

Flood Mitigation Assistance - Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects

FEMA makes federal funds available through the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program to state, local, Tribal, and territorial governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. This fact sheet provides detailed information on Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects eligible for FMA funding. This document is intended for guidance only and is not a request for information.

Fiscal Year 2022 Flood Mitigation Assistance Overview

Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects, previously called Community Flood Mitigation Projects, are one of three program priorities for the Fiscal Year 2022 grant application cycle. These projects address localized flood risk for the purpose of reducing National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) flood claim payments. Out of \$800 million in total funding for Fiscal Year 2022, FEMA has allocated up to \$340 million for the federal cost share of Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects.

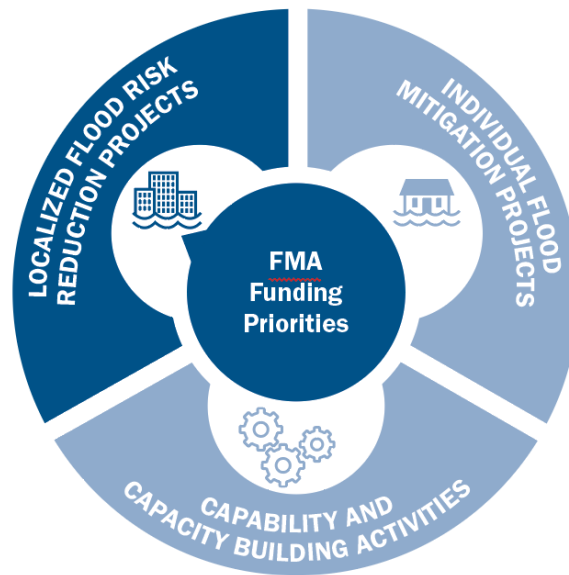


Figure 1: Fiscal Year 2022 Funding Priorities



FEMA

Awards made under this Notice of Funding Opportunity will be funded, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The BIL is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, which will grow a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable economy by enhancing U.S. competitiveness, driving the creation of good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union, and ensuring stronger access to economic and environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities. The BIL appropriates billions of dollars to FEMA to promote resilient infrastructure, respond to the impacts of climate change, and equip our nation with the resources to combat its most pressing threats.

Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects – Up to \$340 million Available

FEMA will select up to \$340 million of Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects. FEMA will select the highest scoring eligible subapplication(s) based on the Localized Flood Risk Reduction Project scoring criteria. In the event of a tie between two or more subapplications, FEMA will use the highest [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#) for the project benefitting area as a tiebreaker for projects. Each subapplication shall not exceed \$50 million in federal cost share.

FEMA will convene an internal review panel to ensure projects provide benefits to the National Flood Insurance Program, in accordance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 77 and the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance. The Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects review panel will include experts from across FEMA to broaden understanding of project benefits. Panelists will consider project subapplications holistically to determine whether the projects will provide benefits to the National Flood Insurance Program, including but not limited to, the context of the project scale, community scale, and transformative flood hazard mitigation potential.

Eligibility Requirements

All Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects subapplications must meet the following requirements to be considered:

- All subapplicants must be participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and not be withdrawn, on probation, or suspended. Structures identified in the subapplication must have an active National Flood Insurance Program policy (including a Group Flood Insurance Policy) in effect prior to the opening of the application period and the policy must be maintained throughout the life of the structure. For details see Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Section 77.6.
 - The status of a participating community can be verified in the National Flood Insurance Program [Community Status Book](#).
- Subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved Local or Tribal Hazard Mitigation Plan in accordance with Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations Part 201 by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of grant funds.
- Projects should be cost-effective as demonstrated by a benefit-cost ratio of 1.0 or higher using a FEMA-approved Benefit Cost Analysis methodology.

- FEMA will review flood mitigation project subapplications during the pre-award process that are competitive and otherwise eligible for selection where communities with a very high CDC SVI score, greater than 0.8, or a federally recognized Tribal government is unable to calculate a Benefit-Cost Ratio to demonstrate cost-effectiveness. In these cases, FEMA may assist such communities with developing a Benefit-Cost Analysis. FEMA will release additional guidance for this approach for communities that may qualify for this consideration. FEMA will not award a hazard mitigation project that is not cost-effective. For more information, visit the Benefit-Cost Analysis [webpage](#).
- A hydrologic and hydraulic (H&H) study is required to assess the impact of the localized flood risk reduction activities to the benefitting area. This is typically conducted by licensed professional engineers. For more information, please refer to the [Flood Risk Reduction Technical Review \(fema.gov\) job aid](#). H&H studies are eligible for funding under Capability and Capacity Building subapplication activities.
- Provide geospatial data/GIS shapefiles demonstrating that the proposed project activities benefit NFIP-insured properties. GIS shapefiles are typically used as inputs to geo-enabled H&H models as part of the H&H study. If not available, please submit a PDF map or other geospatial file formats (e.g., shapefile, KML/KMZ, geodatabase, AUTOCAD files, other geographic information system [GIS]-enabled documents) delineating:
 - The proposed project footprint,
 - The benefitting area from the proposed project activity, and
 - Active National Flood Insurance Program policies and severe repetitive loss and repetitive loss properties (if available, otherwise FEMA will map National Flood Insurance Program policy data for review).
 - For more information on developing a benefitting area map, please consult the Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria Job Aid at https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_geospatial-eligibility-criteria-flood-mitigation-grant-applications.pdf.

Eligible Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects

Projects must benefit NFIP insured properties and the broader National Flood Insurance Program community to be eligible. Flood Mitigation Assistance encourages subapplicants to be creative and project activities can include any combination of the following, but not limited to:

- Floodwater storage and diversion (bioretention ponds, detention ponds, bioswales, surface grading, outfalls, etc.)
- Stormwater management (upsizing/expanding storm sewers, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), culverts, catch basins, increased green infrastructure and pervious surfaces, etc.)
- Floodplain, wetland, marsh, riverine, and coastal restoration and protection (restoring natural ecosystem functions, bulkheads, pump stations)
- Other combination of green, gray Infrastructure and nature-based solutions

- Localized flood control projects with co-benefits to other hazards, social, and environmental benefits

For more nature-based solution examples, please see: [Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Officials \(fema.gov\)](#)

Eligible Localized Flood Risk Reduction Cost Share

Cost share is required for all subapplications funded under this program. Generally, the cost share for this program is 75% federal and 25% non-federal. This means federal funding is available for up to 75% of eligible costs. The remaining 25% of eligible costs must be derived from non-federal sources.

As a result of Flood Mitigation Assistance funding made available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), FEMA may contribute up to 90% federal cost share for qualifying Fiscal Year 2022 funding priorities. For Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects, FEMA may contribute up to 90% federal cost share if the average CDC SVI score is not less than 0.5001 for the project benefitting area containing the National Flood Insurance Program-insured properties.

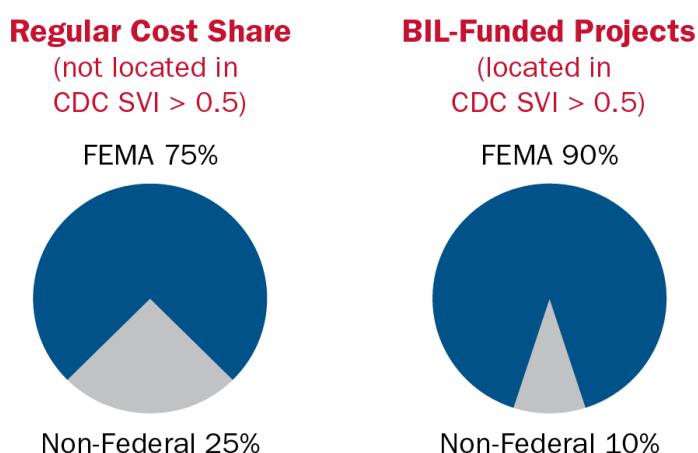


Figure 2: Fiscal Year 2022 FMA Annual Program Cost Share for Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects

Localized Flood Risk Reduction Project Scoring Criteria

For Fiscal Year 2022, subapplications submitted to Flood Mitigation Assistance will be scored and selected based on the Final Priority Scoring for Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects, as needed. The following table outlines the specific criteria including brief descriptions. More information on eligibility and scoring criteria can be found within the Fiscal Year 2022 Flood Mitigation Assistance funding opportunity.

Table 1: Final Priority Scoring Criteria for Localized Flood Risk Reduction Project

Priority	Description	Available Points
NFIP Policy Holder	Points will be assessed for every NFIP policy that is active as of the FMA application start date (Section D, Application	2 points per NFIP Policy,

Priority	Description	Available Points
CDC Social Vulnerability Index (SVI)	and Submission Information, Key Dates and Times) and is verified within the benefitting area of the project.	up to 250 points
	<p>The average SVI of all census tracts included in a benefitting area will determine the project's SVI. The benefitting area maps are used to determine which census tracts will be considered for assessment of these points. Points will be assessed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that benefit area(s) with average SVI score of greater than or equal to 0.8 are eligible for this point priority will receive 200 points. • Projects that benefit area(s) with average SVI score of greater than or equal to 0.6, and less than 0.8 are eligible for this point priority will receive 150 points. • Projects where the average SVI benefit area less than 0.6 will not receive points in this category. 	Up to 200
Consideration for Climate Change ¹ and Other Future Conditions	Projects that describe how the project will enhance climate adaptation and resilience, detail how the project is being responsive to the effects of climate change (such as sea level rise ² , increased rainfall, increased likelihood of flash flood due to wildfire, etc.) and/or other future conditions (population/demographic/land use, etc.), and cites data sources, assumptions, and models.	100
Incorporation of Nature-Based Solutions	Projects that incorporate nature-based solutions ³ .	100
Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) and Repetitive Loss (RL) Properties	Points are assessed for SRL and/or RL structure verified within the benefitting area of the project.	5 points per RL and 10 points per SRL, up to 100 points
Private-Partnership Cost Share	<p>Cost share contributed by private organizations/businesses. Points will be assigned based on percentage of private cost share invest in the non-federal match.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal to or greater than 51%, applicants will receive 100 points • Between 25% and 50%, applicants will receive 50 points. 	Up to 100
National Violation Tracker (NVT)	Points are assessed for communities in good standing in the NFIP determined by number of floodplain management property violations identified in the NVT for the community. Communities will receive points if do not have any outstanding violations.	50
Community Rating System (CRS) Participation	The CRS recognizes and encourages community floodplain-management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards. Depending on the level of	50

Priority	Description	Available Points
	participation, flood insurance premium rates for policyholders can be reduced up to 45%.	
Cooperating Technical Assistance Partners Program (CTP) Participation	The CTP is a qualified partnership program in which communities commit to collaborate in maintaining up-to-date flood hazard maps and other flood hazard information. Points will be assigned to CTP participating communities.	30
FEMA Generated Projects or Other Federal Grant Award	Application generated from a previous ⁴ FEMA HMA Project Scoping award or any other federal grant award, or the subapplicant is a past recipient of Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) non-financial Direct Technical Assistance.	20
Implementation Measures	The subapplication adequately describes how the costs and schedule will be managed, how the project will be successfully implemented, and how innovative techniques to facilitate implementation will be incorporated. The project's scope of work identifies sufficient technical and managerial staff and resources to successfully implement this project. The subapplication should describe whether and how the project will incorporate strong labor standards to ensure high-quality work, avert disruptive and costly delays, and promote efficiency. For example, strong labor standards include use of project labor agreements (PLAs), requiring workers to be paid wages at or above the prevailing rate, use of local hire provisions, using a directly employed workforce (as opposed to a subcontracted workforce), use of an appropriately skilled workforce, e.g., through Registered Apprenticeships or other joint labor-management training programs that serve all workers, particularly those underrepresented or historically excluded); and use of an appropriately credentialed workforce (i.e., satisfying requirements for appropriate and relevant pre-existing occupational training, certification, and licensure).	40

- ¹ Climate change is defined as "Changes in average weather conditions that persist over multiple decades or longer. Climate change encompasses both increases and decreases in temperature, as well as shifts in precipitation, changing risk of certain types of severe weather events, and changes to other features of the climate system." (National Climate Assessment)
- ² Applicants and subapplicants may use any valid source that is based on recognized sea level rise estimation methods for sea level rise. Several federal government sources are available for relative sea level rise data along coastal areas. Some of these sources include, but are not limited to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services' Mean Annual Sea Level Rise Trend Data (<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/sltrends/sltrends.html>) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sea-Level Change Curve Calculator (Version 2021.12) (https://cwbi-app.sec.usace.army.mil/rccslc/slcc_calc.html)
- ³ For more information on nature-based solutions, please reference Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A guide for local communities. [Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Officials \(fema.gov\)](https://www.fema.gov/building-community-resilience-with-nature-based-solutions)
- ⁴ To receive the points for an application being generated from a Hazard Mitigation Assistance Advance Assistance or Project Scoping award or any other federal grant award please answer "Yes" to the question in FEMA GO that asks "Was this created from a previous FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance Advance assistance/Project scoping award?" and attach a PDF of the award letter to the application and provide the name of the attached file in the free text field that asks "If yes, please provide the project identifier."

Period of Performance

Flood Mitigation Assistance funded projects typically have a period of performance (POP) of 36 months to achieve project completion. However, given the complexity of Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects, the applicant may submit a request for a longer period of performance in the project application for FEMA to review and approve. A longer period of performance for a Localized Flood Risk Reduction Project must be requested, documented, reasonable, and justified.

More information on the period of performance and other programmatic requirements can be found in the Fiscal Year 2022 [funding opportunity](#) or the [Flood Mitigation Assistance webpage](#).

FEMA Grants Outcomes

The FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) grants management system is used for the FMA program, and is where applicants and subapplicants will submit, track, and manage all applications. For more information on navigating the FEMA GO system and the full application process, please reference the *FEMA GO for Hazard Mitigation Grants* webpage at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go/hazard-mitigation-assistance-grants>.

The following section offers tips on selecting and submitting a subapplication within FEMA GO:

- Select “Subapplication_Title” and include “Localized Flood Risk Reduction Project” in the “Subapplication Title”
- Select the “Project” Subapplication Type within FEMA GO to begin
- Select the Primary Activity Type “Flood control.”
- Select the sub-activity type “Community flood control.”
- Select a Primary Community Lifeline; if applicable, select secondary and tertiary lifelines as well.
- Geographic areas description – In this section, describe the project area and the benefitting area to the best of your ability.
 - Note: Ensure you attach your project area and benefitting area maps to your subapplication

Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA)

Absent a waiver, an award made after May 14, 2022, under this program that will be used for infrastructure must comply with the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) (Pub. L. 117-58 §§ 70901-52). BABAA provides that none of the funds provided under an award made pursuant to this notice may be used for a project unless all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials are produced in the United States. The Office of Management and Budget has granted FEMA a waiver from complying with BABAA requirements through January 1, 2023. Further guidance and implementation requirements are forthcoming before that date. Recipients can find more information on Build America, Buy America Act requirements and waivers at <https://www.fema.gov/grants/policy-guidance/buy-america>.

Additional Resources

The following links provide additional information related and resources to assist applicants and subapplicants in their development of Flood Mitigation Assistance project applications.

- **Flood Mitigation Assistance program website:** <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods>
- **Hazard Mitigation Assistance Guidance:** <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation-assistance-guidance>
- **Flood Risk Reduction Technical Review Job Aid:**
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_technical-job-aid-flood-risk-reduction.pdf
- **NFIP approved Hydrologic Models:**
 - **Hydrologic Numerical Models:** <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/products-tools/numerical-models/hydrologic>
 - **Hydrology & Hydraulic Modeling Software:** <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/products-tools/numerical-models/hydrologic>
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/nature-based-solutions>
- **New Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria in Flood Mitigation Grant Applications Job Aid**
https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_geospatial-eligibility-criteria-flood-mitigation-grant-applications.pdf
- **FEMA GO system:** <https://www.fema.gov/grants/guidance-tools/fema-go/hazard-mitigation-assistance-grants>