THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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February 25, 2016

To Potential Hazard Mitigation Grant Applicants:

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) are pleased to announce the availability of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) **2016 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM) Program, and 2016 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program** funding. The 2016 PDM and 2016 FMA are nationally-competitive annual grant programs and are now available.

These federally-funded Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs (PDM and FMA) provide significant opportunities to reduce, minimize, or eliminate potential damages to property and infrastructure from natural hazard events. Funding for hazard mitigation plans and projects can reduce overall risks to the population, structures and infrastructure, while also reducing the reliance on taxpayer-funded federal disaster assistance for disaster recovery.

- *Who's eligible to apply?* State, tribal organizations, and local governments are eligible to apply as sub-applicants. For projects that benefit individual home or business owners, the local government must be the sub-applicant. **Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan Requirement:** To be eligible for project grants, sub-applicants must have a locally adopted and FEMA-approved Local Natural Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (in accordance with 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 201) by the application deadline.
- *What type of work is eligible?* Projects that result in a reduction to natural hazard damage, such as: stormwater drainage and culvert improvements; floodplain and stream restoration; flood control, diversion, and storage; property acquisition; slope stabilization; infrastructure protection; aquifer storage; seismic and wind retrofits; structure elevations; etc. **Please note that major changes to project eligibility are now in effect with this year's revised guidance.** As a result of E.O. 13653: Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change; FEMA funds are encouraged to be used for climate resilient mitigation activities.
- *How do I apply for a Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant?* Communities can apply as a sub-applicant for a planning grant or choose to be a participant in the Pilot 'State Application for Local Planning Funds.' This is a new State application filed on behalf of eligible cities and towns for funds to update or create a new plan. To be considered for this year's 2016 Pilot State Application for Local Planning funds, your municipality must submit a letter of interest/commitment by the application deadline. More information about planning funds and sample letters of commitment are available on our grants web page listed below.
- *Are there other conditions?* All proposed project applications must include a formal Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), using FEMA BCA v5.2.1 software, to document the project's cost-effectiveness. Community participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) may also be a requirement for sub-applicant and project eligibility. See Part III, Section E.1 of the FEMA Guidance for additional details.
- *What is the grant cost share?* Sub-applicants must commit to the non-federal share of the proposed application cost; this is generally 25% of the total estimated project cost. In-kind services are allowable as

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part of the non-federal match. For some projects under the FMA grant, properties may qualify for up to 100% federal share.

- *How much funding is available?* 2016 FMA has $199 million available nationally; 2016 PDM has $90 million available nationally.
- *How do I learn more*? Formal grant briefings are available prior to the application deadlines, RSVP's are required. Before attending a briefing, you should familiarize yourself with the Grant Program Guidance, which can be found on the FMA or PDM Grants page: **http://www.mass.gov/eopss/agencies/mema/resources/grants**
- *What is the grant application deadline*? The deadline is **Wednesday, May 25, 2016**. Before submitting your application, please attend a grant briefing.

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs are not intended as a source of funding for repair, replacement or deferred maintenance activities, but are designed to assist sub-applicants in implementing long-term, cost-effective improvements that will reduce, minimize or eliminate risk to people and property from the effects of natural hazards. Projects that address operation, deferred or future maintenance, repairs or replacement (without a change in the level of protection provided) of existing structures, facilities, or infrastructure (e.g., dredging, debris removal, replacement of obsolete utility systems, bridges and facility repair) are not eligible mitigation grant activities.

MEMA and DCR strongly encourage all interested grant applicants to attend a grant briefing. The grant program briefings will provide an overview of the ALL HMA programs, available funding, relevant application process and deadlines. Significant changes in these programs will also be covered, including the NEW 2015 HMA Program Guidance, 2 CFR Part 200 Super Circular, addition of the eligibility of flood control projects, new E.O. 13653 Climate Resilience Activities, and much more. Please see the grant briefing schedule on the following page.

Grant Deadline: May 25, 2016: Applications for mitigation projects for PDM and FMA are required to be submitted via eGrants by May 25, 2016 at 3:00PM. These applications must meet all HMA program requirements, be submitted via eGrants with all appropriate attachments, and display strong commitment for implementation at the time of award. Letters of Interest/Commitment for hazard mitigation planning funds must be submitted to MEMA by the deadline.

Details including the grant application instructions, program guidance, and BCA Software Downloads will be available on the 'Resources for Public Officials' page of the MEMA website www.mass.gov/mema.

For general inquiries regarding the programs, please contact us at MEMA or DCR:

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Eric Carlson; NFIP Coordinator, DCR, 617-626-1362, Eric.Carlson@state.ma.us

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Briefing and Training Schedule

To assist potential sub-applicants who are considering applying for FEMA PDM or FMA funding, MEMA/DCR will be hosting a series of grant program briefings. Interested sub-applicants are strongly encouraged to attend one of these briefings as details regarding the grant program will be described and discussed in detail. Technical assistance for individual applications will be available after the grant briefings by appointment. The briefings will cover the following:

- ✓ Discuss proposed project applications (including eligibility of proposed activities);
- ✓ Discuss the NEW State Application for Local Planning Funds;
- ✓ Answer specific questions regarding grant application procedures and/or requirements;
- ✓ Discuss which FEMA mitigation grant program(s) may be most appropriate based on the type of activity/project proposed;
- ✓ Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), environmental/historic or other technical issues associated with project proposals; and,
- ✓ Other questions regarding FEMA-funded mitigation grant programs.

To attend a grant briefing, please RSVP your attendance to: mitigation@massmail.state.ma.us

RSVP's are required *so that we can notify participants in the event that the briefing logistics (date/time/location) must be changed or postponed due to weather or other events.*

HMA Grant Briefings – In person	
Friday, March 11, 2016 **1:00pm-2:30pm** Tewksbury Public Library 300 Chandler St. Tewksbury, MA	**Tuesday, March 15, 2016** **10:00am-12:00pm** McCulloch Building 182 Green St. Weymouth, MA
Friday, March 18, 2016 **10:00am-12pm** MEMA Region III/IV 1002 Suffield St. Agawam, MA	**Wednesday, April 13, 2016** **9:00am-11:00am** Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Field Headquarters Room 110, the Northeast Meeting Room 1 Rabbit Hill Road (off North Drive) Westborough, MA 01581
HMA Grant Briefings – Webinar **Friday, April 22, 2016** **10:30am-12:30pm** For Log-in information please email: **mitigation@massmail.state.ma.us** Space is limited.	
Benefit Cost Analysis Overview Class **Monday, March 28, 2016** 8:30am-4:30pm MEMA HQ, 400 Worcester Rd, Framingham MA All participants must register for the course on MEMA's online Training Registration System (TRS). **https://mematraining.chs.state.ma.us/TRS**	