

FY13 HMA Guidance Webinar



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Introductions



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Webinar Outline

- **Overview of HMA Guidance**
- **Adjudication**
- **Changes in the structure of document**
- **Driving forces for significant changes**
- **Significant guidance changes**
- **Other significant guidance changes**
- **Next steps**
- **Question and Answer**



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Background



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HMA Guidance Overview

FY13 HMA Guidance provides requirements for:

- **General program requirements**
- **Specific program requirements:**
 - **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**
 - **Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program**
 - **Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program**



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HMA Guidance Overview

FY13 HMA Guidance provides guidance on the following mitigation activity types:

- **Acquisition-related activities for open space**
- **Wildfire**
- **Safe rooms**
- **Mitigation reconstruction**
- **Structure elevation**



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Overview

FY13 HMA Guidance:

- **Provides streamlining and efficiencies for program delivery**
- **HMGP funds available for disasters declared on or after the date of publication**
- **Upcoming PDM and FMA application cycles**



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Adjudication



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Adjudication

Summary

- **Received over 700 comments**
- **Three rounds of draft documents**
- **Coordinated with many subject matter experts**
- **Grouped comments in terms of significance**
- **Made recommendations to Management**



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Changes in the HMA Guidance Structure



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Changes in the Structure

- **Project-specific guidance moved to an Addendum**
- **New Part II created – frontloading HMA program requirements early in the project scoping and development process**
- **Call-out boxes added to the main document to highlight significant changes**
- **Consolidating flood mitigation programs directed by the BW12 Act**



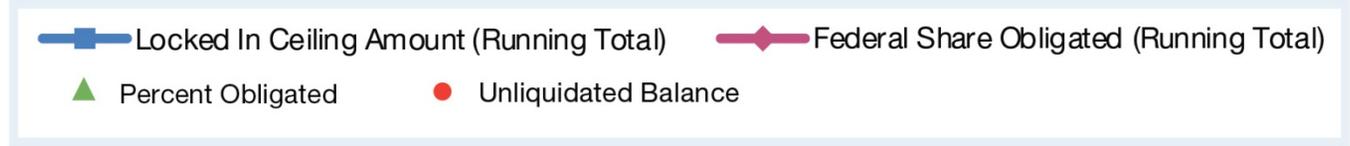
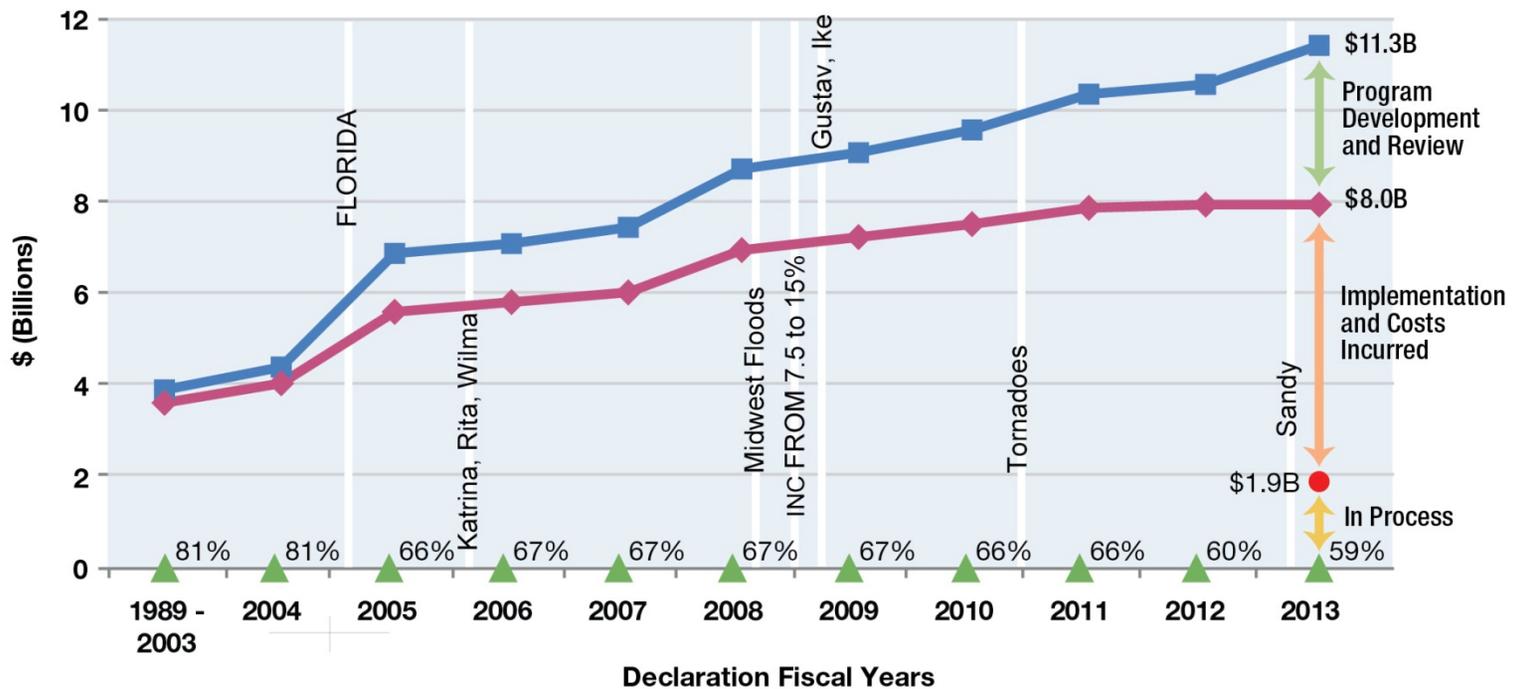
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Driving Forces for Significant Changes



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HMGP Vital Signs 1989 – 2012



*All values represent disaster activity from 1989 forward



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Significant Guidance Changes

	Challenges	Fixes
Program Development and Review	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dead Time – Application Period 2. Incomplete Applications 3. Exhaustive Reviews 4. Minimal Projects Result from Plans 5. Communities without Plans 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Earlier Project Identification by States/Locals via Plans 2. Streamlined Reviews 3. Complete Applications 4. Establish Timeframes for Project Management Processes in HMA Guidance
Implementation and Costs Incurred	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completing Projects in a Timely Manner 2. Earlier Identification of Scope Changes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compartmentalizing Program Administration Steps 2. Post Award Monitoring 3. Improve Closeout Guidance
In Process	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Completing Projects in a Timely Manner 2. Earlier Identification of Scope Changes 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Potential for Phased Obligation 2. Establish Timeframes for Project Management Processes & Decisions 3. Compartmentalizing Program Administration Steps

NOTE: Avg Pct of Funds Obligated @ 24 MO ≈ 30%
 36 MO ≈ 50%



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Significant HMA Guidance Changes



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Minimum Criteria for Complete Applications



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Minimum Criteria for Complete Applications

- **Incomplete Applications and placeholder applications do not contain sufficient information for FEMA to complete an Application review**
- **Eligibility and completeness (E&C) checklist contains the minimum information required for FEMA to initiate an application review**
- **As a result,**
 - **Streamlined the review process**
 - **Facilitate HMA program delivery**



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Request For Information



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Request For Information

Time frames for review actions and decisions:

- **General time frame of 60 days for an application review**
- **The HMA Guidance includes:**
 - **Information on the Request For Information (RFI) process (stepwise)**
 - **RFI timeline and suggested actions if the requested information is not received**



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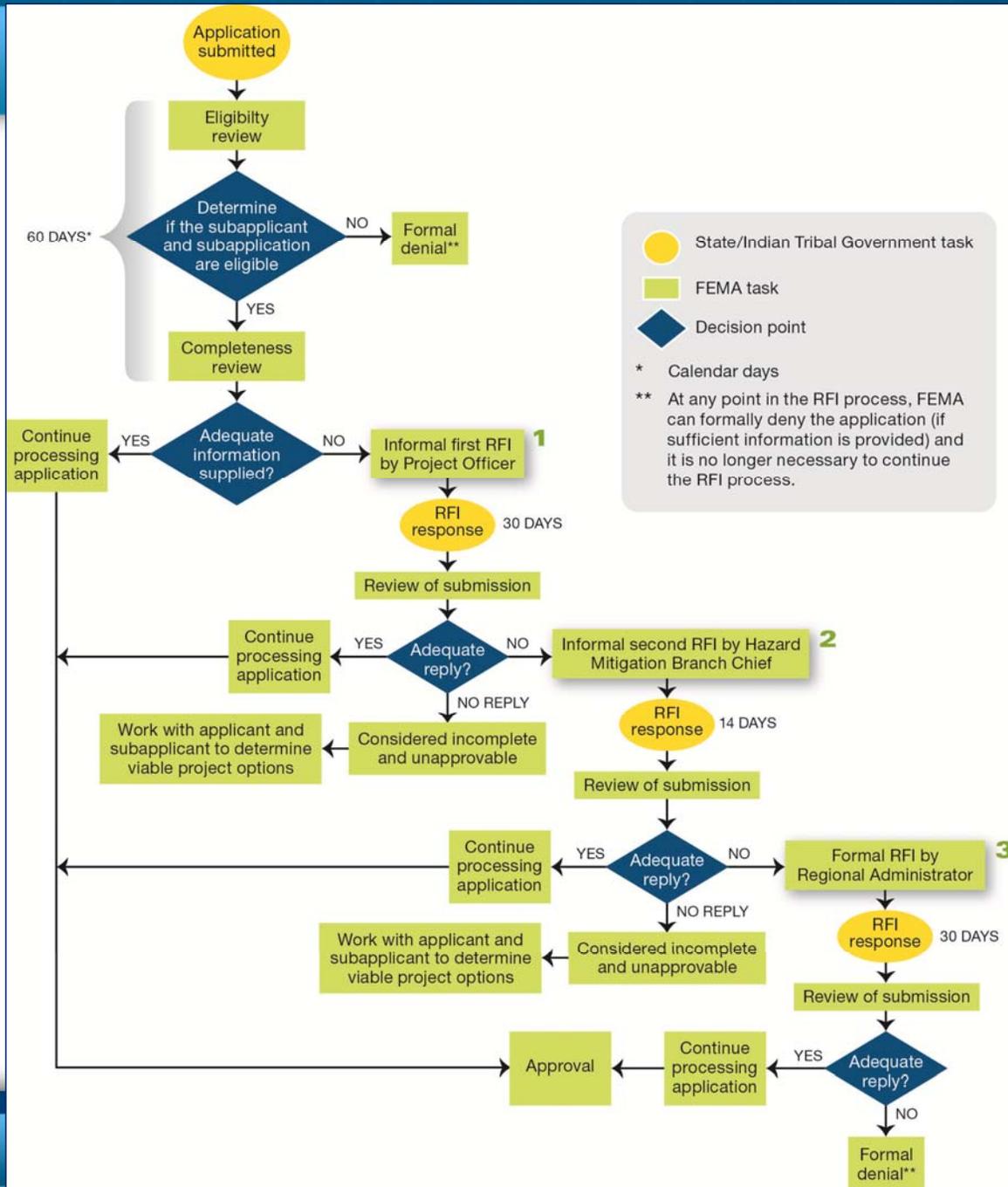
Request For Information

Request Format	Timeline
Informal – First Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Project Officer requests additional information▪ 30 calendar days▪ If information is not received then FEMA will consider the application to be incomplete and not approvable
Informal – Second Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mitigation Branch Chief requests additional information▪ 14 calendar days▪ If information is not received then FEMA will consider the application to be incomplete and not approvable
Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Regional Administrator requests additional information and will document previous requests• 30 calendar days
Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the Regional Administrator does not receive the requested information within 30 calendar days, he or she will determine the requested project application be ineligible for funding under HMGP• The second formal letter is a denial



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RFI Process



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Industry Design and Construction Standards



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Industry Design and Construction Standards

- **FEMA now accepts the engineering design for a project if a registered Professional Engineer certifies that the design meets the appropriate code or industry design and construction standards.**
- **FEMA will accept the certified engineering design in lieu of the FEMA comprehensive technical feasibility review.**



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Industry Design and Construction Standards

- **Examples of industry design and construction standards:**
 - **FEMA P-361 for community safe rooms**
 - **FEMA P-804 for wind retrofits**



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Advance Assistance



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Advance Assistance

- **Purpose: Provide Applicants with resources to develop mitigation strategies and obtain data in order to prioritize, select, and develop complete HMGP applications in a timely manner**
 - **For HMGP, up to 25% of the estimated ceiling with a limit of \$10 million will be available**
- **Advance Assistance is being implemented as a pilot**



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Advance Assistance

Examples of how Advance Assistance can be used:

- **Incorporate the National Environmental Policy Act into decision-making**
- **Obtain technical resources to gather data, perform a Benefit-Cost Analysis, and initiate Environmental and Historic Preservation and program data collection**
- **Develop complete applications with values that equal or exceed available HMGP disaster ceiling**



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Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012



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BW12

- **BW 12 Act eliminates the RFC and SRL programs**
- **BW 12 Act significantly enhances the FMA program:**
 - **Additional funding for mitigation of SRL and repetitive loss properties**
 - **Mitigation reconstruction now an eligible activity under FMA**



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- **Changes in Federal cost shares under the FMA program:**
 - **Up to 100% for SRL properties**
 - **Up to 90% for repetitive loss properties**
 - **Up to 75% for properties insured under the National Flood Insurance Program**
- **Development or update of flood mitigation plans will not exceed \$50,000 Federal share to any Applicant or \$25,000 Federal share to any subapplicant**



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Other Significant Guidance Changes



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Other Guidance Changes

Changes in addition to legislatively based changes are:

- POP for the Program
- HMGP Lock-In process
- Strategic Funds Management
- Extraordinary Circumstances exception
- Mitigation planning-related activities
- BCA
- New Part II—HMA Frontloading



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Other Guidance Changes

POP for the Program

- Now begins with the opening of the application period and ends no later than 36 months from the close of the application period
- Length of the POP (particularly for HMGP) has received significant attention
- Requests to extend the POP beyond 12 months from the original grant POP termination date must be approved by HQ



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Other Guidance Changes

HMGP Lock-in

- **The 12-month lock-in is the maximum amount available.**
- **Final lock-in amount may be greater than or less than the previous calculations**
- **FEMA will not obligate more than 75% of any estimate prior to the calculation of the final lock-in without concurrence from the RA/FCO with Disaster Recovery Management Authority and the OCFO.**



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Additional Significant Guidance Changes

Strategic Funds Management (SFM)

- Program fiscal management concept designed to provide funds as they are needed to implement eligible HMGP activities
- To be used to manage the DRF more effectively by anticipating obligations in conjunction with accurate monthly spend plan projections
- Schedule, scope and budget



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Additional Significant Guidance Changes

Extraordinary Circumstance exception for mitigation plan requirement

- May be granted by FEMA HQ for PDM and FMA project subgrants when justification is provided
- For approved exceptions, a local or Indian Tribal mitigation plan must be approved by FEMA within 12 months of the award of the subgrant to that community



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Other Guidance Changes

Mitigation planning-related activities

- **planning-related activities in addition to developing a new or updating an existing plan**



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Other Guidance Changes

Examples of eligible HMGP planning-related activities:

- Updates or enhancements to current FEMA-approved mitigation plan, such as:
- Risk and vulnerability assessment
- Mitigation strategy
- Integrating mitigation into a comprehensive land use plan
- Climate change and Smart Growth principles



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Other Guidance Changes

Benefit cost

- **Aggregation of multiple hazards and across multiple jurisdictions if part of the same project**
- **Substantial Damage waiver extended to all HMA programs**
- **Greatest Savings to the Fund extended to all HMA programs**
- **Pre-calculated benefits for residential safe room application now available**



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Environmental Benefits

FEMA Mitigation Policy FP-18-024-01

- Issued June 18, 2013
- Officially made environmental benefits eligible benefits for acquisition project types – with restrictions
- In August 2012, Environmental Benefits Analysis Report for Green Open Space and Riparian land uses



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Environmental Benefits

- At this time, environmental benefits apply only for acquisition-related projects
- To meet FEMA's authority for reducing future damage, projects must first quantify a BCR of at least 0.75 before environmental benefits are added
- Active in Version 5.0 to be released in 2014
- Interim "Environmental Benefits Calculator"



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Part II: HMA Frontloading



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Part II: HMA Frontloading

Incorporating HMA Program requirements early in decision-making will:

- **Help implement new elements such as streamlining, Strategic Funds Management, and Advance Assistance**
- **Expedite development of eligible and complete projects**
- **Accelerate the process for funding decisions**



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Part II: HMA Frontloading

Steps in Project Scoping

Considerations

- Technical feasibility
- Cost
- Cost-effectiveness
- Environmental effects
- Community support

- Project design reduces vulnerability
- Project cost is acceptable
- Project is or appears highly likely to be cost-effective
- Project incorporates consideration of environmental and cultural resources effects
- Project includes any necessary measures to avoid or minimize adverse impacts to floodplains, wetlands, or other environmental resources

Community identifies a need for action
(Reference Mitigation Plan)

Step 1

Develop alternative solutions to problem

Steps 2 - 5

Scope alternatives

Step 6

Identify mitigation activity that best meets HMA program requirements

Step 7

Develop project

Document each step for inclusion in HMA subapplication



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Next Steps



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Opening of FY13 Non-Disaster Application Period

FY13 PDM and FMA application period:

- **Opens July 19**
- **Closes October 18 at 3pm ET**
- **Please see the Funding Opportunities Announcement when posted onto grants.gov**
- **HMA webpage for additional information**
- **www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-assistance**



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Other Next Steps

- **Webinars for Applicants**
- **FEMA review**
- **Funding decision**



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Questions?



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