

BULLETIN NO. 3

(Weather) Safe Rooms & FEMA Funding



School safety can be substantially enhanced by including a Safe Room in new school planning, adding a Safe Room to an existing school, or retrofitting an existing room to Safe Room specifications.

The State of Iowa will receive FEMA disaster funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of Presidential disaster declaration as a result of severe storms, straight-line winds and flooding that occurred in our State this spring.

Project Types

The State is making available HMGP funds for those eligible hazard mitigation project types that will reduce or eliminate losses from future natural disasters, including but not limited to:

- Construction of tornado safe rooms (Multi-functional community or school safe room projects are highly encouraged)
- Acquisition, structural relocation or elevation of buildings located in a special flood hazard area
- Structural and non-structural retrofitting of existing public buildings, facilities, or utilities to protect against wind, ice, or flood hazards

Eligible Applicant

Potentially eligible applicants include:

- State agencies and local governments to include school districts
- Federally recognized Indian tribal governments, including State-recognized Indian tribes, and authorized tribal organizations
- Private nonprofit (PNP) organizations or institutions that operate a PNP facility as defined in the 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 206.221(e).

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan prior to FEMA awarding HMGP project funds. Schools districts must have adopted and participated in Hazard Mitigation planning process to be eligible. Funding will be limited to sub-applicants with an approved local hazard mitigation plan at time of award.

For your reference, here is a link to the current approved multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plans for the State of Iowa: http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/documents/hazard_mitigation/HM_LocalPlanStatus.pdf
Applicants with proposed projects located in a FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) are eligible for funding only if the jurisdiction in which the project is located is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). There is no NFIP participation requirement for projects located outside of the SFHA.

The design criteria for a tornado safe room can be found in FEMA publication 361, Design and Construction Guidance for Community Safe Rooms, 2nd edition. An Adobe file of FEMA publication 361 may be obtained from FEMA's on-line library at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=1657>. A printed copy may be available by calling (800)-480-2520.

Funding & Cost Share

This is a cost share grant program which means that awarded grants will be funded as follows:

- Federal (FEMA) share of total eligible costs – 75% maximum
- Non Federal share of total eligible costs – 25%
 - State of Iowa – 10% (typical)
 - Local – 15%

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Iowa Code 455B.262A [effective 6-30-2011]; State participation in funding financial assistance (10% State cost share) for a flood related disaster requires participation in the NFIP for a city or county with an effective FEMA published flood insurance map that identifies a SFHA. To determine NFIP participation please visit: <http://www.fema.gov/fema/csb.shtm>

Notice of Interest (NOI) & Application Process

Applicants must complete and email the appropriate (project specific) NOI form using the format provided to hsemd.mitigation@iowa.gov. The NOI forms can be found under the HMGP tab at the following link: <http://www.iowahomelandsecurity.org/grants/HMA.html>.

Deadline to submit an NOI is August 30, 2013.

The State hazard mitigation staff will review NOIs using basic eligibility criteria for HMGP projects outlined in 44 CFR 206.434 (c), project type and level of interest in relation to acceptance of a greater local cost share. NOI's will not be accepted for funding requests exceeding \$1,000,000. Invitations to complete a full HMGP project application will be sent to qualifying sub-applicants. Invitation letters will identify a State Mitigation Project Officer who will work directly with the applicant. This Project Officer will contact the applicant to discuss the proposed project, the application requirements, and be available to provide technical assistance during the application development process if needed.

Current projects in development with the HMGP will be evaluated using the same criteria as NOI submittals.

For additional information or questions, contact a lead State Mitigation Project Officer:

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