



OHIO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

- Administration
- Bureau of Motor Vehicles
- **Emergency Management Agency**
- Emergency Medical Services Division
- Office of Criminal Justice Services
- Ohio Homeland Security
- Ohio Investigative Unit
- Ohio State Highway Patrol

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Notice of Availability PDM-C 2007

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the \$100 million nation-wide Pre-Disaster Mitigation - Competitive (PDM-C) grant program for federal Fiscal Year 2007. Local governments (counties, cities, townships), and public colleges / universities are eligible to apply to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) for funding up to \$3 million per project and/or plan. Private non-profit organizations and private colleges and universities are **not eligible**; however, a relevant local government may apply for assistance on their behalf. This Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program focuses on planned, pre-identified, and cost-effective mitigation projects that lessen the impact of hazards on people and property.

There are several aspects of PDM-C to be aware of:

1. The program is based on a national competitive process; therefore, only the most cost-effective projects nationwide can expect to be favorably considered and approved for funding.
2. Only those communities in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) or those that have not yet been mapped are eligible applicants.
3. This program requires a 25% non-federal match, except for a possibly lower percentage for communities that meet FEMA's criterion for small and impoverished status.
4. Applicants must have a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan, or at least a plan that OEMA is confident will be approved before a grant award is offered. You must coordinate with the entity which has oversight of your community's hazard mitigation plan which is usually your county emergency management office to ensure that the mitigation project proposal meets either a goal, objective, or action item in the community's hazard mitigation plan.

Because each project submitted will be scrutinized and evaluated by national level review panels, the application content is extensive and the process is challenging. Moreover, a FEMA approved cost-benefit analysis with extensive supporting documentation must accompany each application.

Due to the short timeline imposed by FEMA, following milestones are important:

- **The Notice of Intent (NOI) / and E-grants Authorization form must be received by OEMA before you can apply for a 2007 PDMC grant. Although there is no time limit for doing this, it is recommended that it is turned as soon as possible.** Mitigation Branch staff will review the NOI form to determine whether the project idea is among those types that are eligible for funding. Also, you must enroll on E-grants as project applications for PDM-C funds are completed on-line through the E-grants system.

Mission Statement

"to save lives, reduce injuries and economic loss, to administer Ohio's motor vehicle laws and to preserve the safety and well being of all citizens with the most cost-effective and service-oriented methods available."

- **OEMA intends to offer training for conduct benefit-cost analysis, E-grants procedures, and project mentoring** free of charge to interested applicants, although this training is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended as there will be little time to review and correct incomplete applications submitted to OEMA. Notice of such training will be posted on the OEMA website and will be e-mailed to those who have submitted a NOI.
- **Completed project sub-applications must be received by OEMA no later than 5:00 P.M., January 19th, 2007 (project sub-applications will be submitted electronically through the E-grants system).** Sub-applicant representatives must be made available between January 19th and February 4th to coordinate frequently with OEMA to ensure timely submissions to FEMA.

Why pursue this opportunity? Because future disasters will occur and mitigation works! Since the creation of mitigation programs through the Robert T. Stafford Act in 1988, Ohio has experienced 24 Presidential disaster declarations, with total damages well exceeding \$1 billion. Federal and state mitigation funds have provided over \$60 million dollars for more than 200 projects in 87 counties. These projects included the acquisition and demolition of flood prone structures, elevating flood prone structures, construction of high wind safe rooms that save lives in the event of an emergency or weather event, seismic retrofit measures, infrastructure mitigation, some stormwater management projects, and the development of local mitigation plans. In many communities the investment in mitigation projects has already begun to occur. According to a recent study authorized by Congress, \$1 invested in hazard mitigation projects yields \$4 in economic return! Damages are avoided, and potential loss of life is reduced. Also, this is an opportunity to fund eligible mitigation actions that have been identified in recently developed community hazard mitigation plans.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please go to the OEMA Mitigation Branch website: <http://www.ema.ohio.gov/mitigation.asp> and click *2007 PDMC Notice of Availability* link at the bottom of the page, review the materials, and send our Mitigation Staff a completed Notice of Intent / E-grants Authorization Form. Thank you for taking time to consider this important matter. We look forward to hearing from you! For questions, or to send the notification of interest, please contact our Mitigation Branch at 614-889-7153, by e-mail at cmberginnis@dps.state.oh.us, or by fax at 614-799-3526. Also please contact your county EMA office for additional information about PDM-C, hazard mitigation, and mitigation planning.

Sincerely,



NANCY J. DRAGANI
Executive Director