



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

August 5, 2009

Dear Chief Elected Official:

The Department of Environmental Protection is pleased to announce the availability of Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants (HMA) for Federal fiscal year 2010 (FY2010). The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) administers the HMA funds to states, Indian tribes, communities, regional planning agencies, and other public agencies to develop and implement cost-effective natural hazard mitigation plans and projects. State, Indian Tribal, and local governments are required to develop a hazard mitigation plan as a condition for receiving certain types of non-emergency disaster assistance, including funding for mitigation projects.

For FY2010, the CTDEP will only be accepting applications for the development of natural hazard mitigation plans. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP) is committed to fully supporting efforts aimed at planning activities that reduce overall risks to the population and structures, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal disaster assistance for disaster recovery. The CTDEP strongly encourages any regional planning organization (RPO) or municipality that does not have a FEMA-approved local or regional natural hazard mitigation plan, or is not currently developing a natural hazard mitigation plan, to investigate this grant program as a means of preparing for natural disasters. The HMA Grant Program funds up to 75% of the cost of eligible activities with a requirement for a 25% non-Federal cost share.

Eligible Sub-applicants: The following entities are eligible to apply for the HMA funds: state-level agencies including state institutions (e.g., state hospital or university); Federally-recognized Indian tribal governments; local governments, including state-recognized Indian tribes, authorized Indian tribal organization; public colleges and universities; and Indian tribal colleges and universities. Private non-profits and private colleges and universities are not eligible sub-applicants, however, a relevant state agency (e.g., state education agency) or local government may apply to the CTDEP for assistance on their behalf. The same eligibility requirements apply to colleges and universities as to other sub-applicants.

Sub-Application Submissions: Since CTDEP is the applicant, we require adequate time to review and prioritize all of the individual local sub-applications so they can be incorporated into the State's application. HMA applications are due to FEMA via their electronic application system (eGrants) by Friday December 4, 2009, however, the **State has established the deadline for local HMA sub-applications to be submitted to the State via eGrants on or before October 15, 2009, 4:00 p.m. eastern standard time.** Due to strict time constraints, it is imperative that sub-applicants review and insure their application for completeness. DEP will not consider new information and incomplete applications will not be forwarded to FEMA. Sub-applicants are encouraged to incorporate any new information into applications for future grant cycles.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Requirements: Sub-applicants must continue to meet the requirements of the NFIP in order to qualify for HMA grants. These requirements include participation in the NFIP. Sub-applicants must not be on probation, suspended, or withdrawn from the NFIP. A list of FEMA websites is provided below to provide you with guidance in developing your local plan. After reviewing this information, any RPO or municipality that is interested in applying for this planning grant should contact Diane Ifkovic via email at diane.ifkovic@ct.gov for instructions on submitting a grant application. Electronic submission using FEMA's eGrants system is required.

*Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse
Inland Water Resources Division
August 2009*

The Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant Program has charted many successes. Last year's higher volume of well-developed applications, the increased proportion of eligible applications, and the more streamlined review and evaluation process have been due, in part, to municipalities' commitment to hazard mitigation. If you have any questions regarding the HMA program, please contact Carla Feroni at 860 424-3706. Thank you for your assistance in implementing this valuable program.

Sincerely,

Arthur P. Christian, II, P.E.
State Hazard Mitigation Officer

Cc: Town Planner
Floodplain Administrator
RPO Executive Director

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/index.shtm>

<http://www.fema.gov/plan/mitplanning/guidance.shtm>

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3336>

<http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=3649>