

the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses. Comments should be received within 60 days of the date of this notice.

**ADDRESSES:** Interested persons should submit written comments to Muriel B. Anderson, Chief, Records Management Branch, Information Resources Management Division, Information Technology Services Directorate, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security, 500 C Street, SW., Room 316, Washington, DC 20472; e-mail address: *InformationCollections@fema.gov*; or, facsimile (202) 646-3347.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Merrill Sollenberger, Special Groups and Visitors Coordinator, U.S. Fire Administration, telephone number (301) 447-1179, facsimile number (301) 447-1366, or e-mail address: *merril.sollenberger@dhs.gov* for additional information. You may contact Ms. Anderson for copies of the proposed information collection.

Dated: December 22, 2003.

**Edward W. Kernan,**

*Division Director, Information Resources Management Division, Information Technology Services Directorate.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Federal Emergency Management Agency

#### Pre-Disaster Mitigation Disaster Resistant University Grants

**AGENCY:** Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security.

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

**SUMMARY:** The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) gives notice of the availability of Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Disaster Resistant University (DRU) grants. FEMA will provide PDM funds to assist universities, through State and local governments, to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program to reduce overall risk to

facilities, research assets, students and faculty.

These funds will be competitively awarded with a National priority of ensuring that program funds benefit a representative range of universities, based on hazard type, size, geography, and academic community served, which includes consideration of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Tribal Colleges and Universities. Funds are available for hazard mitigation project and planning activities at universities that have demonstrated commitment to such activities through prior DRU efforts, and for planning and project activities for universities that have not undertaken DRU activities.

**DATES:** States, and federally recognized Indian Tribal governments that complete grant applications must submit them on paper to the appropriate FEMA Regional Office on or before midnight, eastern time, March 1, 2004. If the non-Federal cost share requirement cannot be met by the application deadline due to pending State and/or local legislative approval or fiscal year timelines, the Applicant still must submit the application by March 1, 2004, including a notation in the Budget Narrative and a letter to the FEMA Regional Director providing an explanation and stating that the cost share will be available by March 30, 2004. The Applicant must follow-up with a written certification to the FEMA Regional Director by March 30, 2004, to verify that non-Federal cost share funding is approved and available for immediate use if the application is selected by FEMA.

**ADDRESSES:** FEMA Regional Offices:

FEMA Region I—*Serving Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts:* J.W. McCormack POCH Building, Boston, MA 02109.

FEMA Region II—*Serving New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands:* 26 Federal Plaza, Rm. 1307, New York, NY 10278-0001.

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

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

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

FEMA Region VI—*Serving Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas:* FRC 800 North Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209-3698.

FEMA Region VII—*Serving Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska:* 2323 Grand Avenue, Suite 900, Kansas City, MO 64108-2670.

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

FEMA Region IX—*Serving Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Territory of American Samoa, the Territory of Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:* 1111 Broadway, Suite 1200, Oakland, CA 94607-4052.

FEMA Region X—*Serving Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington:* Federal Regional Center, 130 228th Street, SW., Bothell, WA 98021-9796.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

LaBrina Jones, Office of the Director/Administrator, Mitigation Division, FEMA, 500 C Street, SW., Room 404A, Washington, DC 20472, (202) 646-4331 or E-mail: *LaBrina.Jones@dhs.gov*.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

#### Authority and Appropriations

The PDM program was 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, to assist States and communities to implement a sustained pre-disaster natural hazard mitigation program to reduce overall risk to population, buildings and infrastructure, while also reducing reliance on funding from actual disaster declarations.

\$150 million was made available for the PDM grant program under the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003, Public Law 108-7, to be awarded generally on a competitive basis and without reference to State allocations, quotas, or other formula-based allocation of funds. A Notice of Funds Availability for the PDM planning grants was published on March 3, 2003, at 68 FR 10018. A Notice of Funds Availability for the PDM competitive grant program was published on July 7, 2003 at 68 FR 40284.

FEMA is now making available approximately \$3.6 million of PDM funds as Disaster Resistant University (DRU) grants to State, local and Tribal governments for pre-disaster mitigation activities that benefit universities.