FY13 HMA Guidance Webinar
Introductions
Overview of HMA Guidance

Adjudication

Changes in the structure of document

Driving forces for significant changes

Significant guidance changes

Other significant guidance changes

Next steps

Question and Answer
Background
FY13 HMA Guidance provides requirements for:

- General program requirements
- Specific program requirements:
  - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
  - Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program
  - Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program
FY13 HMA Guidance provides guidance on the following mitigation activity types:

- Acquisition-related activities for open space
- Wildfire
- Safe rooms
- Mitigation reconstruction
- Structure elevation
Overview

FY13 HMA Guidance:

- Provides streamlining and efficiencies for program delivery
- HMGP funds available for disasters declared on or after the date of publication
- Upcoming PDM and FMA application cycles
Adjudication
Summary

- Received over 700 comments
- Three rounds of draft documents
- Coordinated with many subject matter experts
- Grouped comments in terms of significance
- Made recommendations to Management
Changes in the HMA Guidance Structure
Changes in the Structure

- Project-specific guidance moved to an Addendum
- New Part II created – frontloading HMA program requirements early in the project scoping and development process
- Call-out boxes added to the main document to highlight significant changes
- Consolidating flood mitigation programs directed by the BW12 Act
Driving Forces for Significant Changes
HMGP Vital Signs 1989 – 2012

*All values represent disaster activity from 1989 forward*
# Significant Guidance Changes

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<td>2. Earlier Identification of Scope Changes</td>
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<td>2. Earlier Identification of Scope Changes</td>
<td>1. Potential for Phased Obligation</td>
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*NOTE: Avg Pct of Funds Obligated @ 24 MO≈ 30%*  
*36 MO≈ 50%*
Significant HMA Guidance Changes
Minimum Criteria for Complete Applications
Minimum Criteria for Complete Applications

- Incomplete Applications and placeholder applications do not contain sufficient information for FEMA to complete an Application review.

- Eligibility and completeness (E&C) checklist contains the minimum information required for FEMA to initiate an application review.

- As a result,
  - Streamlined the review process
  - Facilitate HMA program delivery
SRIA

Request For Information
Time frames for review actions and decisions:

- General time frame of 60 days for an application review
- The HMA Guidance includes:
  - Information on the Request For Information (RFI) process (stepwise)
  - RFI timeline and suggested actions if the requested information is not received
<table>
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<th>Request Format</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tr>
<td>Informal – First Request</td>
<td>• Project Officer requests additional information</td>
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<td>• 30 calendar days</td>
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<td>• If information is not received then FEMA will consider the application to be incomplete and not approvable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Informal – Second Request</td>
<td>• Mitigation Branch Chief requests additional information</td>
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<td>• 14 calendar days</td>
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<td>• If information is not received then FEMA will consider the application to be incomplete and not approvable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal</td>
<td>• The Regional Administrator requests additional information and will document previous requests</td>
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<td>• 30 calendar days</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal</td>
<td>• If the Regional Administrator does not receive the requested information within 30 calendar days, he or she will determine the requested project application be ineligible for funding under HMGP</td>
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<td>• The second formal letter is a denial</td>
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**RFI Process**

1. **Application submitted**
   - **Eligibility review**
     - YES: **Completeness review**
     - NO: **Formal denial**

2. **Determine if the subapplicant and subapplication are eligible**
   - YES: Continue processing application
   - NO: Informal first RFI by Project Officer

3. **RFI response**
   - **Review of submission**
     - YES: Informal second RFI by Hazard Mitigation Branch Chief
     - NO: Considered incomplete and unapprovable

4. **Work with applicant and subapplicant to determine viable project options**
   - **RFI response**
     - YES: Continue processing application
     - NO: Considered incomplete and unapprovable

5. **Approval**
   - YES: Continue processing application
   - NO: Formal denial**

**Notes:**
- State/Indian Tribal Government task
- FEMA task
- Decision point
- * Calendar days
- ** At any point in the RFI process, FEMA can formally deny the application (if sufficient information is provided) and it is no longer necessary to continue the RFI process.
Industry Design and Construction Standards
Industry Design and Construction Standards

- FEMA now accepts the engineering design for a project if a registered Professional Engineer certifies that the design meets the appropriate code or industry design and construction standards.

- FEMA will accept the certified engineering design in lieu of the FEMA comprehensive technical feasibility review.
Industry Design and Construction Standards

- Examples of industry design and construction standards:
  - FEMA P-361 for community safe rooms
  - FEMA P-804 for wind retrofits
Advance Assistance
Advance Assistance

- **Purpose:** Provide Applicants with resources to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data in order to prioritize, select, and develop complete HMGP applications in a timely manner

- For HMGP, up to 25% of the estimated ceiling with a limit of $10 million will be available

- Advance Assistance is being implemented as a pilot
Advance Assistance

Examples of how Advance Assistance can be used:

- Incorporate the National Environmental Policy Act into decision-making
- Obtain technical resources to gather data, perform a Benefit-Cost Analysis, and initiate Environmental and Historic Preservation and program data collection
- Develop complete applications with values that equal or exceed available HMGP disaster ceiling
BW12

- BW 12 Act eliminates the RFC and SRL programs
- BW 12 Act significantly enhances the FMA program:
  - Additional funding for mitigation of SRL and repetitive loss properties
  - Mitigation reconstruction now an eligible activity under FMA
Changes in Federal cost shares under the FMA program:

- Up to 100% for SRL properties
- Up to 90% for repetitive loss properties
- Up to 75% for properties insured under the National Flood Insurance Program

Development or update of flood mitigation plans will not exceed $50,000 Federal share to any Applicant or $25,000 Federal share to any subapplicant.
Other Significant Guidance Changes
Other Guidance Changes

Changes in addition to legislatively based changes are:

- POP for the Program
- HMGP Lock-In process
- Strategic Funds Management
- Extraordinary Circumstances exception
- Mitigation planning-related activities
- BCA
- New Part II—HMA Frontloading
Other Guidance Changes

POP for the Program

- Now begins with the opening of the application period and ends no later than 36 months from the close of the application period
- Length of the POP (particularly for HMGP) has received significant attention
- Requests to extend the POP beyond 12 months from the original grant POP termination date must be approved by HQ
HMGP Lock-in

- The 12-month lock-in is the maximum amount available.
- Final lock-in amount may be greater than or less than the previous calculations.
- FEMA will not obligate more than 75% of any estimate prior to the calculation of the final lock-in without concurrence from the RA/FCO with Disaster Recovery Management Authority and the OCFO.
Strategic Funds Management (SFM)

- Program fiscal management concept designed to provide funds as they are needed to implement eligible HMGP activities
- To be used to manage the DRF more effectively by anticipating obligations in conjunction with accurate monthly spend plan projections
- Schedule, scope and budget
Extraordinary Circumstance exception for mitigation plan requirement

- May be granted by FEMA HQ for PDM and FMA project subgrants when justification is provided

- For approved exceptions, a local or Indian Tribal mitigation plan must be approved by FEMA within 12 months of the award of the subgrant to that community
Mitigation planning-related activities

- planning-related activities in addition to developing a new or updating an existing plan
Examples of eligible HMGP planning-related activities:

- Updates or enhancements to current FEMA-approved mitigation plan, such as:
  - Risk and vulnerability assessment
  - Mitigation strategy
  - Integrating mitigation into a comprehensive land use plan
  - Climate change and Smart Growth principles
Other Guidance Changes

Benefit cost

- Aggregation of multiple hazards and across multiple jurisdictions if part of the same project
- Substantial Damage waiver extended to all HMA programs
- Greatest Savings to the Fund extended to all HMA programs
- Pre-calculated benefits for residential safe room application now available
Environmental Benefits

FEMA Mitigation Policy FP-18-024-01

- Issued June 18, 2013
- Officially made environmental benefits eligible benefits for acquisition project types – with restrictions
- In August 2012, Environmental Benefits Analysis Report for Green Open Space and Riparian land uses
Environmental Benefits

- At this time, environmental benefits apply only for acquisition-related projects.

- To meet FEMA’s authority for reducing future damage, projects must first quantify a BCR of at least 0.75 before environmental benefits are added.

- Active in Version 5.0 to be released in 2014.

- Interim “Environmental Benefits Calculator”
Part II: HMA Frontloading
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Incorporating HMA Program requirements early in decision-making will:

- Help implement new elements such as streamlining, Strategic Funds Management, and Advance Assistance
- Expedite development of eligible and complete projects
- Accelerate the process for funding decisions
Steps in Project Scoping

**Considerations**
- Technical feasibility
- Cost
- Cost-effectiveness
- Environmental effects
- Community support

- Project design reduces vulnerability
- Project cost is acceptable
- Project is or appears highly likely to be cost-effective
- Project incorporates consideration of environmental and cultural resources effects
- Project includes any necessary measures to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to floodplains, wetlands, or other environmental resources

**Community identifies a need for action (Reference Mitigation Plan)**

**Step 1**
- Develop alternative solutions to problem

**Steps 2 - 5**
- Scope alternatives

**Step 6**
- Identify mitigation activity that best meets HMA program requirements

**Step 7**
- Develop project

**Document each step for inclusion in HMA subapplication**
Next Steps
Opening of FY13 Non-Disaster Application Period

FY13 PDM and FMA application period:

- Opens July 19
- Closes October 18 at 3pm ET
- Please see the Funding Opportunities Announcement when posted onto grants.gov
- HMA webpage for additional information
- www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance
Other Next Steps

- Webinars for Applicants
- FEMA review
- Funding decision