

## **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Overview**

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides grants to States and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration.

Authorized under Section 404 of the Stafford Act and administered by FEMA, HMGP was created to reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters. The program enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the recovery from a disaster.

The amount of funding available for the HMGP under a particular disaster declaration is up to 15 percent of the total disaster funds awarded by FEMA.

FEMA can fund up to 75 percent of the eligible costs of each project. There is a process in place for reviewing HMGP applications and awarding qualified grant requests. The state or grantee must provide a 25 percent match, which can be fashioned from a combination of cash and in-kind sources.

HMGP funds may be used to fund projects that will reduce or eliminate the losses from future disasters. Projects must provide a long-term solution to a problem. Funds may be used to protect either public or private property or to purchase property that has been subjected to, or is in danger of, repetitive damage.

Examples of projects include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Acquisition of real property for willing sellers and demolition or relocation of buildings to convert the property to open space use;
- 2) Retrofitting structures and facilities to minimize damages from natural disasters such as floods and wildfires;
- 3) Elevation of flood prone structures;
- 4) Development and initial implementation of vegetative management programs;
- 5) Flood control projects (could include hazard reduction, channelization, and stream conveyance projects) that do not duplicate the flood prevention activities of other federal agencies;
- 6) Localized flood control projects, such as certain ring levees and floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities;
- 7) Post-disaster building code related activities that support building code officials during the reconstruction process.

Following a disaster declaration, the State (typically the Colorado Office of Emergency Management with technical assistance from CWCB staff) will advertise that HMGP funding is available to fund mitigation projects in the state. A specific timeline and process for grant applications related to this current disaster have not yet been established.