

2019 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Overview

What is mitigation and the HMGP?

- Mitigation projects lessen or eliminate the effects of future disasters.
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program dollars are awarded to a state following a Presidential disaster declaration.
- The amount of HMGP dollars available to South Dakota following a federal disaster declaration is equal to 20 percent of the federal share of the Public Assistance damage costs in the federal disaster declaration.
- HMGP funding is available approximately one year after an approved federal disaster declaration.
- City, township, county, tribal, and state governments and certain private non-profit entities with FEMA-approved pre-disaster mitigation plans in place are eligible to apply for mitigation funding.
- Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, drainage improvement projects, power line burials, acquisition and relocation of structures out of a designated flood plain, and tornado saferoom construction.
- Eligible applicants complete and submit an HMGP application to the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be considered when the next round of funding is available to the state.
- Projects must be cost-effective, feasible and meet environmental and historic preservation requirements.
- South Dakota's State Hazard Mitigation Team, appointed by the Governor, awards funding to projects based on priorities outlined in the Statewide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

How is the State making HMGP funding more accessible?

Currently, each HMGP project has the following project cost breakdown:

75% federal share (paid by FEMA HMGP)
+ 25% non-federal share (paid by the applicant)
100% project cost

Starting with federal disasters declared in 2019, the state will provide ten percent of the total project cost. Now each HMGP project will have the following project cost breakdown:

75% federal share (paid by FEMA HMGP)
+ 15% non-federal share (paid by the applicant)
+ 10% non-federal share (paid by the state)
100% project cost

Applicants may borrow the 15% non-federal share from the Emergency and Disaster fund, payable within seven years.

The addition of state dollars lowers the match requirement for local governments and encourages local participation in mitigation projects. These projects will improve infrastructure resiliency for future generations, provide long-term solutions to repetitive loss situations and helps avoid reliance on federal dollars for recovery.

The state Office of Emergency Management will provide information on the PDM and HMGP application process in early 2020.