

# Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Revolving Loan Funds

***New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services Seeks Proposals for Low Interest Loan Funding to Complete Hazard Mitigation Activities***

***Response deadline: 5:00 p.m. (EST) Thursday, April 27, 2023***

The New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services (DHSES) is seeking proposals from local governments interested in applying for low interest loans to implement hazard mitigation projects under the New York State Hazard Mitigation State Revolving Fund (HM SRF). DHSES is requesting the information with the intent of applying for a capitalization grant under the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund (STORM RLF). DHSES must develop a Project Proposal List (PPL) via a Public Notice for a minimum of six weeks as part of an application for funding under this program. Any eligible proposals received will be submitted to FEMA as part of the DHSES application, pending state legislation. If awarded a capitalization grant, DHSES will use the PPL to make loans available to projects listed. A well-developed PPL affords the state the opportunity to focus limited loan funds to the projects and communities prioritized.

We ask communities that would be interested in applying for a loan, to complete the [Project Listing Form](#). The completed form must be submitted to [hazardmitigation@dhses.ny.gov](mailto:hazardmitigation@dhses.ny.gov) by **5:00 p.m. (EST) on Thursday, April 27, 2023**.

**Please note:** This is *not* a loan application. No funding is currently available. In the event DHSES receives a capitalization grant and loan funding becomes available, proposals reachable on the PPL (established through this Notice) will be asked to submit an Application for Funding.

## Background

The Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act became law on January 1, 2021. The STORM Act authorizes FEMA to provide capitalization grants for states, eligible federally recognized tribes, territories, and the District of Columbia, in turn who may make funding decisions and award loans directly to local communities. These revolving loan funds provide hazard mitigation assistance for local governments to reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters.

A Notice of Funding Opportunity “*Fiscal Year 2023 Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund Program*”, was published by FEMA on December 20, 2022 (Funding Opportunity Number: DHS-23-STORM-139-00-01). \$50 million is being made available for this inaugural funding opportunity of the \$500 million allocated for the new Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF program.

## Eligible Entities

Local governments are eligible and encouraged to submit a proposal to DHSES for inclusion in the PPL and future consideration for loans under this program. Local governments must have adopted their respective county Local Mitigation Strategy plan. Individuals are not eligible to apply.

Loans awarded for certain types of projects will require Environment and Historic Preservation (EHP) review (before loan disbursement). A benefit-cost analysis is not required.

## Allowable Uses

Loan funds may be used for mitigation projects and activities to increase resilience and mitigate the impacts of events such as drought, extreme heat, severe storms (including hurricanes, tornadoes, windstorms, cyclones, and severe winter storms), wildfires, flooding, earthquakes, shoreline erosion, high water levels, and storm surges.

Allowable uses of funds include:

- Mitigation Activities: Eligible project types under this program will include activities that mitigate the impact of natural hazards, zoning and land use planning changes, and building code enforcement.
- Non-Federal Cost-Share: Loans may be used by local governments to satisfy a local government's non-federal cost-share requirement for other FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs, such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities and Flood Mitigation Assistance grant programs.
- To align with the timelines for these programs, entities are encouraged to list all possible cost share loans in their application materials to allow options to award loans to those projects.

## Loan Information

- Loans will be made at an interest rate of not more than 1 percent.
- Loan repayment will commence not later than 1 year after project completion.
- Loan repayment will be complete no later than 20 years after the date the project is completed, or 30 years after the date the project is completed for projects in a low-income geographic area as defined in 42 USC § 5135 (m)(6).
- Loan recipients must establish a dedicated source of revenue for repayment.

Please note, this is not a loan application. No funding is currently available. If loan funding becomes available, communities who complete the form will be asked to apply.

## Next Steps

Communities interested in applying for a loan must complete and return the [Project Listing Form](#) by 5:00 p.m. (EST) on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

DHSES will develop a Project Proposal List based on proposals received from this Public Notice, for use in the state application for a capitalization grant. DHSES will develop an Intended Use Plan which will be made available for public comment. It is anticipated that DHSES will apply to FEMA for the capitalization grant by Friday, April 28, 2023.

## Questions

Questions may be directed to [hazardmitigation@dhses.ny.gov](mailto:hazardmitigation@dhses.ny.gov).

Additional Information is available on FEMA's website: [www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/storm-rlf](http://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/storm-rlf)