

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

DR-4397 Grant Questions and Answers

1. Q: Is this grant opportunity open to all counties or just declared counties?

A: *This grant opportunity is open to all eligible applicants state-wide.*

2. Q: Does the entire structure need to be in the 1% annual Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) to be eligible for acquisition or elevation?

A: *No, only a portion of the primary structure to be acquired or elevated needs to be in the 1% SFHA. (Note: for acquisition projects; all structures regardless of location need to be demolished or relocated from the property)*

3. Q: If a property owner decided not to participate in a previous grant round, can they participate in this grant opportunity?

A: *Yes, if an eligible applicant agrees to apply on their behalf and they meet all the eligibility requirements as stated in the grant announcement. (Note: if the structure was previously determined to be substantially damaged and repaired without meeting code then it would not be eligible to participate)*

4. Q: Does a municipality need to submit a letter of interest in participating in either elevation or acquisition projects?

A: *Only property owners need to complete a Voluntary Mitigation Grant Participation & Waiver form which is part of the elevation and the acquisition application packages.*

5. Q: Does a property need to be a Severe Repetitive Loss or a Repetitive Loss property to be eligible to participate in this grant opportunity.

A: *No, this is a state priority, not a condition of project eligibility.*

6. Q: Are there any grant funds for studies to assess the problem and develop strategies to mitigate them?

A: *This grant opportunity that is now available under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP DR-4397) is only for structural acquisition or elevation projects or for updating a multi-jurisdictional mitigation plan. However, usually in the Fall FEMA announces the Pre-Disaster Mitigation and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs. Check our website periodically for these future grant opportunities at <http://www.dhses.ny.gov/recovery/>.*

7. Q: A homeowner does not want to spend money and time applying for an elevation project if it is deemed not eligible. Who determines if a property is eligible for elevation?

A: Initial eligibility of the structure to be elevated is determined based on DHSES review of program requirements to include cost effectiveness. The application is then submitted to FEMA for their review and final determination.

8. Q: Who is the eligible applicant, the local jurisdiction or the homeowner?

A: The local jurisdiction is the eligible applicant. Homeowners are not eligible to apply on their own; the local jurisdiction would apply on their behalf should they so choose to.

9. Q: Does the property to be elevated need to be substantially damaged?

A: No a property does not need to be deemed substantially damaged to apply.

10. Q: Is the value of the tax assessment used to calculate the value for the Benefit Cost Analysis?

A: No, however information from the property card could be used to assist in gathering relevant information.

11. Q: Can the current homeowner use damages prior to the date that they purchased the home?

A: Yes, any documented damages can be used to assist with the Benefit Cost Analysis.

12. Q: Can this program be used to purchase property outside of the floodplain to relocate critical structures?

A: No, funding cannot be used to purchase new property or build a new structure. However, this program does allow you to physically move (relocate) an existing structure or building.

13. Q: Can this program be used to relocate a department out of the basement of Town Hall? The basement has groundwater flooding.

A: No, you would need to move or elevate the entire existing building.

14. Q: Do you have a list of participating municipalities?

A: This is a voluntary program at all levels and therefore we do not know which municipalities will be participating. You should check with your local or county government.

15. Q: Does the structure require a New York State Structural Soundness Certification prior to applying?

A: A licensed professional (engineer or architect) needs to certify structural soundness for elevation. If FEMA approves the project, that cost may be reimbursable as a pre-award cost if included in the budget.

16. Q: Does a property qualify if it is a historical building and/or has multiple dwellings?

A: Yes, the owner of the property would need to sign the appropriate forms to consent on moving forward with the project.

17. Q: What if the elevation requires additional work to provide required handicap access that will significantly increase the cost, will that effect the benefit cost?

A: Yes, this would affect the Benefit Cost Analysis as it takes into account all costs associated to complete the project. This does not mean that it will not be cost effective and that determination would be made after review of all the information provided.