Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Territory of American Samoa, the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia:* FEMA Region IX, Building 105, Presidio of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA 94129-1250.

*Serving Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington:* FEMA Region X, Federal Regional Center, 130 228th Street, SW., Bothell, WA 98021-979.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Margaret Lawless, Program Planning and Delivery Division, Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA, 500 C Street, SW., Room 401, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-3027 or E-mail: [Margaret.Lawless@fema.gov](mailto:Margaret.Lawless@fema.gov).

### SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

#### Appropriations

Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, H.J. Res. 2 (February