

- 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



November 15, 2007
Notice of Availability PDM 2008

The Ohio Emergency Management Agency (Ohio EMA) wishes to notify you of the nation-wide Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) grant program for federal Fiscal Year 2008. 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. These projects may include activities such as acquiring/demolishing flood prone buildings, construction of tornado/high-wind safe room structures, and earthquake retrofitting measures. A comprehensive list of the type of projects can be found in the detailed PDM guidance produced by FEMA.

Local governments (counties, cities, townships), and public colleges / universities are eligible to apply through the Ohio EMA for Federal funding up to \$3 million per project and/or \$1,000,000 per plan (plan updates are capped at \$500,000). Private non-profit organizations and private colleges and universities are **not eligible**; however, a relevant local government may apply for assistance on their behalf.

There are several aspects of PDM to be aware of:

- The program is based on a nationally competitive process; therefore, only the most cost-effective projects nationwide can expect to be favorably considered and approved for funding.
- Only those communities in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) or those that have not yet been mapped are eligible applicants.
- 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.
- 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.

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."

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

- **If you are not already a registered user in FEMA's E-Grants system, a signed E-Grants Authorization Form must be received by OEMA before you can begin a project. Although there is no time limit for doing this, it is recommended that it is turned as soon as possible.** You must be enrolled in E-Grants as project applications for PDM funds are completed on-line through FEMA's web based, E-Grants system. If you have registered in previous years, you should still be able to access E-Grants. You can contact Ohio EMA – Mitigation Branch staff to see if you had previously applied for user access.
- **OEMA intends to offer limited training for conducting benefit-cost analysis and project development** 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 are registered E-grants users.
- **Completed project sub-applications must be received by OEMA no later than 5:00 P.M., January 14th, 2008 (project sub-applications will be submitted electronically to OEMA through the E-grants system).** Sub-applicant representatives must be made available between January 15th and January 31st 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 23 Presidential disaster declarations, with total damages well exceeding \$1 billion. Federal and state mitigation funds have provided nearly \$90 million dollars for more than 200 projects in all 88 counties. PDM is one of five FEMA mitigation programs that can provide resources for mitigation projects. 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, infrastructure mitigation, some stormwater management projects, and the development of local mitigation plans. 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.

PDM grants can be used to develop/update local hazard mitigation plans. We are encouraging Ohio communities whose local mitigation plans are required to be updated within the next two years (due to the required 5-year update cycle) to consider PDM to assist with this effort. Based on our information the following plans will need to be updated in the next two years:

Calendar year 2008 – Colerain Township (Hamilton County)

Calendar year 2009 – Village of New Richmond (Clermont County) and Sandusky County (multi-jurisdictional)

Next Steps

1. If you are interested in this opportunity, please go to the OEMA Mitigation Branch website: <http://www.ema.ohio.gov/mitigation.asp> and click *2008 PDM Application Information* link at the bottom of the page, review the materials, and send our Mitigation Staff a completed E-grants Authorization Form if you are not already registered in E-grants.
2. Before beginning to enter a project application, make sure the project is an eligible project type. Review the list of eligible project types on pages 24-27 and 37-38 of FEMA's detailed PDM Program Guidance. Every year we receive a number of applications for projects that must be rejected because the project is an ineligible project type.
3. Begin working on the project application! Resources that you can take advantage of include:
 - a. Benefit-cost software produced by FEMA. All non-planning project applications must include a benefit-cost analysis that utilizes FEMA approved methodologies. We can provide the FEMA software to you free on a CD or you can download it from our FTP site. Under PDM, applicants are responsible for conducting their own benefit-cost analysis.
 - b. FEMA's help desks. Information regarding these can be found beginning on Page 67 of FEMA's PDM Program Guidance document.
 - c. FEMA's website resources. Through the following webpage link: <http://www.fema.gov/government/grant/pdm/fy2008.shtm> you can find information on the PDM program and a link to resources in developing project applications such as sample scopes of work, engineering case studies, and tip sheets.
4. Take advantage of training that will become available. Check frequently with our website. Also, we will send notice of training availability to county EMA offices, and registered E-Grants users.
5. Complete your full project application by 5PM Monday, January 14th!

Thank you for taking time to consider this important matter. We look forward to hearing from you! For questions, please contact Chad Berginnis or Rachael Evans in our Mitigation Branch at 614-799-3539 or 614-799-3532, by e-mail at cmberginnis@dps.state.oh.us or revans@dps.state.oh.us, or by fax at 614-799-3526. Also you can contact your county EMA office for additional information about PDM, hazard mitigation, and mitigation planning.