Hazard Mitigation Grant Program State-Wide Applicant Briefing Q&A

The following information was pulled from the live chat during the HMGP State-Wide Applicant Briefing on April 15, 2025. It is edited down for clarity and convenience. The conversations that were removed from the initial chat conversation include non-inquiries or inquiries not pertinent to participation in the HMGP. Some examples of the latter include questions asking where documents will be posted after the briefing and questions regarding the live broadcast.

1. Under the 404 plan, can CDBG -DR be used for the cost share?
   a. Yes, CDBG-DR is eligible to be used as non-federal match.
   b. Yes it can be, but be aware that you will be responsible for ensuring that the requirements of both programs are met. Sometimes the timing can be tricky, but it's doable.

2. What is the local cost share under HMGP?
   a. 25% non-federal

3. Can you add the link to the guide?
   a. you can find the guidance at the link below under the "Application" drop-down menu
      Hazard Mitigation Grant Program | Florida Disaster

4. FEMA is reporting that only 16 HMGP projects under Hurricane Ian have been awarded State-wide so far. Is that normal? Is this the timeline we should anticipate moving forward? Asking because the timing definitely is a challenge with CDBG-DR and HMGP aligning.
   a. There have been 82 awards for Hurricane Ian so far with more submitted to FEMA for award. We are working closely with Florida Commerce on the CDBG-DR collaboration between the programs.

5. Have the recommended projects from the last HMGP cycle been announced and notified?
   a. All subapplicants are notified upon award by FEMA.

6. How would a sub recipient apply for reimbursement for administrative costs?
   a. During application you will need to identify your management costs. During reimbursement, you submit these as a separate line item on the reimbursement form provided to you along with your supporting documentation.

7. Can links be provided in the chat for resources referenced in the presentation?
   a. Many of the links are available on our website:
      https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program/

8. Is this timeline stating awardees are notified of award 12 months AFTER application submission?
   a. (Answered Post-Briefing) No, the timeline is showing the statutory deadlines. Subgrantees are notified as soon as the state receives the award from FEMA.

9. Is there a way someone can send us the policy guide? It doesn't seem to be on the FEMA website that FDEM sends us to when we click it.

a. FEMA has pulled the Guide down to make edits to be in line with Executive Orders. It will be available again once those changes are made.

10. Where can we find a list of the 82 awards for Hurricane Ian? Is there a link?
    a. There is not a link available showing this information. All subapplicants are aware of their awards. Please reach out to the local point of contact or the County's LMS Work Group to see about the status of the application.

11. do we need a resolution from our Board showing local funding has been secured?
    a. There is a form called the Authorizing Agent Approval Form, which is a one page document that requires the signature of the authorizing agent. At application this is all we need to confirm that funding is secured, or will be, for the proposed project.

12. Can the local share source be changed post-application but before the agreement is executed?
    a. This is fine, just communicate with your assigned state project manager.

13. Yes, i would like a link for those awards as well that Karen inquired on. We completed multiple RFI's and there has been no additional communication
    a. Please reach out to your Project Manager and they should be able to provide an update about your project. FDEM distributes a spreadsheet of awarded projects quarterly to the LMSWGs who should distribute among local partners.

14. I heard a statement that I need clarification on: private non-profits DO NOT need to adopt the LMS plan? They do not have to have a formal resolution?
    a. Yes, that is accurate. Private Non-Profits do not need to adopt the LMS Plan to apply for HMGP. However, they must work with the LMS Work Group to have their project added to the PPL and prioritized for funding.

15. Is there a requirement that the project has not started yet? (i.e. WWTP Relocation - if portions of the relocation effort have started, but more projects need to be done to redirect the conveyance)
    a. This will be covered more under Environmental presentation, but there is a requirement that the project has not started prior to award and contracting with the state.

16. No new construction correct?
    a. Some new construction projects are allowable, such as code plus, safe rooms, mitigation reconstruction, and WWTP relocation.

17. Can electric utilities replace old or undersized cable to support restoration efforts during a storm?
    a. We would need additional information to make a final determination, but utility mitigation projects to avoid future service outages, and/or improve the recovery time are eligible.

18. Does a municipal utility need to officially adopt the LMS plan in order to be eligible, even if our projects are on the list?
    a. If the municipal utility is not a Provide Non-Profit, then yes they would need to adopt to be able to apply as the subapplicant.

19. Would projects that provide wave reduction in our coastal waters (for example oyster beds, etc.) qualify?

a. We will need additional information to provide an answer, please feel free to reach out to me with more details claudia.purser@em.myflorida.com

20. Do things like weatherstems, tidal gauges, stormwater telemetry count as warning systems?
    a. Yes, the mentioned systems are consider "warning systems" under HMGP.

21. Definition of "not started". Does that mean construction not started? Or also, design not started?
    a. Yes, it refers to construction. Designs should be submitted with the application for review.

22. Can you please provide more guidance on the required procurement process for HMGP grants?
    a. This will need to follow 2 CFR 200 as well as your local procurement process.

23. Is there specific language or process by which we need to adopt the LMS Plan to be eligible to apply? (i.e. consent agenda versus regular agenda, etc.)
    a. You can reach out to me: angie.odell@em.myflorida.com and I can send you the contact information for your county and the requirements on the state side depending on the county.

24. Can you please clarify that global match used from the same disaster? Can I use previous HMGP match from Hurricane Irma as global match for Helene/Milton?
    a. Global match projects are just the same as regular HMGP projects, but 100% locally funded. With that being said, if a global match project was submitted for Ian it cannot be used as match for Debby, for example. Just like an HMGP project cannot utilize funding from multiple disasters. The global match project also cannot have started prior to approval and contracting with the state.
        i. Jared, are you saying that global match is only allowed from other projects that are also using Helene and Milton funds under Helene and Milton only? Is that considered double dipping? Guess I'm just not understanding.
            1. No worries, so if I'm submitting HMGP project A under Helene and HMGP project B under Milton, I can submit global match project C under Helene to cover project A. I cannot also submit it under Milton to cover project B.

25. So for Global Match - an entity submits two applications: 1 for the HMGP funded project and the 2nd one to be used as Global match? But both applications use the same application, including a BCA?
    a. No, they are two separate applications and reviewed separately for eligibility. you will just need to reference in the cost-share section of the budget that you are using global match.

26. With the 48 month timeline for award, does that mean that funds have to be allocated within the 48 month window or that everything has to be completed in that 48 month window? Concern is delay in materials/delivery (ex: Generators/Transformers taking a year+).
    a. 48 months is the max timeframe. You'll follow your schedule of work, so if you schedule it for a year and there are delays then an extension request is an option to accommodate.

27. for the global match, is there a threshold for the value of the project or percentage to provide global match for the other projects?
    a. (Answered Post-Briefing) The global match project must be of equal or grater value (total project cost) to the matching project's agreed upon non-federal share (25 percent or more).

28. Is FEMA funding being affected by the federal government's recent policies?
   a. There have been no discussions about HMGP being cancelled or impacted by the recent policies.

29. I am sorry if you answered already but is there a technical assistance contractor for this round?
   a. There will not be technical assistance available for these disasters. However, if you have questions about your application or DEMES or anything related to what we are discussing today, please reach out to our team.

30. We have some projects that we want funded for construction, are we required to submit engineering plans and design along with the application? This would not be for "new construction" but for replacement of existing infrastructure.
   a. (Answered Post-Briefing) Having the designs and plans in place at application will allow you to move into construction when the project begins. Without them, the project would be phased so that you can complete them. Once the phase I deliverables are completed then the project would be fully reviewed, approved, and award before phase II construction could begin.

31. If a Consultant is contracted to perform application and post-award compliance under the 5% SRMC, does the contracting of the Consultant fall under federal guidelines, or contract with a Consultant under what guidelines?
   a. (Answered Post-Briefing) Yes, this would fall under the SRMC so long as it fell under the SRMC guidance for acceptable activities.

32. Can you clarify project start date for Milton?
   a. The application deadline for Milton is July 25, 2025, 11:59 p.m. (EDT).

33. How much funding is available for each disaster declaration?
   a. This is available in the NOFA for each disaster which you can find on our website under the drop down for each disaster: https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program/

34. Can ROW trimming based on locations that have been identified as areas that would see an outage during a storm due to trees be funded?
   a. (Answered Post-Briefing) This would need to be addressed with more specifics as it tends to fall under maintenance activities. Email dem_hazardmitigationgrantprogram@em.myflorida.com with specifics.

35. Is there a fillable form for offline application preparation?
   a. There is not, however, please review the information under the Application and other dropdowns of the HMGP website for more information about what is required in the application. Applications need to be submitted in DEMES - instructions are available in the NOFA and on the website. https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program/

36. Can the same project be submitted for both Helene and Milton, or just one or the other?

a. It is allowable to submit the same application under both disasters, however, we are encouraging LMS Work Groups to avoid this as much as possible to lessen the workload on the subapplicants and our review team. If this does occur, the subapplicant would be required to choose which disaster they want to move forward with for funding.

37. What is the timing for project start date?
   a. This is dependent on the length of the review and determined during the contracting stage. It's difficult to give a blanket timeframe unfortunately,

38. If I'm understanding correctly, the soonest start date on a project is ... May 2026?
   a. (Answered Post-Briefing) Time-lines are hard to pin down, but the 1 year timeline for the states review is not the same as a general start date for projects. Projects are review simultaneously and some move quicker than others. Projects start when they are able to get through the stages of review and award.

39. Has FEMA provided a time frame for when the revised HMA Policy and Guide will be released? And, any potential changes would not impact these current NOFAs?
   a. I'm not aware of when the revised will be release. We don't anticipate it would impact the current disasters.

40. Are the Project Worksheet forms online? and where?
   a. Yes, under the Project Worksheet dropdown of our website: https://www.floridadisaster.org/dem/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-grant-program/

41. Can we get some training on the BCA? I realize your team is heavily trained on this but we have to understand it to get our project prioritized high enough at the LMS level to even get into the "fundable project" range at the local level.
   a. Answered live. See recording.

42. What maps can be used to establish the elevation for the elevation option?
   a. Answered live. See recording.

43. Are those $$ figures for if BCA is not required if the TPC is under or if TPC exceeds that amount?
   a. Project with TPC at or below those dollar amounts are exempt from BCA.

44. If your application was originally for a permanent generator, can you amend it to a portable generator?
   a. Answered live. See recording.

45. Is there a wind protection requirement for generators?
   a. Answered live. See recording.

46. If we're applying for 4 generators for various lift stations, can we do a single application, or do you prefer 4 applications?
   a. These can be combined into one. General rule is you can combine projects that are same type/same location, different type/same location, same type/different location.

47. We are interested in doing wind retrofits by doing an uninterrupted power supply for our traffic signals that are affected by winds, is this eligible?
   a. Answered live. See recording.

48. Apologies if this was covered already, but would it be more appropriate to submit a generator or utility mitigation worksheet for a diesel pump at a wastewater lift station project?
   a. Answered live. See recording.

49. Can Right of Way clearing be funded if there is a history of loss of service due to trees taking out utility wire?
   a. Answered live. See recording.

50. City of West Palm Beach: How do we find out if one of our Public works buildings is still on the list? (Holtz Engineering prepared the proposal for us a few years ago)

51. Any upcoming conferences we would be able to attend
   a. We have Florida's Training for Emergency Management (FTEM) Conference in June 9-13. You can find more information here: https://web.cvent.com/event/034d4e95-8af6-4b85-8769-70481a266a88/summary

52. If we have 100 locations across the County for our projects, do you need coordinates for all locations?
   a. Yes, we would need coordinates for all locations involved in the project.

53. Could we go back to the timeline slide in the programmatic portion? Could we clarify: The Milton deadline, for instance, is July 25, 2025. That means _____ is the soonest the project can start. And, it would have to be complete within 48 months from that date.
   a. We can go back at the end of the presentation, but the 48 months doesn't start at the close of the NOFA application deadline, but rather when the project is awarded. If FEMA is still awarding application, they won't shortchange a project the time it requires.

54. will wave reduction projects such as oyster beds, living shorelines, etc. qualify?
   a. We have not seen these types of applications yet, but yes they should be eligible activities under HMGP.

55. Can these be posted in a public location such as the Courthouse, or Library? Or does it have to be advertised? And is there a length of time it has to be posted?
   a. Answered live. See recording. For drainage project will also require 30-day public notice

56. What is the timing for awards for Tiers 2 and 3?
   a. There is not a set timeframe. We try to get a idea of what is set for tier 1 before we go through the tier 2 reallocation. However, we review tier 1 and 2 projects at the same time as sometimes applications fall out for one reason or another and the funding priority shifts. Tier 3 occurs once all tier 1 and 2 projects are taken care of and there is funding available. The priority for tier 3 is first-come-first-served.

57. Can the CCCL link be shared here in the chat?
   a. https://ca.dep.state.fl.us/mapdirect/?webmap=a8c9e92fbad5446d987a8dd4ee5dc5cc

58. What would be most helpful for training would be to see a model application which includes the HMGP application, project worksheet, all of the environmental review record, maps, etc.
    a. Answered live. See recording.

59. Based on timeline, it seems like projects will likely not bee able to begin before January 2027, and possibly later than that. Is this accurate? Wondering for project planning purposes, so that our project is one that can be pursued later on.
    a. Answered live. See recording.

60. We are applying for construction funds and our project is currently in design - so the environmental review is not going to be complete by the July deadline. Can we just note this all on the EHP Worksheet?
    a. Answered live. See recording.

61. Re-sending just in case: if we submit an application, should we plan for project start date to most likely be January 2027 or later, based on the FDEM+FEMA review timelines? Just want to make sure we are developing a project that can start on that timeline (i.e. not needed sooner).
    a. Answered live. See recording.

62. What is the process for submission of applications to FEMA? Do you submit applications in "bulk" for each FOA or do you submit applications as soon as FDEM completes individual review?
    a. (Answered Post-Briefing) We submit regular batches to FEMA, but we don't have a threshold for the size of a batch before sending. It could be a batch of 1.

63. Yes - public notice for example. We wouldn't be able to get this complete prior to the application.
    a. We don't recommend posting the public notice before or during the application process. You can provide a draft, and we will let you know when you can post it.

64. can Jared please define severe storms DR-4744
    a. (Answered Post-Briefing) DR-4794 was not a named storm. FEMA gives these high wind events a long name that we shorten to "Severe Storms" to make correspondence easier on the eyes. The full name of the disaster is "Severe Storms, Straight-Line Winds, and Tornadoes."

65. With the BRIC program being cancelled, do you foresee any issues in the future with HMGP?
    a. No, there have been no discussions about HMGP being cancelled or impacted like BRIC. If this were to change in the future, we would provide updates at that time.

66. Can two registrants share access to an application? I.E. so that multiple people can work on the application together?
    a. They can both work on it, I believe. Anyone with access to the entity account can modify anything associated with it.

67. Is there a contact person that I could ask about specific project eligibility?
    a. You can email DEM_HazardMitigationGrantProgram@em.myflorida.com and someone from the team will get back to you.

68. Can you give us the link to that last single page so we don't have to go through the application to find it?

   a. (Answered Post-Briefing) I believe this was referring to either the signature page or the checklist. Both are separate documents that can be found on the HMGP page, [Hazard Mitigation Grant Program | Florida Disaster](#)

69. On the application, it asks which disaster we are applying for: Hurricane Helene and Milton are in a single NOFA, so if we all end up applying under Milton, will that be okay, or is it possible that some will be kicked down to Tier 2 even if there is additional funding available under Tier 1 for our county but under Helene?

   a. The NOFA is combined for these two disasters but you should still designate which disaster you would like to submit the application under. They will not be able to be split between disasters.
      i. So our LMS working group really needs to decide which projects are going under which disaster then?
         1. Correct. They should prioritize projects for each disaster separately, even though it is a combined NOFA

70. City of West Palm Beach: How do we find out if one of our Public works buildings is still on the list? (Holtz Engineering prepared the proposal for us a few years ago)

   a. Do you mean on the LMS Project List? Or was it a submitted application under a previous disaster?
      i. I believe so yes.
         1. (Answered Post-Briefing) There was no resolution to this conversation, but please reach out to dem_hazardmitigationgrantprogram@em.myflorida.com to inquire further.

71. Is there a template for the Scope of Work upload? Or is that just the application?

   a. There are no template SOWs, you would just fill out those sections of the application and attach the Project Worksheet.

72. Are you processing Helene projects before Milton, even though they are on the same NOFA?

   a. Our team will be reviewing both applications simultaneously.