

# ResCon 2022

FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance Funding: Building Community  
and Climate Resilience

Camille Crain, Deputy Hazard Mitigation Assistance Division Director for the  
Federal Emergency Management Agency | April 20, 2022



FEMA

# Hazard Mitigation Assistance Strategic Framework

<p><b>HMA Vision, Mission, Values</b></p>	<p><b>HMA Vision:</b> A prepared and resilient nation</p>			<p><b>HMA Values:</b> HMA embodies the FEMA Core Values of Compassion, Fairness, Integrity, and Respect and additionally seeks to promote Empathy, Efficiency, Professionalism, Creativity, Collaboration and Fun in achieving our mission.</p>	
<p><b>HMA Impact Statements</b></p>	<p><b>A: WE REDUCE RISK:</b> FEMA and our partners can anticipate and manage risks from cascading, frequent and changing conditions</p> 	<p><b>B: WE PROMOTE EQUITY:</b> Partners have straightforward and equitable access to HMA programs</p> 	<p><b>C: WE BUILD CAPACITY:</b> Communities reduce the risk of loss of life and property by using all available programs, tools and resources</p> 	<p><b>D: WE FOSTER CONNECTION:</b> HMA brings people and communities together to help them consider risk and mitigation in all investment decisions</p> 	<p><b>E: WE VALUE OUR PEOPLE:</b> HMA is an employer of choice in the field of Mitigation and attracts, nurtures and retains top talent to deliver our mission</p> 
<p><b>HMA Goals</b></p>	<p><b>A1.</b> Equip regions and partners to manage the mitigation investments required to reduce their future risk</p> <p><b>A2.</b> Incentivize the use of future conditions and risk information to drive community planning and mitigation investment</p>	<p><b>B1.</b> Reduce barriers to accessing HMA programs in a timely manner</p> <p><b>B2.</b> Provide focused assistance to underserved communities</p> <p><b>B3.</b> Develop a single point of entry for simplified mitigation assistance</p>	<p><b>C1.</b> Demonstrate how mitigation funding can be used across programs to address mitigation investment priorities</p> <p><b>C2.</b> Strengthen mitigation in every phase of the disaster life cycle</p> <p><b>C3.</b> Influence mitigation investment decisions through the use of requirements and incentives</p>	<p><b>D1.</b> Use innovation, research and data to drive improved mitigation practices and investments</p> <p><b>D2.</b> Facilitate the development of solutions to address mitigation investment needs and priorities</p> <p><b>D3.</b> Promote and develop partnerships across all sectors to maximize mitigation funding</p>	<p><b>E1.</b> Recruit top talent through equitable, diverse and inclusive hiring practices</p> <p><b>E2.</b> Put people first in delivering our mission</p> <p><b>E3.</b> Foster a culture of learning, innovation and collaboration</p>

# FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Programs

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## Disaster Cycle Grant Programs



### Public Assistance Mitigation

FEMA's Public Assistance Division supports communities' recovery from major disasters by providing mitigation funding opportunities to restore and strengthen public infrastructure. The Hazard Mitigation Assistance works to enhance coordination with Public Assistance.



### Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Implements long-term hazard mitigation measures after a major disaster declaration



### HMGP Post-Fire

Helps communities implement hazard mitigation measures after wildfire disasters



# FEMA

## Annual Cycle Grant Programs



### Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

Reduces or eliminates the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program



### Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Supports the undertaking of new and innovative infrastructure projects that reduce the risks from disasters and natural hazards



### Pre-Disaster Mitigation

(Replaced by BRIC) Funded pre-disaster hazard mitigation activities awarded in Fiscal Year 2019 and earlier

## Executive Order 13985

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- “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government”
- HMA is leveraging a multi-pronged approach to assess our programs through:
  - Using data analysis to set program metrics and determine a baseline
  - Exploring contextual and procedural inequities that affect applications, through research
  - Evaluating existing approaches, such as Direct Technical Assistance
  - Conducting external engagements to better understand the needs of underserved communities



## Meeting the Needs of Disadvantaged Communities: Justice40 Initiative

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- Justice40 sets the goal that **at least 40%** of the overall benefits of federal investments from covered programs flow to disadvantaged communities
- Disadvantaged communities may be characterized by:
  - High and/or persistent poverty
  - High unemployment and underemployment
  - Racial and ethnic segregation
  - Disproportionate climate impacts
  - Low income
  - Distressed neighborhoods
  - High energy cost burden and low energy access
  - High transportation cost burden and/or low transportation access
  - Linguistic isolation
  - Limited water and sanitation access and affordability
  - Disproportionate environmental burden and high cumulative impacts
  - Areas within tribal jurisdictions
  - High housing cost burden and substandard housing



## Barriers in Equitable Program Delivery: Lessons Learned

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Disadvantaged communities may face a host of barriers that affect equity in program delivery.

FEMA identified some of these challenges and is working to address them within its suite of programs through providing direct technical assistance, tools and resources, and training, to name a few.

Examples:

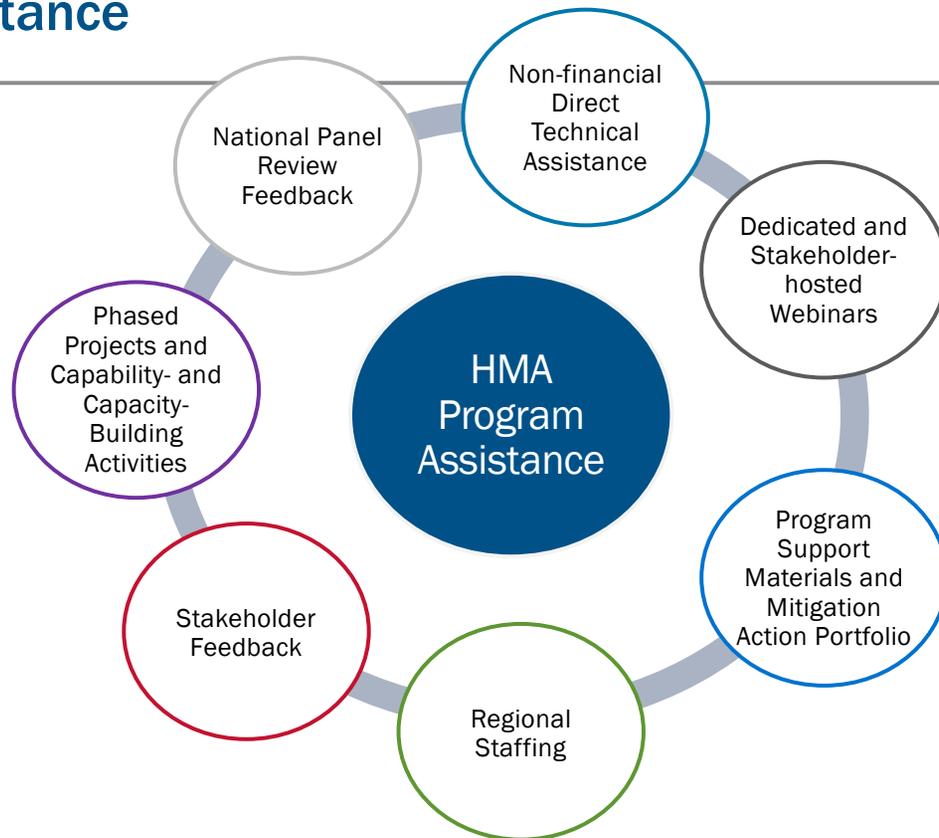
- Not having the technical skills required to apply for federal funding
- Lack of the experience, capacity or capability needed to effectively engage in partnerships
- Lack of flexibility in meeting cost effectiveness requirements



# HMA Examples of Equity in Action

## Providing Technical Assistance

FEMA headquarters and regional staff provide technical assistance to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments through a number of avenues:



## Increasing Cost Share for Economically Disadvantaged Rural Communities

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Defined as communities of 3,000 or fewer individuals that are recognized as being economically disadvantaged, with residents having an average per capita annual income that does not exceed 80% of the national per capita income

Standard Cost Share

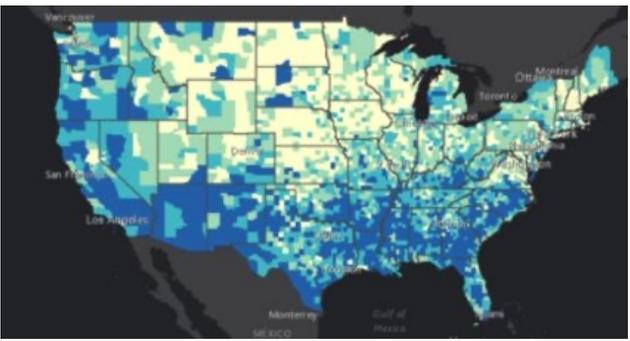
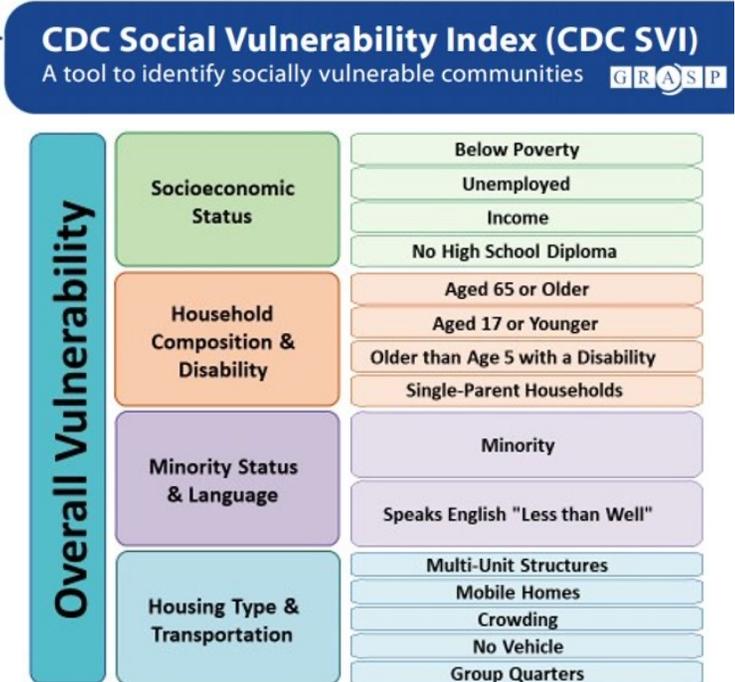
75% Federal /  
25% Non-Federal

EDRC Cost Share

90% Federal /  
10% Non-Federal



# Leveraging the CDC Social Vulnerability Index to Target Communities in Need



- The Overall Vulnerability Score (SVI) is between 0 and 1
- 0 is the least vulnerable, and 1 the most
- 4 themes, 15 demographic and socioeconomic indicators
- CDC updates the data every 2 years with the latest American Community Survey Census data
- Data is available by **Census Tract** and County Crosswalk to **zip codes** (not supported by CDC)



## New Initiative: FMA's Swift Current (Launched)

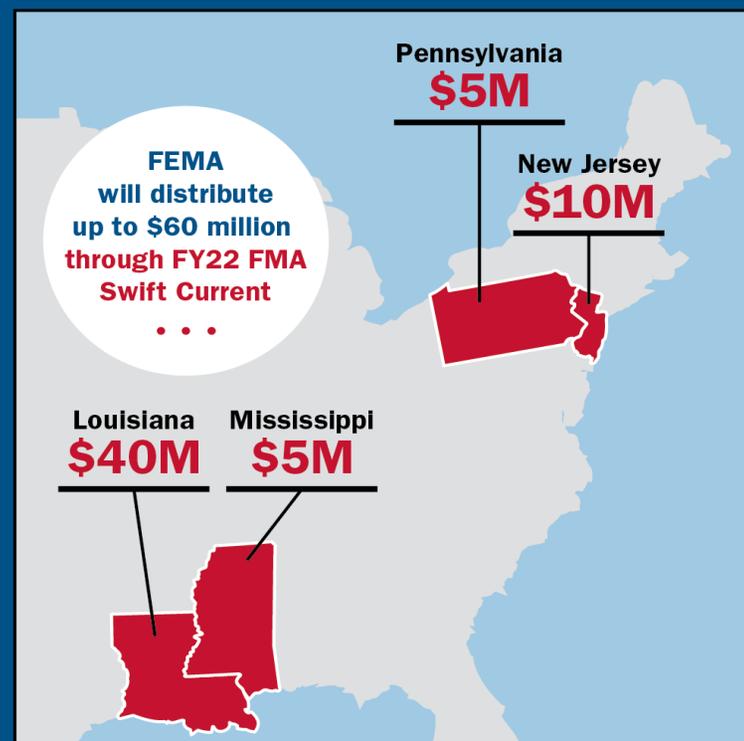
A new Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) initiative launched in March 2022 funded through the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (IIJA) which:

- Aims to better align FMA funding to the disaster survivor's experience during recovery (post-disaster vs. annual)
- Provides more equitable access to grants through higher cost shares
- Reduces application process complexity
- Gives a learning opportunity for future iterations of Swift Current



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## \$60M in Available Funding

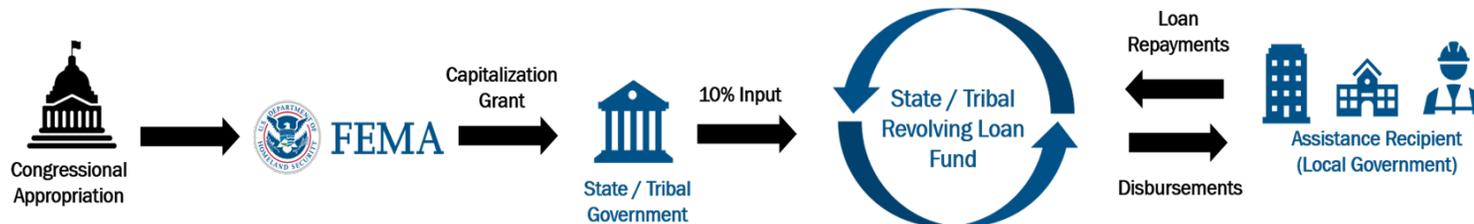


Federal Emergency Management Agency

**Pre-decisional Agency Deliberative**

# New Program: Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act (In Development)

The STORM Act provides an opportunity for FEMA to provide funds to states and tribal governments to administer revolving loan funds through the state’s emergency management agency for mitigation projects.



The STORM Act authorizes FEMA to provide capitalization grants to states or eligible tribal government to establish revolving loan funds that provide hazard mitigation assistance to local governments to reduce risks.

The STORM Act would fund projects and activities eligible for assistance and mitigate the impacts of drought, intense heat, severe storms, wildfires, floods and earthquakes, among others.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides \$500 million to the STORM Act, or \$100 million per year for five years.



## Planned Activities to Promote Equity

### Data

- Apply equitable outcomes in alignment with Justice40
- Leverage data-driven decision-making to understand program effectiveness, targeting outreach and technical assistance

### Program design

- Focus on efficiencies that streamline our processes, and promote adaptation to future conditions
- Research best practices and gather feedback from stakeholders to improve the equitable outcomes from HMA programs

### Outreach & Engagement

- Develop non-digital outreach methods to reach disadvantaged communities
- Provide more direct technical assistance and explore shifts in program delivery models to better meet the needs of disadvantaged communities



**How Can You Help?**

## Program Resources

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- [BRIC Website](#)
- [FMA Website](#)
- [Swift Current Initiative Website](#)
- [HMGP Website](#)
- [HMGP Post Fire Website](#)

### Need Help?

General questions about these programs can be directed to the appropriate [State Hazard Mitigation Officer](#) or [FEMA Regional Office](#).

- FEMA GO Helpline:  
[femago@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:femago@fema.dhs.gov) or 1-877-611-4700
- Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) Helpline:  
[BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov) or 1-855-540-6744
- Feasibility and Effectiveness Helpline:  
[FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov)
- Environmental and Historic Preservation:  
[EHPHelpline@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:EHPHelpline@fema.dhs.gov) or 1-866-222-3580
- Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Helpline:  
1-866-222-3580



Thank you.



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