

## 4.2 LOCAL MITIGATION PLANNING ASSISTANCE

44 CFR 201.4(c) (4) (i) requires the state to include a description of the process to support, through funding and technical assistance, the development of Local Hazard Mitigation Plans (LHMPs).

Hazard mitigation planning is a way, in a non-disaster environment, to understand hazards and prepare strategies and actions to reduce the impact of these hazards. The ever-rising recovery costs of disasters plaguing Ohio made it apparent that a pre-disaster planning and project focus with ongoing risk analysis could reduce these costs. The State of Ohio utilizes any available federal program funds for mitigation projects, and has documented success stories proving the necessity and effectiveness of the programs. The DMA 2000 stipulates that state and local jurisdictions need to have an approved LHMP to remain eligible for federal funding for mitigation projects. Ohio continues to take a very proactive role in the involvement with local jurisdictions to secure the availability of the funding programs and assist local communities in developing LHMPs. This effort has resulted in all 88 counties at one point in time have a FEMA approved local hazard mitigation plan.

### CURRENT STATE EFFORTS

FEMA approved LHMPs are now prerequisites to obtaining funds from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs. In addition, requirements published by FEMA on October 31, 2007 require all updated plans to meet FMA planning requirements (additional flood hazard mitigation strategy and strategy for repetitive loss programs). To keep abreast of and implement these changes, the Mitigation Branch will continue to prioritize the planning element of the state mitigation program.

### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Technical assistance that the state provides to Ohio communities includes:

- Mitigation planning process assistance including facilitating planning meetings, providing guidance documents for plan creation/update, etc.
- HIRA data development. The Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch and the ODNR, Floodplain Management Program both have competencies in running FEMA's HAZUS-MH program. Staff can provide assistance and training in HAZUS-MH and conduct HAZUS analyses that are available for communities to incorporate into LHMPs. In addition, state staff can provide other data that communities may not have (other flood studies, underground mine maps, etc.). State staff, with the assistance of Federal agency partners, often develop data after disasters.
- Information on mitigation actions including manuals, reference documents and other resources on different mitigation actions for all hazards.
- Mitigation action budget information. Since state staff is often involved in implementing mitigation projects statewide, they have a good understanding of the current costs of mitigation actions.
- Reviewing draft LHMPs for compliance with FEMA criteria.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

44 CFR201.4(c)(3)(iv) requires the state to include identification of current and potential sources of federal, state, local or private funding to implement LHMP mitigation actions and to undertake mitigation planning.

It is important not only to provide financial assistance whenever possible, but also to identify sources of funding that can fund hazard mitigation planning and action item implementation (projects). LHMPs, if properly created, should not only identify mitigation actions that can be funded by FEMA, but other agencies as well. Table 4.2.a identifies several potential funding sources for hazard mitigation projects. For a more complete list, see the (Insert name and hyperlink to FEMA V funding summary very recently completed by Steve Greene).

The primary source for state and local hazard mitigation projects have been the federally funded cost-share programs. The state has historically matched a portion of FEMA hazard mitigation grant programs (primarily HMGP) through the state’s disaster relief fund and has contributed over \$26.2 million for hazard mitigation activities since 1990. As a general policy, the state requires local jurisdictions to contribute a portion of the non-federal matching funds. A summary of federal, state, and local contributions to all HMA programs can be found in Appendix F.

The limited funding from local community budgets requires the use of alternate funding sources for the cost-share match. Different state agencies distribute funds that can be used for mitigation activities. A summary of state funded mitigation planning and project programs can be found in Section 3.3 of this plan. Table 4.2.a examines some of the federal, state, local, and private sources available to provide financial assistance to local communities to implement hazard mitigation plans and projects.

**Table 4.2.a  
Potential Hazard Mitigation Funding Sources**

Program	Administered By	Federal / State / Local	Purpose / Contact	Used Before?
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	Federal - FEMA	Provides funds after Federally declared disaster to implement certain hazard mitigation projects and plans. Can be used for any hazard, subject to state Administrative Plan and Mitigation Strategy. Commonly used to acquire/demolish, elevate, retrofit, buildings; construction of tornado/high wind safe rooms, stormwater management system improvements, etc. <a href="https://sharpp.dps.ohio.gov/ohiosharpp/">https://sharpp.dps.ohio.gov/ohiosharpp/</a>	Yes, extensively. Largest mitigation program used in Ohio – over \$100 million Fed/state/local funds since 1990.
State Match to HMGP	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	State – Disaster Relief Fund	Dollars from the State Disaster Relief Fund are used to match federal HMGP project funds and state management cost awards for Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants in Ohio. The State Controlling Board must approve the use of Disaster Relief Funds.	The State of Ohio can contribute up to a 12.5% match to planning projects applied for under HMGP following a Federally declared disaster. Since DR-4077, the state have committed to \$92,232 dollars towards local hazard mitigation plans
Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM)	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	Federal – FEMA	Provides funds annually based on Congressional appropriations to implement certain hazard mitigation projects (includes mitigation planning grants). Can be used for any hazard. Nationally competitive. Commonly used for activities similar to HMGP. <a href="https://sharpp.dps.ohio.gov/ohiosharpp/">https://sharpp.dps.ohio.gov/ohiosharpp/</a>	Yes, increasingly used. Since PDM-11,
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)	Ohio EMA Mitigation Branch	Federal – FEMA	Provides funds annually based on Congressional appropriations to implement certain flood hazard mitigation projects (includes flood mitigation planning grants). Each state receives an allocation of funds. Commonly used for flood mitigation activities similar to HMGP. These funds now include the RFC and SRL programs. <a href="https://sharpp.dps.ohio.gov/ohiosharpp/">https://sharpp.dps.ohio.gov/ohiosharpp/</a>	Yes – FMA funds available since 1988. Ohio receives allocation of between \$200,000 and \$300,000 per year. Usually funds 1-2 projects from communities.

**Table 4.2.a (Continued)**

Program	Administered By	Federal / State / Local	Purpose / Contact	Used Before?
HUD Disaster Supplemental Funds	Ohio Department of Development	State or Federal depending on Congress	Can be used for mitigation projects and planning.	Yes, used for five previous disasters. When funds are available, can be used to supplement FEMA funds to increase the number and size of mitigation projects.
Planning Assistance to States (PAS)	USACE	Federal	Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1974, as amended, provides authority for the Corps of Engineers to assist the states, local governments, and other non-Federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land. The Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program is funded annually by Congress. Federal allotments for each State or Tribe from the nation-wide appropriation are limited to \$500,000 annually, but typically are much less. These studies are cost shared on a 50 percent Federal-50 percent non-Federal basis.	The PAS was used to conduct a Level 1 HAZUS-MH analysis for the HIRA section of the 2008 SHMP update. The study covered the 25-year and 100-year flood analysis for 49 of the 88 counties in Ohio.
Flood Control (Structural & Non-Structural)	USACE	Federal	USACE, without specific authorization, may study, adopt, and construct small flood control projects, stream clearing and snagging projects, and participate in planning and preparedness. The cost share for Flood Control projects are 65 percent Federal-35 percent non-Federal	
Silver Jackets Partnership Program	USACE	Federal	Authorized by Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960, the Flood Plain Management Services provides funding for interagency work between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), federal, state, and local agencies to better manage and reduce flood risks. These are dubbed "Silver Jackets" teams and are uniquely implemented by state.	The Silver Jackets team in Ohio cooperated to conduct Level 2 HAZUS-MH 100-year and 25-year flood runs for 25 counties in the state to enhance local vulnerability assessments.
"Partners in Watershed Management" Project Assistance Program	Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District	Local	In an effort to support the work of agencies and groups involved in conservation programs, water quality issues, and flood reduction and mitigation projects, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District (MWCD), has developed the "Partners in Watershed Management" Project Assistance Program (PWM). This competitive grant program provides assistance to local communities, agencies and groups involved in projects and programs that support the conservation and flood control aspects of the MWCD.  Political subdivisions of the state, IRS Section 501 groups, and other organizations in the Muskingum River watershed are eligible for potential assistance through this program. Applications are accepted on a year-round basis for assistance with non-federal match to FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs.	This program was created in 2009 and has been used as non-federal match for two HMA projects in the Muskingum Watershed.

**HMA GRANTS**

FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs provide the two largest funding sources for local hazard mitigation plans (LHMP) in Ohio. Per FEMA, the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) is authorized under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. States, Federal-recognized tribes and territories may apply on behalf of state agencies, federally-recognized tribes and tribal agencies, private non-profits, and local governments/communities for assistance in implementing long-term hazard mitigation planning and projects following a Presidential major disaster declaration. In Ohio, the state may contribute up to 12.5% of a planning projects’ cost if applied under for HMGP.

The other primary funding source for LHMP's in Ohio is the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program (PDM) that provides funds for hazard mitigation planning and projects on an annual basis. Authorized by Section 203 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, the PDM grant is opened yearly and is nationally competitive. States, Federal-recognized tribes and territories may prioritize and apply on behalf of state agencies, federally-recognized tribes and tribal agencies, private non-profits, and local governments/communities to obtain mitigation planning funding that meets the requirements outlined in 44 CFR Part 201. Table 4.2.b details the HMA funding history specifically for local hazard mitigation plans. More information and guidelines regarding FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/103279>.

**Table 4.2.b**

LHMP HMA Grants						
Grant No.	Award Date *	No. of Plans	Federal Share	State Share	Local Share	Total
PDM-02	2002	38	\$ 416,713.00	\$ 300,955.00	\$ 238,909.00	\$ 956,577.00
PDM-03	Aug-03	18	\$ 218,571.00	\$ 226,815.00	\$ 148,462.00	\$ 593,848.00
LPDM-08	Aug-08	2	\$ 92,422.77	\$ -	\$ 30,808.36	\$ 123,231.13
LPDM-09	Sep-12	2	\$ 134,500.00	\$ -	\$ 44,850.00	\$ 179,350.00
PDM-11	Jun-11	1	\$ 18,985.23	\$ -	\$ 6,328.41	\$ 25,313.64
PDM-13	Jul-13	1	\$ 34,999.30	\$ -	\$ 11,666.44	\$ 46,665.74
PDM-14	May-15	5	\$ 110,437.19	\$ -	\$ 36,812.81	\$ 147,250.00
PDM-15	Jan-16	6	\$ 116,397.75	\$ -	\$ 38,800.57	\$ 155,198.32
PDM-16	Dec-16	14	\$ 383,495.99	\$ -	\$ 127,619.85	\$ 511,115.84
PDM-17	Jul-18	18	\$ 395,129.79	\$ -	\$ 131,710.00	\$ 526,839.79
DR-1519	Jul-07	3	\$ 38,538.00	\$ 22,432.00	\$ 21,469.25	\$ 82,439.25
DR-1651	Dec-06	1	\$ 18,750.00	\$ -	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 25,000.00
DR-1805	Dec-09	26	\$ 353,530.00	\$ -	\$ 119,316.00	\$ 472,846.00
DR-4002	Jan-12	12	\$ 217,260.00	\$ -	\$ 73,515.00	\$ 290,775.00
DR-4077	Jun-13	6	\$ 102,084.00	\$ 16,537.00	\$ 17,777.00	\$ 136,398.00
DR-4098	Jan-14	3	\$ 41,700.00	\$ 7,065.00	\$ 7,065.00	\$ 55,830.00
DR-4360	Applied	19	\$ 411,777.00	\$ 68,630.00	\$ 68,630.00	\$ 549,037.00
<b>Total **</b>		<b>175</b>	<b>\$ 3,105,291.02</b>	<b>\$ 642,434.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,129,989.69</b>	<b>\$ 4,877,714.71</b>

\*Award dates are of the earliest planning project award date within that specific grant.

\*\*Total amounts do not account for State hazard mitigation plans, management costs, costs over/under-runs, and withdrawn projects.

**NEW STATE-WIDE HMA PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION**

Since 2017, the Ohio Emergency Management Agency began applying for PDM and HMGP grants on behalf of local counties and communities looking to update their hazard mitigation plans. All applications were compiled and rolled into a single state-wide application and submitted to FEMA. This is done in an effort to stream-line the application process for local governments and lessen the work necessary for them to obtain funding for a hazard mitigation plan that meets federal and state requirements. Counties are not selected based on geographic location, but chose to apply based on the expiration date of their current plan which have already expired, or will be expiring within two and a half years.

Subsequently, this state-wide application method has allowed the state to reach out and encourage local communities to undergo meaningful hazard mitigation planning processes. PDMC FY-17 was a relative success in that all 18 counties that applied were awarded the full grant amounts. The total grant amount for the state-wide application came out to \$526,810 dollars (not including management costs or over/under-runs). The State of Ohio is looking to replicate this success in its HMGP application following DR-4360 that will provide 19 counties the funding to complete their hazard mitigation planning projects for a total of \$549,037.

**PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY STATES (PAS) PILOT OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT**

Following the Presidential Disaster Declaration FEMA-4360-DR, a Program Administered by States (PAS) pilot agreement between the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Ohio Emergency Management Agency (OEMA) was signed. This delegated to the Ohio Emergency Management Agency the ability to review and approve all local hazard mitigation plans. To ensure that the program is being administered correctly, Ohio EMA and FEMA have agreed to the following:

- Ohio EMA will submit quarterly programmatic and financial reports within 30 days following the end of the quarter.
- Ohio EMA submits mitigation plan monthly reports that describe plan review activity for the month.
- FEMA will do full reviews of one in every five plans submitted. One-fifth of the plans reviewed will be found approvable pending adoption.

As federal reviews are no longer required in four-fifths of the plans submitted, this agreement has allowed the state and local governments to cut down the required time to have a federally-approved hazard mitigation plan. This time saved helps ensure that opportunities to take critical mitigation measures to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters is not lost during the reconstruction process following a disaster. The state will continue to conduct reviews to ensure that all local hazard mitigation plans have met the federal requirements established in 44 CFR 201.6.