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## TITLE 44--EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND ASSISTANCE

### CHAPTER I--FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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(b) Selection. The State will establish procedures and priorities for the selection of mitigation measures. At a minimum the criteria must be consistent with the criteria stated in Sec. 206.434(b) and include:

(1) Measures that best fit within an overall plan for development and/or hazard mitigation in the community, disaster area, or State;

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(2) Measures that, if not taken, will have a severe detrimental impact on the applicant, such as potential loss of life, loss of essential services, damage to critical facilities, or economic hardship on the community;

(3) Measures that have the greatest potential impact on reducing future disaster losses;

(c) Other considerations. In addition to the selection criteria noted above, consideration should be given to measures that are designed to accomplish multiple objectives including damage reduction, environmental enhancement, and economic recovery, when appropriate.

#### Sec. 206.436 Application procedures.

(a) General. This section describes the procedures to be used by the State in submitting an application for funding for hazard mitigation grants. Under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program the State is the grantee and is responsible for processing subgrants to applicants in accordance with 44 CFR parts 13 and 206.

(b) Governor's Authorized Representative. The Governor's Authorized Representative serves as the grant administrator for all funds provided under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The Governor's Authorized Representative's responsibilities as they pertain to procedures outlined in this section include providing technical advice and assistance to eligible subgrantees, and ensuring that all potential applicants are aware of assistance available and submission of those documents necessary for grant award.

(c) Letter of intent to participate. Within 60 days of the disaster declaration, the State (Governor's Authorized Representative) will notify FEMA in writing of its intent to participate or not participate in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. States are also encouraged to submit a hazard mitigation application within this timeframe so that immediate post-disaster opportunities for hazard mitigation are not

lost.

(d) Hazard mitigation application. Upon identification of mitigation measures, the State (Governor's Authorized Representative) will submit its section 404 Hazard Mitigation Application to the FEMA Regional Director. The Application will identify one or more mitigation measures for which funding is requested. The Application must include a Standard Form (SF) 424, Application for Federal Assistance, SF 424D, Assurances for Construction Programs if appropriate, and a narrative statement. The narrative statement will contain any pertinent project management information not included in the State's administrative plan for Hazard Mitigation. The narrative statement will also serve to identify the specific mitigation measures for which funding is requested. Information required for each mitigation measure shall include the following:

- (1) Name of the subgrantee, if any;
- (2) State or local contact for the measure;
- (3) Location of the project;
- (4) Description of the measure;
- (5) Cost estimate for the measure;
- (6) Analysis of the measure's cost-effectiveness and substantial risk reduction, consistent with Sec. 206.434(b);
- (7) Work schedule;
- (8) Justification for selection;
- (9) Alternatives considered;
- (10) Environmental information consistent with 44 CFR part 9, Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, and 44 CFR part 10, Environmental Considerations;

(e) Supplements. The application may be amended as the State and subgrantees develop the section 409 hazard mitigation plan and continue to identify measures to be funded. Amendments to add or modify measures are made by submitting supplements to the application. All supplements to the application for the purpose of identifying new mitigation measures must be submitted to FEMA within 90 days of FEMA approval of the section 409 plan. The Regional Director may grant up to a 90 day extension to this deadline upon receipt of written justification from the State that the extension is warranted. The supplements shall contain all necessary information on the measure as described in paragraph (d) of this section.

(f) FEMA approval. The application and supplement(s) will be submitted to

the FEMA Regional Director for approval. FEMA has final approval authority for funding of all projects.

(g) Exceptions. The following are exceptions to the above outlined procedures and time limitations.

(1) Grant applications. An Indian tribe or authorized tribal organization may submit a SF 424 directly to the Regional Director when assistance is authorized under the Act and a State is unable to assume the responsibilities prescribed in these regulations.

(2) Time limitations. The time limitation shown in paragraph (c) of this section may be extended by the Regional Director when justified and requested in writing by the Governor's Authorized Representative.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB Control Number 3067-0207)

Sec. 206.437 State administrative plan.

(a) General. The State shall develop a plan for the administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

(b) Minimum criteria. At a minimum, the State administrative plan must include the items listed below:

(1) Designation of the State agency will have responsibility for program administration;

(2) Identification of the State Hazard Mitigation Officer responsible for all matters related to the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

(3) Determination of staffing requirements and sources of staff necessary for administration of the program;

(4) Establishment of procedures to:

(i) Identify and notify potential applicants (subgrantees) of the availability of the program;

(ii) Ensure that potential applicants are provided information on the application process, program eligibility and key deadlines;

(iii) Determine applicant eligibility;

(iv) Conduct environmental and floodplain management reviews;

(v) Establish priorities for selection of mitigation projects;

(vi) Process requests for advances of funds and reimbursement;

(vii) Monitor and evaluate the progress and completion of the



selected projects;

(viii) Review and approve cost overruns;

(ix) Process appeals;

(x) Provide technical assistance as required to subgrantee(s);

(xi) Comply with the administrative requirements of 44 CFR parts 13 and 206;

(xii) Comply with audit requirements of 44 CFR part 14;

(xiii) Provide quarterly progress reports to the Regional Director on approved projects.

(c) Format. The administrative plan is intended to be a brief but substantive plan documenting the State's process for the administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and management of the section 404 funds. This administrative plan should become a part of the State's overall emergency response or operations plan as a separate annex or chapter.

(d) Approval. The State must submit the administrative plan to the Regional Director for approval. Following each major disaster declaration, the State shall prepare any updates, amendments, or plan revisions required to meet current policy guidance or changes in the administration of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Funds shall not be awarded until the State administrative plan is approved by the FEMA Regional Director.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under OMB control number 3067-0208)

[55 FR 35537, Aug. 30, 1990, as amended at 55 FR 52172, Dec. 20, 1990]

Sec. 206.438 Project management.

(a) General. The State serving as grantee has primary responsibility for project management and accountability of funds as indicated in 44 CFR part 13. The State is responsible for ensuring that subgrantees meet all program and administrative requirements.

(b) Cost overruns. During the execution of work on an approved mitigation measure the Governor's Authorized Representative may find that actual project costs are exceeding the approved estimates. Cost overruns which can be met without additional Federal funds, or which can be met by offsetting cost underruns on other projects, need not be submitted to the Regional

Director for approval, so long as the full scope of work on all affected projects can still be met. For cost overruns which exceed Federal obligated funds and which require additional Federal funds, the Governor's Authorized Representative shall evaluate each cost overrun and shall submit a request with a recommendation to the Regional Director for a determination. The applicant's justification for additional costs and other pertinent material shall accompany the request. The Regional Director shall notify the Governor's Authorized Representative in writing of the determination and process a supplement, if necessary. All requests that are not justified shall be denied by the Governor's Authorized Representative. In no case will the total amount obligated to the State exceed the funding limits set forth in Sec. 206.432(b). Any such problems or circumstances affecting project costs shall be identified through the quarterly progress reports required in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) Progress reports. The grantee shall submit a quarterly progress report to FEMA indicating the status and completion date for each measure funded. Any problems or circumstances affecting completion dates, scope of work, or project costs which are expected to result in noncompliance with the approved grant conditions shall be described in the report.

(d) Payment of claims. The Governor's Authorized Representative shall make a claim to the Regional Director for reimbursement of allowable costs for each approved measure. In submitting such claims the Governor's Authorized Representative shall certify that reported costs were incurred in the performance of eligible work, that the approved work was completed and that the mitigation measure is in compliance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement. The Regional Director shall determine the eligible amount of reimbursement for each claim and approve payment. If a mitigation measure is not completed, and there is not adequate justification for noncompletion, no Federal funding will be provided for that measure.

(e) Audit requirements. Uniform audit requirements as set forth in 44 CFR part 14 apply to all grant assistance provided under this subpart. FEMA may elect to conduct a Federal audit on the disaster assistance grant or on any of the subgrants.

Sec. 206.439 Allowable costs.

(a) General. General policies for determining allowable costs are established in 44 CFR 13.22. Exceptions to those policies as allowed in 44 CFR 13.4 and 13.6 are explained below.

(b) Eligible direct costs. The eligible direct costs for administration and management of the program are divided into the following two categories.

(1) Statutory administrative costs--(i) Grantee. Pursuant to 406(f)(2) of the Stafford Act, an allowance will be provided to the State to cover the extraordinary costs incurred by the State for preparation of applications, quarterly reports, final audits, and related field inspections by State employees, including overtime pay and per diem and travel expenses, but not including regular time for such employees. The allowance will be based on the following percentages of the total amount of assistance provided (Federal share) for all subgrantees in the State under section 404 of the Stafford Act:

(A) For the first \$100,000 of total assistance provided (Federal share), three percent of such assistance.

(B) For the next \$900,000, two percent of such assistance.

(C) For the next \$4,000,000, one percent of such assistance.

(D) For assistance over \$5,000,000, one-half percent of such assistance.

(ii) Subgrantee. Pursuant to section 406(f)(1) of the Stafford Act, necessary costs of requesting, obtaining, and administering Federal disaster assistance subgrants will be covered by an allowance which is based on the following percentages of total net eligible costs under section 404 of the Stafford Act, for an individual applicant (applicants in this context include State agencies):

(A) For the first \$100,000 of net eligible costs, three percent of such costs.

(B) For the next \$900,000, two percent of such costs.

(C) For the next \$4,000,000, one percent of such costs.

(D) For those costs over \$5,000,000, one-half percent of such costs.

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(2) State management costs--(i) Grantee. Except for the items listed in paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section, other administration costs shall be paid in accordance with 44 CFR 13.22. Costs of State personnel

(regular time salaries only) assigned to administer the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program may be eligible when approved by the Regional Director. Such costs shall be shared in accordance with the cost share provisions of section 404 of the Act. For grantee administrative costs in the Disaster Field Office, the State shall submit a plan for the staffing of the Disaster Field Office within 5 days of the opening of the office. This staffing plan shall be in accordance with the administrative plan requirements of Sec. 206.437. After the close of the Disaster Field Office, costs of State personnel (regular time salaries only) for continuing management of the hazard mitigation grants may be eligible when approved in advance by the Regional Director. The State shall submit a plan for such staffing in advance of the requirement.

(c) Eligible indirect costs--(1) Grantee. Indirect costs of administering the disaster program are eligible in accordance with the provisions of 44 CFR part 13 and OMB Circular A-87.

(2) Subgrantee. No indirect costs of a subgrantee are separately eligible because the percentage allowance in paragraph (b)(1)(ii) of this section necessary costs of requesting, obtaining and administering Federal assistance.

#### Sec. 206.440 Appeals.

An eligible applicant, subgrantee, or grantee may appeal any determination previously made related to an application for or the provision of Federal assistance according to the procedures below.

(a) Format and Content. The applicant or subgrantee will make the appeal in writing through the grantee to the Regional Director. The grantee shall review and evaluate all subgrantee appeals before submission to the Regional Director. The grantee may make grantee-related appeals to the Regional Director. The appeal shall contain documented justification supporting the appellant's position, specifying the monetary figure in dispute and the provisions in Federal law, regulation, or policy with which the appellant believes the initial action was inconsistent..

(b) Levels of Appeal. (1) The Regional Director will consider first appeals for hazard mitigation grant program-related decisions under subparts M and N of this part.

(2) The Associate Director/Executive Associate Director for Mitigation will consider appeals of the Regional Director's decision on any first appeal under paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(c) Time Limits. (1) Appellants must make appeals within 60 days after receipt of a notice of the action that is being appealed.

(2) The grantee will review and forward appeals from an applicant or subgrantee, with a written recommendation, to the Regional Director within 60 days of receipt.

(3) Within 90 days following receipt of an appeal, the Regional Director (for first appeals) or Associate Director/Executive Associate Director (for second appeals) will notify the grantee in writing of the disposition of the appeal or of the need for additional information. A request by the Regional Director or Associate Director/Executive Associate Director for additional information will include a date by which the information must be provided. Within 90 days following the receipt of the requested additional information or following expiration of the period for providing the information, the Regional Director or Associate Director/Executive Associate Director will notify the grantee in writing of the disposition of the appeal. If the decision is to grant the appeal, the Regional Director will take appropriate implementing action.

(d) Technical Advice. In appeals involving highly technical issues, the Regional Director or Associate Director/Executive Associate Director may, at his or her discretion, submit the appeal to an independent scientific or technical person or group having expertise in the subject matter of the appeal for advice or recommendation. The period for this technical review may be in addition to other allotted time periods. Within 90 days of receipt of the report, the Regional Director or Associate Director/Executive Associate Director

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will notify the grantee in writing of the disposition of the appeal.

(e) Transition. (1) This rule is effective for all appeals pending on and appeals from decisions issued on or after May 8, 1998, except as provided in paragraph (e)(2) of this section.

(2) Appeals pending from a decision of an Associate Director/Executive Associate Director before May 8, 1998 may be appealed to the Director in accordance with 44 CFR 206.440 as it existed before May 8, 1998.

(3) The decision of the FEMA official at the next higher appeal level shall be the final administrative decision of FEMA.

[63 FR 17111, Apr. 8, 1998]