

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS
DISASTER & EMERGENCY SERVICES DIVISION

www.montanades.org

Steve Bullock, Governor



STATE OF MONTANA

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20 June 2014

RECEIVED

Memorandum

JUN 23 2014

Ravalli County Commissioners

TO: Ravalli County Commission Chair Greg Chilcott
FROM: Kent Atwood, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
SUBJECT: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

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I wanted to share some thoughts about one of the programs you may be eligible for and explain how you can apply for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

First the background: The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that federal aid has been made available for the state of Montana to supplement the state and local recovery efforts in the 15 county area affected by ice jams and flooding during the period of March 1-16, 2014. The first of these programs is the Public Assistance Program. It is a program designed to help repair and restore disaster damages infrastructure to the affected jurisdictions. The second is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). HMGP is intended to provide an opportunity for the State, Counties, Tribal Nations, and our cities and towns with funding to conduct mitigation projects, which will lessen the damage caused by future disasters. Examples of projects are elevation, acquisition or relocation of structures from flood hazard prone areas, structural hazard controls such as detention/retention basins, seismic retrofitting, or wild land fire fuels reduction to name a few.

The eligible applicants for the HMGP are local and Tribal governments with a current FEMA approved Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Plan, all of which must be either unmapped or in good standing in the National Flood Insurance Program. The money provided by FEMA is a 75% Federal share and a 25% Local match. The HMGP involves an application process and may be time consuming, as the projects must undergo National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) scrutiny. If in large enough amounts, HMGP funds can also be used as a planning grant to update your PDM Plan if it has reached its five year expiration.

However, I would be happy to come to your jurisdiction to brief you if you feel you may have an eligible project. Please fill out the enclosed Notice of Intent (NOI) and return to our mitigation office by 30 July 2014. If it appears you have an eligible project and one that possibly can be funded, we will schedule a site visit to you and at that time you will be provided the HMGP application. Your point of contact at this office is Nadene Wadsworth at 324-4785, nwadsworth@mt.gov or Kent Atwood at 406-324-4782 and katwood@mt.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kent B. Atwood".

Kent B. Atwood

Enclosure