



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Emergency Management

Roy Cooper, Governor  
Eddie Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

William C. Ray, Director

November 5, 2021

### NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY (NOFA) HMG DR-4487-NC (COVID19)

1. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in response to the President's disaster declaration for COVID-19, established the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) DR-4487-NC for the State of North Carolina. In response to the grant's establishment, North Carolina Emergency Management's (NCEM) Hazard Mitigation (HM) Section announces Letters of Interest (LOIs) are now being accepted for mitigation projects from qualified sub-applicants to be considered and evaluated for inclusion in the State's HMGP application submission to FEMA.

HMGP funds are intended to help reduce current disaster suffering by providing funding for mitigation activities that will result in safer and more resilient communities. The funds are also intended to support projects that address the impacts of climate change and other unmet mitigation needs. Project types supported may range from individual home acquisition/elevation to critical facility generators to community infrastructure projects that reduce the impact of disasters on homes and businesses. Eligible sub-applicants are local governments with a FEMA and NCEM approved and adopted Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan. All letters of Interest are to be uploaded through the EM Grants portal (<http://emgrants.nc.gov/>) for the HM Section's evaluation no later than **5pm, December 10, 2021**. LOIs submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

#### **LOI Deadline: 5pm – December 10, 2021**

2. NCEM HM Section Staff will screen, rate, and prioritize all projects for eligibility and cost effectiveness. The State's priorities for DR-4487-NC are:

#### Primary

Community based infrastructure projects that are designed to make communities more resilient pre- and post-disaster as well as designed to prevent damages to homes and businesses

#### Residential Mitigation

- Acquisition ("Buyout")
- Elevation ("House Raising")
- Mitigation Reconstruction ("Demo/Rebuild")

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
4238 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4238  
[www.ncdps.gov/ncem](http://www.ncdps.gov/ncem)

**OFFICE LOCATION:**  
200 Park Offices Drive, Suite 100  
Durham, NC 27713  
[www.flood.nc.gov](http://www.flood.nc.gov)



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## Secondary

### 5% Initiative Projects

- Generators
- Early Warning Systems /Stream gauges
- Community Storm Shelters

### 7% Projects

- Planning Related Activities

## **Hazard Mitigation Project Type Definition:**

**Infrastructure:** Infrastructure projects must align with a community's Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (RHMP). Applicants must identify in the LOI where specifically in their RHMP the project type is referenced (page number, section title, etc.). Infrastructure projects must, at a minimum, be in conformance with the latest published editions (meaning either of the two most recently published editions) of relevant consensus-based codes, specifications, and standards that incorporate the latest hazard-resistant designs. Any project submitted must be technically feasible and effective, solving a problem independently or constitute a functional portion of a long-term solution. The nominated infrastructure project must be cost-effective and designed to increase resilience and reduce risk of injuries, loss of life, and damage and destruction of property, including critical services and facilities. The most effective projects and the ones most likely to be supported by FEMA through the application process will have documentation that achieves the following goals:

Addresses a problem that has been repetitive or that poses a risk to public health and safety and improved property if left unresolved;

Satisfies applicable cost-effectiveness requirements through completion of a BCA conducted in compliance with OMB Circular A-94

Contributes, to the extent practicable, to a long-term solution to the problem it is intended to address; and

Accounts for long-term changes to the areas and entities it protects and has manageable future maintenance and modification requirements.

**Acquisition:** The acquisition or "buyout" of a home uses FEMA funds to purchase the structure and land from a willing homeowner. The homeowner is offered pre-disaster fair market value for their structure, if qualified, as determined by a certified appraiser. Once the home and property are acquired by the county/municipality, the home is demolished and the land is deeded to the local government with an open space restriction into perpetuity to restore or conserve natural floodplain functions. The property must have clear title. Prior to closing on the home, the county/municipality must check for any duplication of benefits (DOB) the homeowner may have. A homeowner's DOB may come from multiple types of sources to include Individual Assistance or Flood Insurance. If any DOB exists for a homeowner, meaning they did not use all or some of the provided funding in the repair of the home, then the unused portion is subtracted from the possible value of the closing price on the home. Homeowners are strongly encouraged to keep any and all receipts for repairs they have completed using these funds to ensure the price for the home is not less than what may be provided.

**Elevation:** Elevating a home is the physical raising (elevation and foundation retrofit) of an existing structure to an elevation 2 feet higher than the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) or higher if required by FEMA or the local ordinances. The project pays for engineering to determine if the home is feasible to raise, then elevates and retrofits the foundation. DOB also is counted in an elevation, so sub-awardees must advise their homeowners to keep track of any funds provided for home repairs.

**Mitigation Reconstruction:** Mitigation Reconstruction is the construction of an improved, code compliant, elevated home on the same site where the existing home has been partially or completely demolished or destroyed. This option is available to those with existing homes that are not feasible for elevation due to storm damage.

Prior to any homes being submitted in the State's final application to FEMA, all homes must have the following documentation which **must be submitted in the sub-applicant's LOI (In Bold)**:

**Homeowner Application or Property Site Inventory (Attached)**  
**Declaration and Release Form, FEMA Form 009-0-3 (Attached)**  
**Voluntary Participation FEMA Form, FEMA Form 81-112 (Attached)**  
**Model Acknowledgement of Conditions (For Elevation Homes Only) (Attached)**  
**Current tax card for the property**  
Pre-Elevation Survey (For Elevation Homes Only)  
4 Photos of each home – must be of each side of the property  
Photos of any additional structures on the property

For those items not in bold, these items must be sent to the State as soon as possible, or the home will not be included in the final application to FEMA.

Prior to any projects being submitted in the State's final application to FEMA, all projects must have the following documentation which **must be submitted in the sub-applicant's LOI**

For Generators – Documented reference that facility is Critical Infrastructure  
For Generators – Sizing Letter signed by sub-applicant Engineer verifying size of generator  
For Generators – Vendor Quote for generator(s) to include any MTS/ATS  
For Generators and Storm Gauges/Early Warning Sirens – Imagery showing where generator/gauge/sirens to be installed  
For Storm Gauges/Early Warning Sirens – Listing of gauge/siren location with Lat/Long

3. Once the LOI period closes, the HM Section will verify all documentation and begin building each sub-applicant's final application. Most critical during this period is the calculation of the Benefit Cost Analysis for all entries. **The FEMA pre-calculated benefit waivers are in effect for properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area (AE Zone) only.** Note that properties may be aggregated in order to produce a cost-effective result. Properties outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area or in the "X zone" cannot take advantage of the pre-calculated benefit waivers and each home must have separate BCA calculated. If an individual property does not have a minimum of 3 flood events affecting the structure, a BCA cannot be completed on the home. Additionally, if the home fails to pass the BCA, even with 3 flood events in its history, the home CAN NOT be **submitted** into the final application to FEMA. Note: "X Zone" Properties will fall below "AE Zone" properties which are at a higher risk. Available grant funds are targeted to those that represent the highest risk of future flooding.

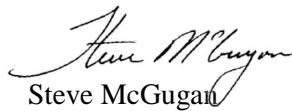
BCA Waiver Conditions:

- Acquisition, if a property is located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area (AE or VE Zone), and the entire acquisition and demolition cost for that property is \$323,000 or less, the property is considered to be cost effective.
- Elevation, if a property is located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area (AE or VE Zone), and the entire elevation cost for that property is \$205,000 or less, the property is considered to be cost effective.
- Mitigation Reconstruction, if a property is located in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area (AE or VE Zone), and the eligible Federal allowable construction costs are \$150,000 or less, the property is considered to be cost effective.

4. Applicant Intake: Communities will develop a process (community meeting or one-on-one session) for gathering documentation and application information from community residents. During these meetings, the sub-applicant should have all applicants complete and sign both a PSI and a FEMA Declaration and Release Form (FEMA Form 009-0-3) Please notify the HM Section for additional information, assistance obtaining the required forms and if you desire HM Staff to assist at these community meetings.

Submission of Letters of Interest: LOIs are due no later than **5pm December 10, 2021**. Letters of Interest will be submitted in the HMGP portal at <http://emgrants.nc.gov/> using the “Application” feature.

5. If you have any questions about the application or LOI process, obtaining access to EM Grants, or technical assistance questions about an application, please contact your county’s/municipality’s assigned grant developer or the HM Section Development Supervisor, Jason Pleasant at 919-873-5852.



Steve McGowan  
State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
Assistant Director – Mitigation Section Chief  
North Carolina Emergency Management