

Appendix E:

Hazard Mitigation Project

Funding Guidebook

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Overview

The guidebook aims to provide initial guidance on hazard mitigation project funding opportunities and on where to find additional grant information. The information included is consistent with established processes for hazard mitigation planning. However, it is important to note the following regarding the context of this guidebook relative to the overall planning process.

Project identification includes identifying all options to address planning objectives; at this stage, all options are viable. At times, the best option may be to work with other stakeholders in the community to design solutions that are in line with community values while reducing risk (e.g., a bike path or ball field that can double as a retention area, or the preservation of an animal habitat that also serves as a natural buffer). These solutions can often be funded innovatively, including solutions that increase local industry and revenue. For information on the broad range of mitigation project types and how projects have been implemented in communities nationwide, please refer to FEMA's Mitigation Best Practices webpage at <https://www.fema.gov/mitigation-best-practices-portfolio>.

It should be noted that the grant programs listed in this guidebook are not the only ones that could support the implementation of hazard mitigation projects. Additionally, many of these programs depend on annual funding allocations, leading to fluctuations in the amount available. However, at this point, it is more important to be aware of the potential for various avenues of support for a broad array of project types. As needs and potential hazard-mitigation project options are identified, more information can be gathered on the range of programs that might be used. It will be more efficient to start with project options and then follow up with the identification of potential matches, working with the full range of available programs and agencies as part of a comprehensive project evaluation process.

While participation in a hazard mitigation plan is required for a jurisdiction to be eligible for FEMA funds, it is not the only funding source available for mitigation actions. Depending on the type of mitigation project being pursued, FEMA funding is not always the best option, so it is increasingly important to explore other funding sources. Opportunities for funding and technical assistance exist in various federal, state, and local agencies. Non-governmental funding opportunities are available at the regional or local level from private-sector businesses, private foundations, and other non-governmental organizations. To fully map out the range of local and state options, it is necessary to undertake a detailed stakeholder analysis – something which has not been done at this time. The following provides an overview of key federal and state programs that may offer opportunities for hazard mitigation project funding, along with additional information on suggested alternative funding routes.

Federal Funding Resources

Information about federal hazard mitigation project funding opportunities is organized by the agency administering the grant. Under each agency heading, applicable grant programs are listed, with descriptions of the grants and, when available, information on typical funding amounts, eligibility, examples of past projects funded, and any additional relevant information. Agencies covered in this guidebook include:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – WaterSMART
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Funding
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Economic Development Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

Note: This is not a complete list of all federal funding opportunities. These grant programs have been chosen for their applicability to popular mitigation actions. The websites and reference materials used to provide this information are as current as possible; however, it is important to note that funding programs are dynamic and subject to frequent changes. While familiarity with current information is helpful, engaging the federal agencies in a dialogue as soon as possible is equally important.

FEMA also has a Recovery and Resilience Resource Library to help navigate the numerous programs available in pre-disaster recovery planning or in the wake of a disaster. Resources can be searched by keyword or filtered by eligibility, topic, intended beneficiary, or resource type. The Recovery and Resilience Resource Library can be found here: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/recovery-resilience-resource-library>.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities
Description	FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program provides pre-disaster funding to help states, tribes, and local governments reduce long-term risk from natural hazards. The program prioritizes projects that enhance community resilience, protect critical infrastructure, and support innovative and cost-effective mitigation strategies, with an emphasis on reducing future disaster losses.
Funds Available	The program is currently on hold.
Eligibility	States, territories, and federally recognized tribes are eligible. Local governments that participated in a hazard mitigation plan are considered sub-applicants and must apply to the State, territory, or tribe.
Examples	Storm Shelters, Wildfire Prevention Projects, Bridge Rehabilitation, Drainage Improvements, Water Storage Tanks, Flood Mitigation Planning Projects, Evacuation Centers, and more.
Additional Information	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities

	Fire Management Assistance Grant Program
Description	The Fire Management Assistance Grant Program is available to states, local, and tribal governments to mitigate, manage, and control fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands that threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.
Funds Available	The individual fire cost threshold is based on total eligible costs for the declared fire. The individual fire cost threshold for a state is greater than \$100,000 or five percent times the statewide per capita indicator, multiplied by the state population (the statewide per capita indicator is adjusted annually for inflation).
Eligibility	Eligible applicants are entities legally responsible for the firefighting activities for which reimbursement is being requested, including states, local governments, and tribal governments.
Examples	Eligible firefighting costs may include expenses for field camps, repair and replacement tools, mobilization and demobilization activities, equipment use, materials, and supplies.
Additional Information	https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/fire-management-assistance

	Flood Mitigation Assistance Program
Description	The Flood Mitigation Assistance Program is a competitive program that provides funding for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. Projects must be cost-effective, located in a participating NFIP community in good standing, align with the current hazard mitigation plan, and meet all environmental and historic preservation requirements.
Funds Available	For Fiscal Year 2023, FEMA announced the selection of 197 supplications, totaling nearly \$715 million in available federal cost share for the grant cycle.
Eligibility	States, territories, and federally recognized tribes are eligible. Local governments are considered sub-applicants and must apply to the State, territory, or tribe.
Examples	Projects include project scoping, technical assistance, community flood mitigation projects, individual structure/property-level flood mitigation projects, and management costs.
Additional Information	Cost share is required for all sub-applications funded by the Flood Mitigation Assistance program. Generally, the cost share for this program is 75% federal and 25% non-federal. Contributions of cash, third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof may be accepted as part of the non-federal cost share. More information can be found at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods

	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
Description	FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in ways that reduce future disaster losses in their communities. Funding is available when authorized under a Presidential major disaster declaration and in areas of the state requested by the Governor. Federally recognized tribes may also submit a request for a Presidential major disaster declaration within their impacted areas. All state, local, tribal, and territorial governments must develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans to receive funding for their hazard mitigation projects.
Funds Available	The amount of funding is based on the estimated total or aggregate cost of disaster assistance: Up to 15% of the first \$2 billion; Up to 10% for amounts between \$2 billion and \$10 billion; Up to 7.5% for amounts between \$10 billion and \$35.333 billion; States with enhanced mitigation plans: Up to 20%, not to exceed \$35.333 billion.
Eligibility	Project eligibility under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program can be limited by the State as part of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Administrative Plan developed post-disaster. For example, funding may be available only for projects related to the type of disaster; i.e., the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program designated for a significant flood disaster declaration may be used only for flood mitigation projects, such as the acquisition of repetitively flooded properties.
Examples	Retrofitting existing buildings to make them less susceptible to damage from a variety of natural hazards. Purchasing hazard-prone property to remove people and structures from harm's way. Drainage improvement projects to reduce the potential for flood damage. Eligible project types do not have to coincide with the type of disaster declaration, as the state decides funding prioritization accordingly.
Additional Information	In this program, private homeowners and businesses are not eligible to apply for a grant. However, a local community or other public entity may apply for funding on their behalf. Generally, the cost share is 75% federal and 25% non-federal funding. The 25% can come from any non-federal source, such as the state or local government, an individual, private contributions, Increased Cost of Compliance funds from a flood insurance policy, or Small Business Administration loans. Additional information can be found at: https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation/before-you-apply .

	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program-Post Fire
Description	This program provides funding to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures to reduce the risk of wildfire-related harm. It provides hazard mitigation grant funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in areas receiving a Fire Management Assistance Grant declaration. The Fire Management Assistance Grant Program requires a Disaster Declaration, and funding amounts are determined by FEMA based on an annual national aggregate calculation of the past 10 years' Fire Management Assistance Grant Program declarations.
Funds Available	Funds available each year are based on an average of historical Fire Management Assistance Grant declarations from the past 10 years. The total funding available for each Fire Management Assistance Grant Program declaration in Fiscal Year 2022 was \$786,552 for applicants with hazard mitigation plans and \$1,048,736 for those with an enhanced hazard mitigation plan. Multiple event funding will be aggregated into one grant under the first declaration.
Eligibility	Eligible projects include defensible space initiatives, ignition-resistant construction, hazardous fuels reduction, erosion control measures, slope failure prevention measures, and flash flooding prevention measures.
Examples	Defensible space, reducing hazardous fuels, removing standing burned trees, ignition-resistant construction, installing warning signs, strengthening or hardening water systems that were burned and caused contamination, reseeding ground cover, planting grass to prevent noxious weeds, erosion barriers on slopes, modifying/remove culverts, drainage dips, and emergency spillways.
Additional Information	The application period opens with the state or territory's first Fire Management Assistance Grant Program declaration of the fiscal year. It closes six months after the end of that fiscal year. Application extensions may be requested. https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/post-fire .

	Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam Grant Program
Description	This grant program provides technical, planning, design, and construction assistance through grants for the rehabilitation of eligible high-hazard potential dams.
Funds Available	In FY 2024, \$185.1 million.
Eligibility	Eligible dams must meet these requirements: ▪ Located in a state or territory with a dam safety program. ▪ Classified as "high hazard potential" by the state/territory dam safety agency in the state or territory in which the dam is located. ▪ Has an Emergency Action Plan (EAP)-approved state or territory dam safety program or is in conformance with state or territory law and pending approval by the relevant state or territory dam safety agency. ▪ Located in a jurisdiction with a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan that includes dam risk. ▪ Fails to meet minimum state/territory dam safety standards and poses an unacceptable risk to the public.
Examples	Dam Rehabilitation
Additional Information	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/learn/dam-safety/rehabilitation-high-hazard-potential-dams

	State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program
Description	Funding to help states, local governments, rural areas, and territories address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems.
Funds Available	In FY 2025, \$91.75 million is available under the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program. Varying amounts of funding have been allocated over the past few years due to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. According to the Cost-Share Requirements, the recipient contribution can be cash (hard match) or third-party in-kind (soft match).
Eligibility	All U.S. states and territories are eligible to apply. The designated State Administrative Agency for each state and territory is the only entity eligible to apply for SLCGP funding.
Examples	Planning, equipment, exercises, management & administration, organization, and training.
Additional Information	Each state and territory will receive a funding allocation as determined by the statutory formula: • Allocations for states and territories include a base funding level as defined for each entity: 1% for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. • State allocations include additional funds based on a combination of state and rural populations. • 80% of total state allocations must support local entities, and 25% must support rural entities; these amounts may overlap. • https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness/state-local-cybersecurity-grant-program.

	Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund
Description	The purpose of the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program is to establish revolving loan funds that provide hazard mitigation assistance for local governments to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters. The Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program complements and supplements FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant portfolio to support local government mitigation projects and increase the nation's resilience to natural hazards and climate change. These low-interest loans will allow jurisdictions to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, foster greater community resilience, and reduce disaster suffering.
Funds Available	On Jan. 14, 2025, FEMA released a funding opportunity, making \$178 million available through the fiscal year (FY) 2025 Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) – the largest amount available in a single fiscal year via the program. This grant cycle builds on the previous two years of funding, which released \$200 million. Entities can apply on a rolling basis through the end of FY 2025 (Sept. 30, 2025).
Eligibility	Eligible entities are States, federally recognized tribes that received a major disaster declaration, Territories, and the District of Columbia. State entities must enroll in this program for it to be an option for local public entities.
Examples	This is an opportunity to prioritize low-impact development, wildland-urban interface management, conservation areas, and the reconnection of floodplain and open space projects. Funding can be utilized to build code adoption and enforcement. Allowable uses include Mitigation Activities, Non-Federal Cost-Share, Local Government Technical Assistance, and Entity Administrative Costs.
Additional Information	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/storm-rlf

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

America the Beautiful Challenge	
Description	The America the Beautiful Challenge seeks to advance conservation and restoration projects that are consistent with the principles outlined in the Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful report and that focus on at least one of the following core areas of need: • Conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands, and watersheds • Conserving and restoring forests, grasslands, and other important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks • Connecting and reconnecting wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds, and seascapes • Improving ecosystem and community resilience to coastal flooding, drought, and other climate-related threats • Expanding access to the outdoors, particularly in underserved communities Applicants are encouraged to develop large-scale landscape projects and/or cross-jurisdictional projects that advance existing conservation plans or are informed by Indigenous Traditional Knowledge.
Funds Available	Approximate Annual Funding Amount: • (1) Implementation Grants: awards range from \$1-5 million, and landscape-scale restoration requests over \$5 million will be considered on a case-by-case basis. • (2) Planning Grants: awards range from \$200,000 to \$2 million and are contingent upon awards from the DOI. • (3) Sentinel Landscape Grants: awards will range from \$250,000 to \$1.5 million and are contingent upon awards by DOD. • (4) National Forest Grants: awards will range from \$250,000 to \$1.5 million and are contingent upon awards by the US Forest Service. • (5) Private Forests, Rangeland, and Farmland Grants: awards will range from \$200,000 to \$500,000 and are contingent upon awards by NRCS.
Eligibility	State government agencies, Indian Tribes, nonprofit 501(c) organizations, local governments, municipal governments, and educational institutions.
Examples	Implementation grants, planning grants, sentinel landscape grants, national forest grants, and private forests, rangeland, and farmland grants.
Additional Information	https://fundingnaturebasedsolutions.nwf.org/programs/nfwf-america-the-beautiful-challenge/

	Five Star and Urban Water Restoration Grant Program
Description	The Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration grant program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds, and the species and habitats they support.
Funds Available	Approximately \$2,500,000 was available in 2025 nationwide for projects meeting program priorities. There is one round of full proposals annually for this program, and the 2025 Request for Proposals ended on January 30, 2025. Awards can range from \$20,000 to \$50,000, with an average size of \$35,000 and about 50 grants awarded per year.
Eligibility	Nonprofit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, Tribal Governments and Organizations, and educational institutions.
Examples	Projects include a variety of ecological improvements along with targeted community outreach, education, and stewardship. Ecological improvements may include one or more of the following: wetland, riparian, forest, and coastal habitat restoration; wildlife conservation; community tree canopy enhancement; water quality monitoring; and green infrastructure best management practices for managing runoff.
Additional Information	https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program?activeTab=tab-1

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

	Planning Assistance to States
Description	Assists in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Typical studies only include planning-level detail, not design for project construction. The program can encompass many types of studies dealing with water resource issues. The Planning Assistance to States program has two types of efforts: Comprehensive Plans and Technical Assistance. Comprehensive Plan Assistance includes planning for the development, use, and conservation of the water and related resources of drainage basins, watersheds, or ecosystems located within the boundaries of that State, including plans to comprehensively address water resource challenges, such as the state water plan. Comprehensive plans can extend across state boundaries, provided both States agree. Technical Assistance provided through the Planning Assistance to States program includes support of planning efforts related to the management of state water resources, including the provision and integration of hydrologic, economic, or environmental data and analysis in support of the State's water resources management and related land resources development plans identified in the state water plan or other water resources management related state planning documents, such as state hazard mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery plans and plans associated with changing hydrologic conditions, climate change, long-term sustainability, and resilience.
Funds Available	Comprehensive planning activities through the Planning Assistance to States program are cost-shared (50 percent) with the study partner, and any voluntary contributions in excess of the cost share may be provided by the non-Federal partner. The non-federal cost share for the preparation of a state comprehensive water resources plan may be provided by funds or through the provision of services, materials, supplies, or other in-kind services. Technical assistance activities through the Planning Assistance to States program are cost-shared (50 percent) with the study partner, and any voluntary contributions in excess of the cost share may be provided by the non-Federal partner. The cost-share for technical assistance must be provided by funds (not in-kind).
Eligibility	States, local governments, other non-Federal entities, and eligible Native American Indian tribes.
Examples	Studies in recent years have included water supply/demand, water conservation, water quality, environmental/conservation, wetlands evaluation/restoration, dam safety/failure, flood damage reduction, coastal zone protection, and harbor planning.
Additional Information	https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/public-services/planning-assistance-to-states/

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – WaterSMART

	Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects
Description	Funding for small-scale on-the-ground water management projects that conserve, better manage, or otherwise increase efficient use of water supplies. Projects supported by an existing water management and conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or other planning effort led by the applicant are prioritized.
Funds Available	Applicants may request up to \$100,000 in federal funding, with a non-federal cost-share of 50% or more of total project costs for projects with total project costs of no more than \$225,000. As of November 21, 2024, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced \$3.3 million in WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency grants for 26 projects in 2024.
Eligibility	Eligible applicants for all WaterSMART Grants funding opportunities include states; tribes; irrigation districts; water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority; and nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity previously described. To be eligible, applicants must be located in the Western United States or U.S. Territories. Entities located in Alaska and Hawaii are also eligible to apply.
Examples	Examples of projects include canal lining/piping, municipal metering, irrigation flow measurement, supervisory control and data acquisition and automation, landscape irrigation measures, high-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures, and commercial cooling systems.
Additional Information	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html

	Water Strategy Grants
Description	Financial assistance for the development of water strategies to facilitate water markets as a tool for helping willing buyers and sellers meet water demands efficiently in times of shortage and prevent water conflicts.
Funds Available	Program funding is allocated through a competitive process. Applicants may request federal funding up to \$400,000 for projects to be completed within three years with a non-federal cost share of 50% or more of the total project cost.
Eligibility	Eligible applicants for all WaterSMART Grants funding opportunities include states; tribes; irrigation districts; water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority; and nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity previously described. To be eligible, applicants must be located in the Western United States or U.S. Territories. Entities located in Alaska and Hawaii are also eligible to apply.
Examples	Funding awarded under the Water Marketing Strategy Grants can be used for outreach and partnership building, planning activities (e.g., hydrologic, economic, legal, and other types of analyses), pilot activities, and the development of a "water marketing strategy" document.
Additional Information	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/watermarketing/index.html

	Water and Energy Efficiency Grants
Description	Focuses on projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, including canal lining and piping projects, municipal metering projects, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition and automation projects.
Funds Available	Applicants may request federal funding: (I) up to \$500,000 for projects to be completed within two years, (II) up to \$2 million for projects to be completed within three years, and (III) up to \$5 million for projects to be completed within three years, with a non-Federal cost share of 50% or more of the total project cost. No more than \$5,000,000 in total WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants funds will be awarded to any single applicant under this Funding Opportunity per fiscal year.
Eligibility	Eligible applicants for all WaterSMART Grants funding opportunities include states; tribes; irrigation districts; water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organizations with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority; and nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity previously described. To be eligible, applicants must be located in the Western United States or U.S. Territories. Entities located in Alaska and Hawaii are also eligible to apply.
Examples	Projects conserve and use water more efficiently, increase hydropower production, mitigate conflict risk in areas at high risk of future water conflict, and deliver other benefits that enhance water supply reliability in the western United States.
Additional Information	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/faq.html

U.S. Department of Agriculture

	Conservation Innovation Grants
Description	A competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. Through creative problem-solving and innovation, Conservation Innovation Grants partners work to address our nation's water, air, soil, and wildlife habitat challenges while improving agricultural operations. Public and private grantees develop the tools, technologies, and strategies to support next-generation conservation efforts on working lands and develop market-based solutions to resource challenges.
Funds Available	The application for Conservation Innovation Grants funding notice is announced each year. Funds for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, are awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process. Grantees must match the Conservation Innovation Grant's investment at least one-to-one. \$90 million was awarded in 2023.
Eligibility	The natural resource concerns eligible for funding through Conservation Innovation Grants are identified in the funding announcement. They may change annually to focus on new and emerging, high-priority natural resource concerns. National and State Conservation Innovation Grants – all non-Federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply. All Conservation Innovation Grants projects must involve EQIP-eligible producers.
Examples	Projects may be watershed-based, regional, multi-state, or nationwide in scope.
Additional Information	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/

	Emergency Watershed Protection Program
Description	The Emergency Watershed Program offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters that impair a watershed. The Emergency Watershed Protection Program does not require a disaster declaration by federal or state government officials for program assistance to begin.
Funds Available	The Natural Resources Conservation Service may provide technical assistance and/or funds to plan, design, and contract for the emergency measures, subject to an agreement between the Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Sponsor. Installation/Construction costs are not to exceed 75% or 90% in limited-resource areas. Engineering/Technical Assistance is not to exceed 100%. No funds are available for real property rights.
Eligibility	Project criteria require the project to protect from flooding or soil erosion, reduce threats to life and property, restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment, and be economically and environmentally defensible. Eligible local sponsors for recovery projects include cities, counties, towns, conservation districts, or any federally recognized Native American tribe or tribal organization.
Examples	Removal of debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges; reshaping and protection of eroded streambanks; correction of damaged or destroyed drainage facilities; establishing vegetative cover on critically eroding lands; repair of levees and structures; repair of certain conservation practices; and purchase of floodplain easements.
Additional Information	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewp-emergency-watershed-protection

	Small Business Innovation Research and Technology Transfer Programs
Description	The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture offer competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high-quality research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefits. This program has two phases: Phase I is open to any small business concern that meets the eligibility requirements of the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs, and Phase II is open only to previous Phase I awardees.
Funds Available	Funds are offered across 10 topic areas, including Forests and Related Resources, Plant Production and Protection-Biology, Animal Production and Protection, Conservation of Natural Resources, Food Science and Nutrition, Rural and Community Development, Aquaculture, Biofuels and Biobased Products, Small and Mid-size Farms, and Plant Production and Protection-Engineering.
Eligibility	The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer programs do not make loans or award grants to help a business get established. The program seeks to stimulate technological innovation in the private sector, strengthen the role of small businesses in meeting federal research and development needs, increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from U.S. Department of Agriculture-supported research and development efforts, and foster and encourage participation by women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged small business firms in technological innovations.
Examples	Salary and wages for company employees, associated fringe benefits, materials and supplies, and several other direct costs needed to conduct the proposed research and development.
Additional Information	https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/small-business-innovation-research-technology-transfer-programs-sbirsttr

	Watershed Rehabilitation Program
Description	The Watershed Rehabilitation Program helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet federal or state standards. The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical and financial assistance to local project sponsors to rehabilitate aging dams that protect lives, property, and infrastructure.
Funds Available	Across the Nation, watershed rehabilitation projects provide over \$2.2 billion in reduced flooding and erosion damage while improving wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality, and supply for an estimated 47 million people. Costs associated with additional or new water supply storage for the rehabilitation project may be cost-shared with watershed rehabilitation funds. Eligible project costs are covered by 65% Federal/35% Local of the total eligible project cost, not to exceed 100% of the actual construction cost. No more than 100% of the engineering/Technical Assistance will be covered.
Eligibility	Eligible projects are dams that were originally constructed through a Natural Resources Conservation Service Watershed Program, no longer meet current safety and performance standards, including dams past their evaluated life, and have current operation and maintenance.
Examples	<i>Information not available</i>
Additional Information	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-rehabilitation

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Funding

Community Facilities Loans and Grants	
Description	This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas. An essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of a primarily rural area, and that does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings.
Funds Available	<i>Information not available</i>
Eligibility	Eligible for areas with a population of 20,000 or less. Applicants include municipalities, nonprofits, special-purpose districts, and federally recognized Indian tribes. Eligible borrowers include public bodies, community-based nonprofit corporations, and federally recognized tribes.
Examples	Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment, and pay related project expenses.
Additional Information	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/co

	Rural Community Development Initiative Grants
Description	Rural Community Development Initiative grants are awarded to help nonprofit housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and federally recognized tribes support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas. Funds may be used to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.
Funds Available	Grants are awarded with a minimum amount of \$50,000 and a maximum of \$250,000. Funds are limited and are awarded through a competitive process. Matching fund requirements are equal to the amount of the grant, but in-kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds. Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.
Eligibility	Open to public bodies, nonprofit organizations, and qualified private organizations. Rural and rural areas other than a city or town with a population of greater than 50,000 people, and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town.
Examples	Rural Community Development Initiative grants may be used for, but are not limited to, training sub-grantees and providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on strategic planning, accessing alternative funding sources, board training, developing successful childcare facilities, creating training tools, and effective fundraising techniques.
Additional Information	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/rural-community-development-initiative-grants#overview

	Community Facility Technical Assistance and Training Grant
Description	Provide associations with Technical Assistance and/or training regarding essential community facilities programs. Technical assistance and/or training will help identify and plan for community facility needs in the area. Once those needs have been identified, the Grantee can assist in identifying public and private resources to finance those identified community facility needs.
Funds Available	The maximum grant award is \$150,000. Grant funds are limited and are awarded through a competitive process. Matching funds are not required, in-kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds, and partnerships with other entities are encouraged.
Eligibility	Open to public bodies, nonprofit organizations, and federally recognized tribes. Rural areas, including cities, villages, townships, towns, and Federally Recognized Tribal Lands outside the boundaries of a city of 20,000 or more.
Examples	Webster County purchased a new ambulance and equipment with Rural Development funds (and other sources), and South Sioux City built a new fire station with funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (and other sources).
Additional Information	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-technical-assistance-and-training-grant#overview

	Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants
Description	This program helps eligible communities prepare for or recover from an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. A federal disaster declaration is not required, and this grant covers events such as drought or flooding, earthquakes, tornadoes or hurricanes, disease outbreaks, chemical spills, leaks, seepage, or other disasters.
Funds Available	Up to \$150,000 for water transmission line projects. Water Source grants up to \$1,000,000.
Eligibility	Primarily for residential purposes, and they are eligible for areas with a population of 10,000 or fewer. Applicants include municipalities, special-purpose districts, nonprofits, and recognized Indian Tribes. Applications are accepted year-round online through the Rural Development Apply or through the local rural development office.
Examples	Construction of waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply. Water Source Grants are for the construction of a water source, intake, or treatment facility.
Additional Information	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants/co

U.S. Department of Energy

	Grid Innovation Program
Description	This program supports projects that use innovative approaches to transmission, storage, and distribution infrastructure to enhance grid resilience and reliability. Projects selected under this program will include interregional transmission projects, investments that accelerate the interconnection of clean energy generation, and the utilization of distribution grid assets to provide backup power and reduce transmission requirements. Innovative approaches can range from the use of advanced technologies to innovative partnerships to the deployment of projects identified by innovative planning processes.
Funds Available	The Grid Innovation Program will invest up to \$5 billion (\$1 billion/year for Fiscal Years 2022-2026) in innovation and new approaches to transmission, distribution, storage, and regional resilience. The first funding cycle will include both FY22 and FY23, up to \$2 billion. Projects are subject to a minimum 50% cost share.
Eligibility	Eligible entities include a state, a combination of 2 or more states, an Indian Tribe, a unit of local government, or a public utility commission.
Examples	Transmission, storage, and distribution infrastructure to enhance grid resilience and reliability.
Additional Information	https://www.energy.gov/gdo/grid-innovation-program

	Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants
Description	Grants support activities to modernize the electric grid and reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters. This grant program will fund comprehensive, transformational transmission and distribution technology solutions to mitigate weather hazards across a region or within a community that can disrupt the power system. Grants awarded under the program will fund transmission and distribution technology projects that address hazards within a region or community that can disrupt the power system, such as wildfires, floods, or hurricanes.
Funds Available	Funding of \$2.5 Billion over five years from FY 22-26, with \$500 million available per year. Funding is capped at the amount the eligible entity has spent in the previous three years on hardening efforts. There is a 100% cost match for this program. The program includes a small utility set aside for entities that sell no more than 4 million MWh of electricity per year.
Eligibility	This funding opportunity is available to electric grid operators, electricity storage operators, electricity generators, transmission owners or operators, distribution providers, and fuel suppliers.
Examples	Infrastructure upgrades to strengthen and modernize the power grid against natural disasters that are exacerbated by the climate crisis.
Additional Information	https://www.energy.gov/gdo/grid-resilience-utility-and-industry-grants

	Grid Innovation Program
Description	The Grid Innovation Program is designed to support projects that use innovative approaches to transmission, storage, and distribution infrastructure to enhance grid resilience and reliability. Projects selected under this program will include interregional transmission projects, investments that accelerate interconnection of clean energy generation, and utilization of distribution grid assets to provide backup power and reduce transmission requirements. Innovative approaches can range from the use of advanced technologies to innovative partnerships to the deployment of projects identified by innovative planning processes.
Funds Available	The Grid Innovation Program will invest up to \$5 billion (\$600 million/year for Fiscal Years 2022-2026) in grid resilience technologies and solutions. The first funding cycle will include both FY22 and FY23, up to \$1.2 billion. Recipients must provide a cost share of at least 50% of the grant.
Eligibility	This program is open to domestic entities, including institutions of higher education, for-profit entities, nonprofit entities, state and local governmental entities, and tribal nations.
Examples	Grid-enhancing technologies such as dynamic line rating, flow control devices, advanced conductors, and network topology optimization are used to improve system efficiency and reliability. Investments in optical ground wire, dark fiber, operational fiber, and wireless broadband communications networks.
Additional Information	https://www.energy.gov/gdo/grid-innovation-program

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

	Community Development Block Grants
Description	Provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.
Funds Available	The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determines each entitlement grantee's annual funding allocation using a statutory dual formula that uses several objective measures of community needs, including poverty rates and population.
Eligibility	Eligible grantees include principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Other metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000, qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities), States, and insular areas. Eligibility for participation as an entitlement community is based on population data provided by the Census. Each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevent or eliminate slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.
Examples	Community Development Block Grant funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to, acquisition of real property; relocation and demolition; rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures; construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes; public services, within certain limits; activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources; provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities.
Additional Information	U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development does not provide Community Development Block Grant assistance directly to individuals, businesses, nonprofit organizations, or other non-governmental entities. https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg

	Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery
Description	The Community Development Block Grant Program has Disaster Recovery grants to rebuild the affected areas and provide crucial seed money to start the recovery process. These flexible grants help cities, counties, and States recover from Presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to the availability of supplemental appropriations. Since Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery assistance may fund a broad range of recovery activities, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development can help communities and neighborhoods that otherwise might not recover due to limited resources.
Funds Available	Varies according to the state plan outlined by the state department of economic development.
Eligibility	Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds are provided to the most impacted and distressed areas for Disaster Relief, Long-Term Recovery, Infrastructure Restoration, Housing, and Economic Revitalization. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will notify eligible States, cities, and counties if they are eligible to receive Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery grants. Those who receive grant money include state agencies, nonprofit organizations, economic development agencies, citizens, and businesses.
Examples	Funding can be provided to cover unmet needs, such as local cost-share funding from public assistance projects or hazard mitigation grant projects.
Additional Information	https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg-dr

U.S. Economic Development Administration

	Economic Adjustment Assistance
Description	Economic Adjustment Assistance provides funding to help plan, build, innovate, and put people into quality jobs in hundreds of communities across the nation. The Economic Adjustment Assistance program is the U.S. Economic Development Administration's most flexible program, and grants made under this program will help hundreds of communities across the nation plan, build, innovate, and put people back to work through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs.
Funds Available	Total Program Funding of \$500 Million with an award ceiling of \$10 Million and a floor of \$100,000.
Eligibility	A wide range of technical, planning, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and public works and infrastructure projects are eligible for funding under this program. Eligible applicants for U.S. Economic Development Administration's Economic Adjustment Assistance program include a(n): District Organization of a U.S. Economic Development Administration -designated Economic Development District; Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; Public or private nonprofit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State. Individuals or for-profit entities are not eligible.
Examples	Public infrastructure related to economic development.
Additional Information	As part of the \$300 million Coal Communities Commitment, the U.S. Economic Development Administration will allocate at least \$200 million of the Economic Adjustment Assistance funding to support coal communities. https://www.eda.gov/funding/programs/economic-adjustment-assistance .

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

	Urban Waters Small Grants
Description	The mission of this program is to help residents and their organizations, particularly those in underserved communities, restore their urban waters in ways that also benefit community and economic revitalization. The program recognizes that healthy and accessible urban waters can help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, social, and employment opportunities in nearby communities. Projects should meet the following four objectives: address local water quality issues related to urban runoff pollution; provide additional community benefits; actively engage underserved communities; and foster partnerships.
Funds Available	Urban Waters Small Grants are awarded every two years, with individual awards of up to \$60,000.
Eligibility	Eligible applicants include States, local governments, Indian Tribes, public and private universities and colleges, public or private nonprofit institutions/organizations, intertribal consortia, and interstate agencies.
Examples	An example of a past grant awarded was the Urban Waters and South Platte Watershed from the Headwaters to the Denver Metropolitan Area.
Additional Information	https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/urban-waters-small-grants

	Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014
Description	The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program provides long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Borrowers benefit from a single fixed interest rate equal to the U.S. Treasury rate of similar maturity, an interest rate unaffected by the borrower's credit or loan structure, and custom long-term repayment schedules with options to defer payments for up to 5 years.
Funds Available	\$20 million minimum project size for large communities, \$5 million minimum for small communities of 25,000 or less. The Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act can fund up to 49% of eligible project costs.
Eligibility	Eligible borrowers are 1) local, state, tribal, and federal government entities; 2) Partnerships and joint ventures; 3) Corporations and trusts; 4) Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund programs.
Examples	Wastewater conveyance and treatment projects. Drinking water treatment and distribution projects. Enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities.
Additional Information	Total federal assistance may not exceed 80% of a project's eligible costs. https://www.epa.gov/wifia/what-wifia

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

	North American Wetlands Conservation Standard and U.S. Small Grants
Description	NAWCA Small Grants are competitive, matching grants that support public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the U.S. that involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated upland habitats for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.
Funds Available	U.S. Small Grants may not exceed \$250,000 and require a 1-to-1 ratio match for the awarded grant amount.
Eligibility	U.S. Small Grants proposals are due in October, or they will be considered an early submission for the next fiscal year. The US Standard Grant has two proposal deadlines, one in February and one in July. Proposals submitted after July are considered ineligible unless clearly marked as an early submission for the next Fiscal Year.
Examples	Acquisition of land for wetlands conservation, wetland restoration projects, wetland enhancement projects, wetland establishment, or other direct long-term wetland conservation work.
Additional Information	https://www.fws.gov/service/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-nawca-us-small-grants

U.S. Forest Service

	Forestry Legacy Program
Description	Focuses on private forest land that is faced with threats of conversion to non-forest land by urbanization and residential development. Providing economic incentives to landowners to keep forests as forests encourages sustainable forest management and supports strong markets for forest products. Landowners participate in the Forest Legacy Program by selling property outright or retaining ownership and selling only a portion of the property's development rights; state agencies or another government unit hold both. A conservation easement allows land to remain in private ownership while ensuring its environmental values are retained. The program is funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which invests a small percentage of federal offshore drilling fees towards the conservation of important land, water, and recreation areas for all Americans.
Funds Available	The previous year, Fiscal Year 2023 funds totaled \$188,000,000 across 34 projects.
Eligibility	Private Lands
Examples	Funded projects in Colorado in 2023 include the Higher Ground Headwaters Project and the Silver Mountain Habitat Connections Project.
Additional Information	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy/program

State of Colorado Funding Resources

In addition to federal grants, several state agencies and programs support the funding and implementation of mitigation projects. The Colorado Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management administers many federal hazard mitigation grant programs at the state level. These agencies will also likely be important in earlier stages of the hazard mitigation planning process by providing current hazard and risk assessment data.

The Colorado Department of Local Affairs has put together a Local Community Funding Guide (<https://lookerstudio.google.com/u/0/reporting/6bf90675-163a-4c84-9eb8-eef9779be136/page/T7j0C>) to help local jurisdictions easily navigate various state and federal funding types. This guide can be filtered by category, award type, agency, program, funding type, and eligibility.

Like federal grant programs, many of these programs depend on yearly funding allocations, which result in fluctuations in their availability. While familiarity with current information is helpful, engaging state agencies in a dialogue as soon as possible is equally important.

Alternative Funding Resources

In recent years, states and communities have sought and developed innovative funding sources as alternatives to traditional government grant programs. These funding sources fall into three main categories: Local Funding Options, Public-Private Partnerships, and Private Foundations. These funding sources will be necessary for current and future hazard mitigation planning efforts for several reasons, including:

- Difficulty receiving pre-disaster mitigation grants and assistance programs at the federal and state levels.
- Opportunities to fund projects that might not qualify or align with traditional grant and assistance programs. Funding programs seek solutions that reduce the risk for a particular threshold (i.e., 100-year flood) and meet absolute cost-benefit criteria that the agencies themselves must adhere to. Therefore, these programs cannot support efforts that may help most of the time but don't meet these thresholds.

Local Funding Options

Local funding options are just what they sound like: using local funds for local mitigation projects. Local funds are also needed as non-federal shares or matching funds for federal grant programs, but they can also be used independently to fund various project types. Local funding options include the following:

Capital Improvement Programs

Ongoing civic improvements can include prioritized hazard mitigation projects, or mitigation can be included as one aspect of a larger project. For example, improving the hydraulic capacity of a culvert or bridge to prevent upstream flooding while undertaking periodic replacements for end-of-service considerations is one example. Another example is replacing windows in a school with shatter-resistant glass as part of an overall renovation. Capital improvement programs are generally funded with local tax revenues and municipal bonds.

Permits, Fees, and Developer Contributions

Communities can establish fees, earmark a portion of existing permit and fee structures, and/or require developer contributions for new developments in hazard-prone areas, which can then be used to fund local mitigation projects. The proceeds can be accumulated in what is often referred to as a Mitigation Trust Fund, and their uses are typically tied to specific project types or to relationships with projects already identified in plans or documents, such as a hazard mitigation plan.

Force Account / In-Kind Services

Although there is a cost associated with public employees' activities, a wide range of activities can be undertaken by local government staff and officials, as well as interested parties on their behalf, that would yield significant benefits. An example is public outreach and education for individual property owners, businesses, and institutions to reduce risk through inexpensive or essential activities. In-kind services include tapping into available education resources, promoting individual action, etc.

Property Owners

The property owner can be asked to contribute to a project benefiting their property. Property owners can become better aware of their risks and options through the hazard identification and risk assessment process. Owners who recognize they have a real flood problem may be willing to pay some of the cost. In recent years, property owners in some states have voluntarily agreed to pay the non-federal share (up to 25 percent of the total project cost) for FEMA hazard mitigation plan grants. Sometimes, the owners have paid even higher percentages of the price. In addition, after a flood, owners may have cash from insurance claims or disaster assistance to repair their homes and property. By including appropriate floodproofing and mitigation components in the repairs, the property's resilience to future flooding can be improved. Having property owners contribute to the project can help stretch available local funds and give property owners an enhanced stake in the project's outcome and an incentive to ensure the property is adequately maintained.

Individual Participation

Although mitigation is ultimately intended to benefit individuals, hazard mitigation plans often neglect to involve potential beneficiaries in the process. The involvement of individuals, including small business owners, is essential to ensure the resulting hazard mitigation plan reflects community needs and priorities. Still, it also allows the local or Gunnison County Planning Team to identify measures and options individuals can take to reduce their own risk at a cost they can afford.

Public-Private Partnerships

The phrase "public-private partnership" is frequently used across a wide range of government programs, especially in hazard mitigation. Participation of private sector organizations in addressing their hazard risks can be a low-cost, effective approach. It also encompasses identifying opportunities for public and private sector partners to share costs equitably for large projects that require substantial funding. Private-sector businesses and organizations have their own cost-benefit calculations to perform, but joint efforts may make the balance sheets work for both sides.

Private Foundations

Cultivating relationships with local, regional, or even national foundations with interests or missions aligned with hazard mitigation, community sustainability, climate change adaptation, and related topics can yield successful funding and other support outcomes. The Colorado Watershed Assembly has created a private funding opportunity link for watershed-specific projects: <https://www.coloradowater.org/funding-opportunities>.

There are many local foundations around the State of Colorado, many of which fund programs that can be utilized for components of hazard mitigation projects. Many of these foundations support only nonprofit organizations, so the applicability of these funds to projects depends on the partners involved.