

Dear Colleagues:

November 21, 2008

The State of Iowa will receive FEMA funding under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) as part of Presidential disaster declaration FEMA-1763-DR (May 27, 2008) as a result of tornados and catastrophic flooding that occurred in our State. The initial notice of funds availability for this disaster was published June 20, 2008 and limited the mitigation project type to property acquisitions.

### **Project Types**

The State is opening up HMGP funds availability beyond property acquisition/demolition and planning projects. Projects may be of any type 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

- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects such as storm water management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins)

- Localized flood control projects, such as floodwall systems, that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities and do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system

The State will consider all HMPG project types except back-up power generation and warning systems at this time. The State will publish a notice if funding for back-up power generation and warning systems becomes available in the future.

### **Eligible Applicants**

Potentially eligible applicants include:

- State agencies and local governments

- 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 mitigation plan prior to FEMA awarding HMGP project funds. If a community does not have an approved plan or is engaged in the planning process, there may still be an opportunity for them to be awarded HMGP project funds once the plan is approved. These communities are encouraged to submit a Notice of Interest (NOI) and potentially develop a project application.

Applicants with proposed projects located in a FEMA-identified Special Flood Hazard Area must be a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) participating community. However, applicants who were NFIP participants in the past but currently are suspended or sanctioned are not eligible for HMGP funds, regardless where the proposed project is located.

### **Notice of Interest & Application Process**

Applicants must complete and email the NOI form (see attached) to [hsemd.mitigation@iowa.gov](mailto:hsemd.mitigation@iowa.gov) no later than March 15, 2008. The State is strongly encouraging early submission of NOIs. The State mitigation staff will review NOIs for basic eligibility and send invitations for full HMGP project application within a

few weeks. The invitation letter will identify a project officer for the applicant, who will contact the applicant to discuss the project and offer technical assistance throughout the application process.

The application deadline is May 1, 2009. Project applications will be accepted, reviewed, and submitted to FEMA for funding approval on a continuous basis. Therefore, earlier submission potentially means earlier funding, absent any special circumstances or issues.

### **Funds**

The total estimated amount of HMGP funds available is \$244 million. There is not a funding limit on individual project applications. The estimated cost share for awarded HMGP project grants is:

Federal (FEMA) – 75% maximum

Non Federal – 25%

○ State of Iowa – 10%

○ Community Development Block Grant – 15%

(Administered through the Iowa Department of Economic Development)

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

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We ask that the County Emergency Management Coordinators, Councils of Government, and Planning Commissions forward this information to the communities in their service area to achieve the widest distribution possible.

John Wageman  
State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
Iowa Homeland Security & Emergency Management Division