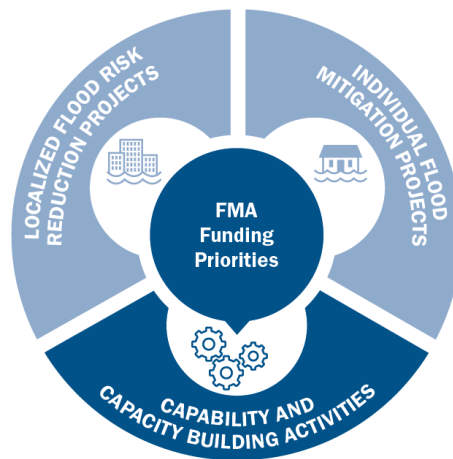


# Flood Mitigation Assistance Capability and Capacity Building Activities

The following provides information on Flood Mitigation Assistance’s Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB) Activities to help reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and within NFIP-participating communities.

## Fiscal Year 2023 Flood Mitigation Assistance Overview

Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB) Activities are one of three program priorities for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 grant application cycle. Out of \$800 million in total funding for FY 2023, FEMA will select up to \$60 million of C&CB Activities.



**Figure 1: Fiscal Year 2023 Funding Priorities**

Awards made under this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) will be funded, in whole or in part, with funds appropriated by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also known as the [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#). The law infused \$3.5 billion into the FMA program through FY 2026 to reduce disaster suffering and mitigate future disaster costs in communities nationwide.



# FEMA

## Available Funding

FEMA will select up to \$60 million in FY 2023 for Capability and Capacity Building Activities to develop future Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects and/or Individual Flood Mitigation Projects that will subsequently reduce flood claims against the National Flood Insurance Program. FEMA will select the highest scoring eligible subapplication(s) based on the C&CB Activities' Final Priority Scoring Criteria.



**Figure 2: Capability and Capacity Building Activities**

The funding priority and funding caps for these activities in FY 2023 are as follows:

### MITIGATION PLANS

All eligible mitigation plan subapplications will be funded based on eligibility. FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for the development or update of a Mitigation Plan of \$100,000 per applicant with maximums of \$50,000 for state mitigation plans, and \$25,000 for local mitigation plans. Mitigation plan subapplications will be evaluated to ensure that the result will provide benefits to the National Flood Insurance Program.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BY STATES TO COMMUNITIES

All eligible Technical Assistance by States to Communities subapplications will be funded based on eligibility. FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for Technical Assistance by States to Communities of \$50,000 per applicant. To be eligible to receive this funding, the applicant must have received an FY 2022 Flood Mitigation Assistance award of at least \$1 million federal cost share. Technical Assistance by States to Communities funding is provided to maintain a viable program over time.

### PROJECT SCOPING

FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for Project Scoping not to exceed \$900,000 federal cost share per subapplicant. Project Scoping can be used to obtain data and to prioritize, select, and develop future Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects and/or Individual Flood Mitigation Projects. Project Scoping subapplications

will be evaluated to ensure that the result will lead to an eligible project subapplication that will provide benefits to the National Flood Insurance Program.

## **ADDITIONAL CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for Additional C&CB Activities, not to exceed \$300,000 federal cost share per subapplicant. Additional C&CB Activities, enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of flood mitigation assistance. This includes activities in the following sub-categories: Partnership Development to Conduct Eligible Mitigation Activities, Enhancing Local Floodplain Management, Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)/Repetitive Loss (RL) Strategy Development, and other eligible C&CB Activities.

### **Eligibility Requirements**

Key eligibility requirements are listed below. For more information on eligibility requirements, refer to the FY 2023 funding opportunity on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

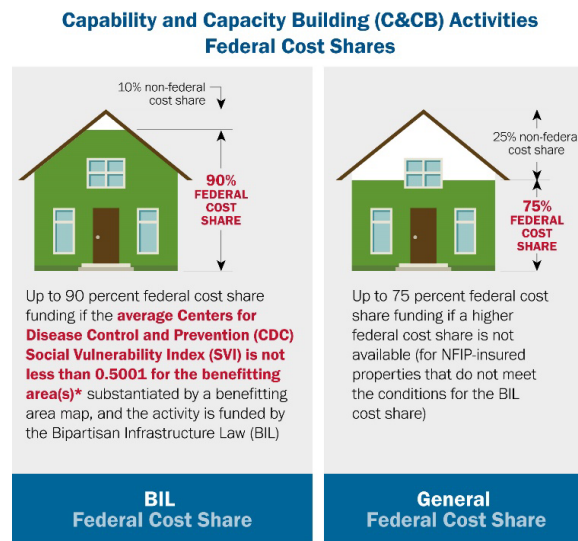
- All applicants and subapplicants must participate in the National Flood Insurance Program, and not be withdrawn, on probation, or suspended. NFIP community status can be verified in the [Community Status Book](#) available online.
- Structures identified in the subapplication must have a National Flood Insurance Program policy (including a Group Flood Insurance Policy [GFIP]) in effect prior to the opening of the application period and the policy must be maintained throughout the life of the structure.
- Applicants are required to have a FEMA-approved state or tribal hazard mitigation plan by the application deadline and at the time of obligation of the award. More detailed information is provided in Part 4. Eligibility and Requirements, C. Hazard Mitigation Plan Requirements, of the [2023 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#).
  - Subapplicants are exempt from the hazard mitigation plan requirement. A hazard mitigation plan is required for all other types of C&CB Activities subapplications.
- All activities under this program must be in conformance with all criteria established by FEMA that is specific to the proposed activity found in the [2023 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#). All subapplications submitted under the C&CB Activities priority must demonstrate that the C&CB Activities will reduce flood claims against the National Flood Insurance Program. C&CB Activities should result in a resource, strategy, or tangible mitigation product that will reduce or eliminate risk and damage from future flooding and increase community resilience.
- All C&CB Activities submitted as part of a grant application must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in the current, FEMA-approved state or tribal (standard or enhanced) mitigation plan and the local mitigation plan for the jurisdiction in which the project is located.

- All subapplications submitted under the C&CB Activities type - Project Scoping and Additional C&CB Activities priorities must demonstrate that the proposed project benefits NFIP-insured properties by submitting a map and associated geospatial file(s).
- C&CB Activities (Mitigation Plans, Technical Assistance by States to Communities, Project Scoping, Additional C&CB Activities [Partnership Development to Conduct Eligible Mitigation Activities, Enhancing Local Floodplain Management, SRL/RL Strategy Development, and other eligible C&CB activities) and management costs subapplications do not require a Benefit Cost Analysis.
- For additional information on eligibility, view the full FY 2023 funding opportunity at [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov).

## Federal Cost Share Funding

Cost share is required for most subapplications funded under the Flood Mitigation Assistance program. FEMA may contribute the federal cost share funding as indicated below.

- Up to 90% federal cost share funding if the average [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Social Vulnerability Index \(SVI\)](#) score is not less than 0.5001 for the benefiting area(s) substantiated by a benefiting area map, and the activity must be funded by [Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\)](#). FEMA will determine the CDC SVI score using the following three SVI themes: Socioeconomic Status, Household Characteristics, and Housing Type and Transportation, **or**
- Up to 75% federal cost share funding if a higher federal cost share is not available.



\* FEMA will determine the CDC SVI score using the following three SVI themes: Socioeconomic Status, Household Characteristics, and Housing Type and Transportation.

**Figure 3: Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Program Cost Share for Capability-and-Capacity-Building Activities**

## Capability and Capacity Building Activity Scoring Criteria

All Project Scoping and Additional C&CB Activities subapplications will be scored and selected based on the priorities in the following table, as needed. The subapplications will be selected based on cumulative score, from highest to lowest. In case of a tie, FEMA will use [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool](#), [Community Disaster Resilience Zone](#), or the total dollars in National Flood Insurance Program claims paid in the subapplicant’s jurisdiction in the past five years as a tiebreaker for projects.

The following table outlines the specific scoring criteria and brief descriptions. More information on eligibility and scoring criteria can be found within the FY 2023 funding opportunity.

**Table 1: Final Priority Scoring Criteria for Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB) Activities**

Priority	Description	Available Points
Justice40 Community, or Community Disaster Resilience Zone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A Justice40 community, also referred as a disadvantaged community, is identified using the version 1.0 of the <a href="#">Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)</a>. Justice40 communities are considered disadvantaged if they are in census tracts that meet the thresholds for at least one of the tool’s categories of burden, or if they are on lands within the boundaries of federally recognized tribes. In addition, census tracts that are completely surrounded by disadvantaged communities are also considered disadvantaged if they meet an adjusted low-income threshold (at or above the 50th percentile). Justice40 communities have been marginalized by society, overburdened by pollution, and/or underserved by infrastructure and other basic services. All federally recognized tribes or tribal entities are Justice40 communities (whether or not they have land)</li> <li>▪ A <a href="#">Community Disaster Resilience Zone</a> is defined <a href="#">in Title 42 United States Code Section 5136(a)(1)</a> and all Community Disaster Resilience Zone are located in Justice40 communities. A complete listing of FEMA <a href="#">designated Community Disaster Resilience Zones</a> is available online.</li> </ul> <p>Subapplications will receive 8 points if the Capability and Capacity Building Activities primarily benefits a Community Disaster Resilience Zone.</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Subapplications will receive 6 points if these activities primarily benefit a Justice40 community. Full and partial points are assigned to this category.</p>	Up to 8
Community Rating System (CRS) Participation	The Community Rating System recognizes and encourages community floodplain-management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program standards. Depending on the level of	3

Priority	Description	Available Points
	<p>participation, flood insurance premium rates for policyholders can be reduced up to 45%.</p> <p>Subapplications will receive 3 points if they are a participant in the Community Rating System. No partial points are assigned to this category.</p>	
<p>Cooperating Technical Assistance Partners Program (CTP) Participation</p>	<p>The Cooperating Technical Assistance Partners is a qualified partnership program in which communities commit to collaborate in maintaining up-to-date flood hazard maps and other flood hazard information.</p> <p>Subapplications will receive 3 points if they are a participating community in this program. No partial points are assigned to this category.</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>Public and Private-Sector Partnerships</p>	<p>FEMA encourages innovative use of public and private-sector partnerships, including incentivizing private organizations and businesses that partner with public organization to meet the non-federal cost share.</p> <p>Subapplication will receive 2 points if the subapplication incorporates partnerships (e.g., state, tribal, private, local community, etc.) that will ensure the project meets community needs, including those of overburdened and underserved populations, and show the outcome of those partnerships (e.g., leveraging resources such as financial, material, and educational resources, coordinating multi-jurisdictional projects, heightened focus on equity related issues, etc.).</p> <p>No partial points are assigned to this category.</p>	<p>2</p>

## Period of Performance

The period of performance of 36 months starting on the date of the recipient’s federal award. More information on the period of performance and other programmatic requirements can be found in the funding opportunity announcement or on FEMA’s website.

## FEMA Grants Outcomes

The FEMA Grants Outcomes (FEMA GO) grants management system is used for the 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](#).

The required format for applications and subapplications is built into FEMA GO, and for C&CB activities includes the following:

- Mitigation Plans must be submitted in a “plan” subapplication type.

- Technical Assistance by States to Communities must be submitted in a “technical assistance” subapplication type.
- Project Scoping activities must be submitted in a “project scoping” subapplication type.
- Additional C&CB activities (including Partnership Development to Conduct Eligible Mitigation Activities, Enhancing Local Floodplain Management, Severe Repetitive Loss/Repetitive Loss Strategy Development, and other eligible C&CB activities) must be submitted in a “project scoping” subapplication type.

## Additional Resources and Links

Additional information and resources about the Flood Mitigation Assistance program are available on [FEMA's website](#). [Resources](#) include links to the funding opportunity document, a summary of the application process, a link to the FEMA GO grant application system, and program support materials including several fact sheets to help with the application process.

The NFIP helps reduce the impacts of flooding through risk mapping, mitigation, and administering flood insurance. Through careful data sharing with communities, the NFIP enables local community planners, officials, and administrators to develop hazard mitigation plans, make updates, effectively manage their floodplains, and submit grant applications. FEMA provides publicly available data online.

For sensitive data, there is an established protocol that dictates who is allowed to receive it. Receiving sensitive data requires that a legal data sharing agreement be drafted to ensure proper and secure processing and handling. The aim is a 10-day turnaround time from FEMA's receipt of the data request to delivery. There are two types of data sharing agreements: Routine Use Letters (RULs) and Information Sharing Access Agreements (ISAAs). ISAAs last for three years and can be used for repeated data requests. RULs are for a one-time request only.

A completed data request form may be sent to a FEMA Regional Flood Insurance Liaison or Specialist.

General questions about the Flood Mitigation Assistance program can be directed to your [State Hazard Mitigation Officer \(SHMO\)](#) or [FEMA Regional Office](#).

- [FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Website](#)
- [FEMA: History and role of the NFIP: An Overview of the National Flood Insurance Program](#)
- [NFIP Data: Publicly available summary data](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions about NFIP policy/claims data](#)
- [FEMA Flood Map Service Center for Address Search](#)
- [Substantial Damage determinations:](#)
  - [Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference \(fema.gov\)](#)
  - [Substantial Damage Estimator Tool](#)
- [Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria in Flood Mitigation Grant Applications Job Aid](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Cost Share Guide](#)
- [Building Community Resilience with Nature Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Communities](#)
- [State Floodplain Managers List](#)

# ADDENDUM

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This content in this section is summarized from Title 42 United States Code 4104.

## Mitigation Plans

FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for the development or update of a Mitigation Plan. The maximum federal cost share funding is \$100,000 per applicant for mitigation planning with maximums of \$50,000 for state mitigation plans and \$25,000 for local mitigation plans.

Mitigation Plan subapplications will be evaluated to ensure that the result will provide benefits to the NFIP. Mitigation planning subapplications will be funded based on eligibility. The following list presents mitigation planning and planning-related activities eligible for Flood Mitigation Assistance funding—this list is not exhaustive. In addition to preparing a new mitigation plan or updating an existing mitigation plan, planning activities may include:

- Updating or improving the quality of sections of the current FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan, such as:
  - Updating the risk and vulnerability assessment based on new information, supporting studies (such as economic analyses), mapping, risk assessment, and planning.
  - Updating or enhancing sections of the current FEMA-approved mitigation plan, such as incorporating green building, smart growth principles, housing, infrastructure, historic preservation, habitat protection, or cultural resource considerations into the risk assessment and/or mitigation strategy.
  - Strengthening the hazard mitigation strategy section by incorporating actions to reduce vulnerabilities over the long-term, as well as linking proposed actions to available funding.
  - Augmenting the risk assessment and/or hazard mitigation strategy section by incorporating climate adaptation, green building, nature-based solutions, smart growth principles, or historic properties and cultural resources information.
  - Updating or enhancing sections of the current FEMA-approved mitigation plan, such as incorporating diverse and/or underserved populations that have unique needs into the planning process, risk assessment and/or mitigation strategy.
  - Collaborating with floodplain management and integrating specific components from the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System (CRS) to maximize points for the community and increase resilience to future flood events.
  - Integrating information from mitigation plans, specifically risk assessment or mitigation strategies, with other planning efforts, such as: capital improvement or economic development plans, resource management/conservation plans (e.g., stormwater, open space), resilience and/or climate change adaptation plans.



- Building capability through delivery of technical assistance and training by introducing officials, leaders, staff, residents, cultural stewards, and other stakeholders to hazard mitigation and disaster recovery planning, including train-the-trainer activities.

## Additional Hazard Mitigation Planning Resources

This section provides links to information on hazard mitigation planning. The information explains how FEMA approaches hazard mitigation planning and can help applicants and subapplicants develop a flood hazard mitigation planning subapplication for the program.

- [Create a Hazard Mitigation Plan](#)
- [Equity and Mitigation Planning](#)
- [Hazard Mitigation Planning and the Community Rating System: Key Topics Bulletin](#)
- [Implement, Integrate and Maintain Mitigation Planning Activities](#)
- [Integrating Hazard Mitigation into Local Planning: Case Studies and Tools for Community Officials \(2013\)](#)
- [Plan Integration: Linking Local Planning Efforts](#)
  
- [Local Mitigation Planning Resources:](#)
  - [Considerations for Local Mitigation Planning Grant Subapplications](#)
  - [Local Mitigation Planning Handbook](#)
  - [Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#)
  - [Guía de políticas de planificación de mitigación a nivel local](#)
  
- [Tribal Mitigation Planning Resources:](#)
  - [Tribal Mitigation Plan Review Guide](#)
  - [Hazard Mitigation Ideas](#)
  - [Tribal Mitigation Planning Grant Application Development Hazard Mitigation Assistance Job Aid](#)
  
- [State Mitigation Planning Resources:](#)
  - [State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#)

## Technical Assistance by States to Communities

FEMA will award \$50,000 to each applicant that meets the eligibility criteria for this funding. Funding for Technical Assistance by States to Communities is provided to maintain a viable Flood Mitigation Assistance program over time.

To be eligible to receive this funding, the applicant must have received a FY 2022 Flood Mitigation Assistance award of at least \$1 million federal cost share funding. Technical Assistance by States to Communities subapplications will be funded based on eligibility.

## Project Scoping

FEMA will select the highest ranked eligible subapplication(s) for Project Scoping from each applicant not to exceed \$900,000 total federal cost share funding per subapplication. Project Scoping can be used to obtain data and to prioritize, select, and develop Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects and/or Individual Flood Mitigation Projects for future funding. Project Scoping subapplications will be evaluated to ensure that the result will lead to an eligible project subapplication that will provide benefits to the NFIP. There is no guarantee for future Hazard Mitigation Assistance project funding if Project Scoping is awarded.

Project Scoping subapplications must demonstrate that the proposed project benefits NFIP-insured properties by submitting a map and associated geospatial file(s) (e.g., Shapefile, Keyhole Markup Language [KML/KMZ], geodatabase, list of census tracts, or other geo-enabled documents) delineating the proposed project area or footprint boundary.

### Project Scoping activities may include:

- Conducting meetings, outreach, and coordination with subapplicants and community residents
- Developing or conducting engineering, environmental feasibility, and/or Benefit-Cost Analyses
- Undertaking activities that lead to development of project applications
- Evaluating facilities to identify mitigation actions
- Using staff or resources to develop cost share strategies

### All Project Scoping Subapplications must:

- Prove that the proposed project benefits NFIP-insured properties by submitting a map and associated geospatial file(s) (e.g., Shapefile, KML/KMZ, Geodatabase, or other GIS enabled document) delineating the estimated area benefiting from the project. If a proposed benefiting area map is not provided, FEMA will default to the subapplicant jurisdiction to determine NFIP benefits, CEJST for prioritization, and CDC SVI for possible federal cost share.
- For more information on developing a benefiting area map, please consult the Geospatial File Eligibility Criteria Job Aid on [FEMA's website](#).

## Additional Capability and Capacity Building Activities

Additional C&CB Activities (Partnership Development to Conduct Eligible Mitigation Activities, Enhancing Local Floodplain Management, Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL)/Repetitive Loss (RL) Strategy Development, and Other Eligible C&CB Activities can enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of flood mitigation assistance. Additional C&CB Activities subapplications will not exceed \$300,000 total federal cost share funding.

All Additional C&CB Activities subapplications must demonstrate that the proposed project benefits NFIP-insured properties by submitting a map and associated geospatial file(s) (e.g., Shapefile, Keyhole Markup Language [KML/KMZ], geodatabase, list of census tracts, or other geo-enabled documents) delineating the proposed project area or footprint boundary. If a proposed benefiting area map is not provided for C&CB Activities, FEMA will default

to the subapplicant jurisdiction to determine NFIP benefits, CEJST for prioritization, and CDC SVI for enhanced federal cost share.

## **PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

The goal of partnership development is to enhance the knowledge, skills, and expertise of applicants and subapplicants to conduct mitigation activities. The following is a list of potential partnership activities eligible under the Flood Mitigation Assistance program:

- Conducting a capability gap analysis (or partner network analysis) to determine where partnerships could be helpful or where funding matching opportunities can be leveraged.
- Providing or attending training on evaluating, pursuing, or sustaining partnerships.
- Supporting partner identification or partnership development activities (e.g., hosting a partner fair, pursuing initiatives with higher education institutions, or engaging with economic development organizations).
- Developing a partner database or online portal to submit and share partnership case studies.
- Pursuing opportunities for knowledge transfer between partners (e.g., mentoring or shadowing programs).
- Attending state, local, tribal, territorial, regional, or national conferences to support knowledge sharing and partnership development.
- Hosting a forum to share best practices and lessons learned or conducting mitigation-related tabletop exercises to build relationships.
- Sustaining existing partnership initiatives or capitalizing on existing networks.
- Implementing other innovative partnership approaches identified by the applicant or subapplicant to meet stated needs.

These activities may be pursued at the applicant or subapplicant level to support partnership building efforts or may be provided by applicants to subapplicants to enhance the capability of communities to develop and sustain partnerships.

## **ENHANCING LOCAL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT**

FEMA's Office of Floodplain Management helps prevent or reduce the risk of flooding, thus improving a community's resilience. Floodplain Management offers tools and resources to help communities navigate NFIP requirements and implement higher standards of floodplain management. The section advocates for continued education on floodplain management and encourages states and communities to adopt higher standards for building codes, zoning, and enforcement to improve community resilience.

Staff provide support to states and communities to help manage floodplain risk, promote inter-governmental collaboration, increase conversations of floodplains and wildlife, understand financial options, and operate the Community Rating System (CRS) program.

### **SEVERE REPETITIVE LOSS (SRL)/REPETITIVE LOSS (RL) STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

The program focuses on building state and local floodplain management expertise and capability by improving coordination of state knowledge and expertise between itself and participating communities and reducing flood losses of the National Flood Insurance Program.

### **OTHER CAPABILITY AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES**

Applicable activities may be pursued to enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc., of the current workforce to expand or improve the administration of flood mitigation assistance. For example, NFIP (National Flood Insurance Program) communities can receive funding to support development of Substantial Damage Procedures to enhance flood risk management.

These procedures aim to assess and mitigate the impact of flooding on structures within flood-prone areas, ensuring that buildings meet resilience standards. By implementing robust Substantial Damage Procedures, National Flood Insurance Program communities are taking proactive steps to protect lives and property from the devastating effects of floods, ultimately promoting long-term community resilience.