



FEMA

May 7, 2024

Sima Merick
Executive Director
Ohio Emergency Management Agency
2855 West Dublin-Granville Road
Columbus, Ohio 43235-2206

Dear Executive Director Merick,

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region 5 Mitigation Division has approved the 2024 Ohio Enhanced State Mitigation Plan effective May 13, 2024, through May 12, 2029. This plan is approved in accordance with applicable mitigation planning regulations and policy requirements.

An approved mitigation plan is a condition of receiving certain FEMA non-emergency assistance and mitigation grants from the following programs:

- Public Assistance Categories C-G (PA C-G)
- Fire Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMAG)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Post Fire (HMGP – Post Fire)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam (HHPD) Grant Program

Approval of a mitigation plan does not guarantee funding under any FEMA program. Please refer to the individual FEMA non-emergency assistance and mitigation grant program policy and/or annual Notice of Funding Opportunity for specific application and eligibility requirements for the FEMA programs listed above.

State mitigation plans must be updated and resubmitted to the FEMA Region 5 Mitigation Division, Risk Analysis Branch for approval. If the plan is not updated by the date indicated on this FEMA approval letter, the plan is considered lapsed, and FEMA will not obligate funds until the mitigation plan is approved.

If at any time over the plan approval period, FEMA determines that the state is not complying with all applicable federal statutes and regulations in effect during the periods for which it receives funding or is unable to fulfill mitigation commitments, FEMA may take action to correct the noncompliance (44 CFR §§ 201.3[b][5] and 201.4[c][7]).

FEMA recognizes the state for the additional effort and commitment to mitigation. Under Section 322 (42 U.S.C. 5165(e)), additional HMGP funds of up to 20% of the total estimated eligible disaster assistance may be provided to states with enhanced hazard mitigation plans. The “Enhanced” designation is recognition for states that are leaders in implementing a comprehensive statewide hazard mitigation program that results in safer, more sustainable communities.

The state is responsible for communicating with local and tribal officials, as applicable, who are interested in applying for FEMA assistance through the state. FEMA encourages states to communicate with the appropriate officials regarding mitigation plan status and eligibility requirements. At a minimum of every 6 months, FEMA will provide to the state written information on mitigation plans, including, but not limited to:

- Local and tribal, as applicable, mitigation plan expiration dates.
- Consequences of not having an approved local or tribal, as applicable, mitigation plan with respect to eligibility for FEMA mitigation grant programs.
- Availability of mitigation planning training and technical assistance.
- Upcoming funding opportunities.

In addition, FEMA will provide a reminder at least 12 months before the plan expiration date of the consequences of not having an approved mitigation plan, which is required to apply for and receive funding for FEMA non-emergency assistance and mitigation grant programs. To continue to apply for and receive funding from the programs listed on page 1, the state must submit a draft of the next plan update before the end of the approval period and allow sufficient time for the review and approval process. This includes any revisions, if needed, and formal adoption by the state following the determination by FEMA that the plan has achieved a status of “Approvable Pending Adoption.”

We look forward to working with you to discuss the status of the state mitigation program each year over the approval period. If you have any questions regarding this planning process, please contact John Wethington, Risk Analysis Branch Chief, at 312-408-5485 or John.Wethington@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Caruso
Director
Mitigation Division