

1.2 PROGRAM GUIDANCE UPDATES (p. 2 and 3)

While many of the specific requirements of each program remain the same as Fiscal Year (FY)2008, the primary changes to the guidance are the grouping of common elements in Section 2(General HMA Guidance), and unique program requirements in Section 3, (HMA Program-

Specific Guidance).

The following are the major changes made in this HMA Guidance:

- Combined common guidance from FY 2008 PDM, FMA, RFC, and SRL programs by eliminating any duplication or inconsistent policies in the following sections:
 - Grant Application Guidance;
 - Management Costs;
 - Mitigation Project Subapplication Guidance;
 - Mitigation Planning Subapplication Guidance;

- Section 2.3.13 (Property Acquisition and Relocation for Open Space) is intended to provide guidance on implementing the regulations governing the acquisition of real property and improvements at Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 80. This guidance follows the organizational structure of the property acquisition and relocation regulations;

- Created sections FEMA Review Process (Section 2.5) and Post-Award Grants Management Requirements and Closeout (Section 2.6) to clearly delineate the application review, selection, and implementation processes. Specifically, Special Flood Hazard Area Requirement (Section 2.6.4.4), was created to distinguish programmatic eligibility requirements from subgrant closeout requirements;

- The Resources and Tools (Section 2.7), formerly the Technical Assistance Resources section, is significantly enhanced. Additional resources were added to this section, including: mitigation project resources, mitigation planning resources, and application and subapplication requirements. Applicants and/or subapplicants can access engineering case studies and sample scopes of works through the Web links available in the mitigation project resources;

- Section 3 (HMA Program-Specific Guidance), provides program-specific guidance for the PDM, FMA, RFC and SRL programs. Distinctions among the programs regarding eligible activities, intent, and other considerations remain and reside in the program-specific guidance; and

- The Appendix, new to this HMA Guidance, provides additional resources, including referenced statutes, regulations and guidance, grant decision matrices, and useful forms for grant management.

The following changes were made in the program-specific guidance:

PDM Program

- Mitigation Plan subgrant funding limits are changed as follows:
 - New plan development subgrant may not exceed \$800,000 Federal share;
 - Comprehensive update of a plan subgrant may not exceed \$400,000 Federal share;
- Requirements for safe room projects are added;
- National Ranking and Evaluations factor percentages are modified; and
- Additional ranking points are provided for all eligible mitigation planning and project subapplications on the basis of predetermined, objective, and quantitative factors.

FMA Program

- FMA Planning grant recipients are now required to meet the planning criteria found in 44 CFR Part 201; and
- What was known as Applicant Technical Assistance under the FMA program is now codified at 44 CFR Part 79 as management costs, and reflected in this Guidance accordingly.