

(7) Recommendations and documentation regarding the environmental review required by 44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Considerations, and other applicable laws and executive orders, including responses to Established Questions for mitigation projects and complete environmental/historic documentation (the environmental/historic Established Questions are available for Applicants and Sub-applicants on the FEMA Web site: <http://www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm>); and

(8) Assurance that the Sub-application is complete and addresses all program requirements including the Supplemental Questions, thereby meeting the program criteria outlined under section 203(g) of the Stafford Act.

National Priority for FY 2003

For FY 2003, FEMA has established a National priority on funding mitigation projects that address NFIP repetitive flood loss properties. By focusing on the mitigation of NFIP repetitive flood loss properties through acquisition, relocation, elevation, floodproofing, and minor structural projects that save lives and protect property, there will be significant reductions to the NFIP claims payments; improvement to the soundness of the National Flood Insurance Fund; and reduction to disaster housing payments, emergency response expenses, and disaster assistance to fund the repair of the infrastructure. In addition, fewer families will lose wages and fewer businesses will suffer reduced profits as a result of flooding. Also, in the case of property acquisition, there will be increased recreational opportunities and an enhancement of the environment through the creation of open space along rivers and streams. Most importantly, communities and their residents will be safer from flood hazards.

Eligible Activities and Associated Costs

Mitigation Planning. Applicants may request mitigation planning funds to provide mitigation planning assistance to Sub-applicants, including delivery of mitigation planning workshops and assistance in the development of mitigation plans. Applicants and Sub-applicants may request mitigation planning funds to develop State, Tribal, and local multi-hazard mitigation plans that meet the planning criteria outlined in 44 CFR part 201 pursuant to section 322 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. 5133, including the development of risk assessments for mitigation plans. Proposals may be submitted for countywide or multi-jurisdictional plans since many mitigation issues are

better resolved by evaluating hazards in a more comprehensive fashion, however, multi-jurisdictional plans must be adopted by all jurisdictions covered by the plan. Multi-hazard mitigation planning must primarily focus on natural hazards but may also address hazards caused by non-natural forces.

Because FEMA's National priority for FY 2003 is to fund proposals that address NFIP repetitive flood loss properties, communities with NFIP repetitive flood loss properties are urged to address those properties in their risk assessment and planning process.

As part of the competitive grant program, up to 10 percent of the funds requested in the mitigation planning sub-application may be used for information dissemination activities regarding cost-effective mitigation technologies. These activities may include marketing and outreach (brochures and videos, etc.), related to the proposed mitigation planning activity.

Mitigation Projects. Multi-hazard mitigation projects must primarily focus on natural hazards but may also address hazards caused by non-natural forces. Funding is restricted to a maximum of \$3 million of Federal funds per project. The following are eligible types of mitigation projects:

- Property acquisition or relocation of hazard prone property for conversion to open space in perpetuity;
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting (including designs and feasibility studies when included as part of the construction project) for wildfire, seismic, wind or flood hazards (e.g., elevation, storm shutters, hurricane clips);
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects that may include vegetation management, and stormwater management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins); and,
- Localized flood control projects, such as certain ring levees and floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and that do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system.

Mitigation projects must also meet the following general criteria:

- (1) Be cost-effective and substantially reduce the risk of future damage, hardship, loss, or suffering resulting from a major disaster, consistent with 44 CFR 206.434(c)(5) and related guidance, and have a Benefit Cost Analysis that results in a benefit cost ratio of at least 1.0. Mitigation projects without a Benefit Cost Analysis or with a benefit cost ratio less than 1.0 will not be considered for the PDM competitive

grant program. Mitigation projects with higher benefit cost ratios will be more competitive. Applicants may use programs or mechanisms other than the FEMA benefit-cost model to conduct the Benefit Cost Analysis; however the methodology used must be consistent with the FEMA benefit-cost model and approved in advance by FEMA. To facilitate the review and approval of eligible mitigation activities, FEMA has developed an alternative approach to determine cost effectiveness for mitigating certain NFIP repetitive loss properties (information on the alternative approach to determine cost effectiveness is available for Applicants and Sub-applicants on the FEMA Web site: <http://www.fema.gov/fima/pdm.shtm>);

(2) Be in conformance with the current FEMA-approved State hazard mitigation plan;

(3) Solve a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a solution where there is assurance that the project as a whole will be completed, consistent with 44 CFR 206.434(c)(4);

(4) Be in conformance with 44 CFR Part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, 44 CFR Part 10, Environmental Considerations;

(5) Not duplicate the assistance that another Federal agency or program has the primary authority to provide, consistent with 44 CFR 206.434(g);

(6) Be located in a community that (a) does not have a SFHA, or (b) is participating in the NFIP if the community has an identified SFHA (a FHBM or FIRM has been issued). The community must not be on probation, suspended or withdrawn from the NFIP; and,

(7) Meet the requirements of Federal, State, and local laws.

As part of the competitive grant, up to 10 percent of the funds requested in the project sub-application may be used for information dissemination activities regarding cost-effective mitigation technologies. These activities may include marketing and outreach (brochures and videos, etc.), related to the proposed mitigation project.

Applicant Management Costs.

Applicants may request up to 10 percent of the total planning and project grant funding requested for management costs to support the solicitation, review and processing of PDM sub-applications and awards, and to provide technical assistance to Sub-applicants, including assisting Sub-applicants with Benefit Cost Analysis and environmental and historic documentation. Care must be taken not to provide more technical assistance to one Sub-applicant than