

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Region VIII
Denver Federal Center, Building 710
P.O. Box 25267
Denver, CO 80225-0267



FEMA

R8-MT

October 3, 2017

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OCT 10 2017

Ravalli County Commissioners

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CC Erik
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+ Sheuff
Holton

Board of County Commissioners
Ravalli County
215 S. 4th Street, Suite A
Hamilton, Montana 59840

Dear County Commissioners:

We are pleased to announce the approval of the Ravalli County Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan as meeting the requirements of the Stafford Act and Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations §201.6 for a local hazard mitigation plan. The approval extends to Ravalli County, the City of Hamilton, and the Town of Stevensville.

The jurisdictions are hereby eligible for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant programs. All requests for funding will be evaluated individually according to the specific eligibility and other requirements of the particular programs under which the application is submitted. Approved mitigation plans may also be eligible for points under the National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System.

This plan is approved through October 2, 2022. A local jurisdiction must revise its plan and resubmit it for approval within five years to continue to be eligible for mitigation project grant funding. We have provided recommendations for the next plan update on the enclosed Plan Review Tool.

We wish to thank the jurisdictions for participating in the planning process and commend their continued commitment to reducing future disaster losses. Please contact Nadene Wadsworth, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services, nwadsworth@mt.gov or (406) 324-4785 with any questions on the plan approval or mitigation grant programs.

Sincerely,

Jeanine D. Petterson
Mitigation Division Director

Enclosure

cc: Nadene Wadsworth, State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Montana Disaster and Emergency Services

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Ravalli County Commission

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Commissioner D. Johnson

LOCAL MITIGATION PLAN REVIEW TOOL

The *Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool* demonstrates how the Local Mitigation Plan meets the regulation in 44 CFR §201.6 and offers States and FEMA Mitigation Planners an opportunity to provide feedback to the community.

- The Regulation Checklist provides a summary of FEMA’s evaluation of whether the Plan has addressed all requirements.
- The Plan Assessment identifies the plan’s strengths as well as documents areas for future improvement.
- The Multi-jurisdiction Summary Sheet is an optional worksheet that can be used to document how each jurisdiction met the requirements of the each Element of the Plan (Planning Process; Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment; Mitigation Strategy; Plan Review, Evaluation, and Implementation; and Plan Adoption).

The FEMA Mitigation Planner must reference this *Local Mitigation Plan Review Guide* when completing the *Local Mitigation Plan Review Tool*.

Jurisdiction: Ravalli County, MT	Title of Plan: Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan	Date of Plan: March 2017
Local Point of Contact: Erik Hoover	Address: 205 Bedford St. Suite J Hamilton, MT 59840	E-Mail: ehoover@rc.mt.gov
Title: Director		
Agency: Ravalli County Office of Emergency Management		
Phone Number: 406-375-6655		

State Reviewer: J.Lee Okeson	Title: MT DES Planning Coordinator	Date: May 1, 2017
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FEMA Reviewer: Margaret Doherty	Title: Community Planner	Date: June 2, 2017
Date Received in FEMA Region VIII	May 4, 2017	
Plan Not Approved		
Plan Approvable Pending Adoption	July 7, 2017	
Plan Approved	October 3, 2017	

**SECTION 1:
MULTI-JURISDICTION SUMMARY SHEET**

MULTI-JURISDICTION SUMMARY SHEET									
#	Jurisdiction Name	Jurisdiction Type	Jurisdiction Contact	Email/Phone	Requirements Met (Y/N)				
					A. Planning Process	B. HIRA	C. Mitigation Strategy	D. Update Rqtms.	E. Adoption Resolution
1	Ravalli	County	Erik Hoover	ehoover@rc.mt.gov	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
2	Darby	Town	Terry Linton	Darby-terry@usa.net	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
3	Hamilton	City	Ed Barrett	pwf@cityofhamilton.net	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
4	Stevensville	Town	Jim Crews	jjmc@townofstevensville.com	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									

**SECTION 2:
REGULATION CHECKLIST**

REGULATION CHECKLIST	Location in Plan (section and/or	Met	Not Met
Regulation (44 CFR 201.6 Local Mitigation Plans)			
ELEMENT A. PLANNING PROCESS			
A1. Does the Plan document the planning process, including how it was prepared and who was involved in the process for each jurisdiction? (Requirement §201.6(c)(1))	Pages 2-1—2-6 and Appendix B	X	
A2. Does the Plan document an opportunity for neighboring communities, local and regional agencies involved in hazard mitigation activities, agencies that have the authority to regulate development as well as other interests to be involved in the planning process? (Requirement §201.6(b)(2))	Pages 2-1—2-6 and Appendix B	X	
A3. Does the Plan document how the public was involved in the planning process during the drafting stage? (Requirement §201.6(b)(1))	Pages 2-1—2-6 and Appendix B	X	
A4. Does the Plan describe the review and incorporation of existing plans, studies, reports, and technical information? (Requirement §201.6(b)(3))	Pages 2-2—2-4 and Section 7	X	
A5. Is there discussion of how the community(ies) will continue public participation in the plan maintenance process? (Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(iii))	Pages 6-5—6-6	X	
A6. Is there a description of the method and schedule for keeping the plan current (monitoring, evaluating and updating the mitigation plan within a 5-year cycle)? (Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(i))	Section 6	X	
<u>ELEMENT A: REQUIRED REVISIONS</u>			
ELEMENT B. HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND RISK ASSESSMENT			
B1. Does the Plan include a description of the type, location, and extent of all natural hazards that can affect each jurisdiction(s)? (Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(i))	Section 4	X	
B2. Does the Plan include information on previous occurrences of hazard events and on the probability of future hazard events for each jurisdiction? (Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(i))	Section 4	X	
B3. Is there a description of each identified hazard’s impact on the community as well as an overall summary of the community’s vulnerability for each jurisdiction? (Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii))	Section 4	X	
B4. Does the Plan address NFIP insured structures within the jurisdiction that have been repetitively damaged by floods? (Requirement §201.6(c)(2)(ii))	Page 4-32	X	
<u>ELEMENT B: REQUIRED REVISIONS</u>			

REGULATION CHECKLIST		Location in Plan	Met	Not Met
Regulation (44 CFR 201.6 Local Mitigation Plans)		(section and/or		
ELEMENT C. MITIGATION STRATEGY				
C1. Does the plan document each jurisdiction’s existing authorities, policies, programs and resources and its ability to expand on and improve these existing policies and programs? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3))	Section 5.4	X		
C2. Does the Plan address each jurisdiction’s participation in the NFIP and continued compliance with NFIP requirements, as appropriate? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(ii))	Pages 3-13—3-14, 4-31—4-32, 5-5, and 5-23—5-24	X		
C3. Does the Plan include goals to reduce/avoid long-term vulnerabilities to the identified hazards? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(i))	Page 5-4	X		
C4. Does the Plan identify and analyze a comprehensive range of specific mitigation actions and projects for each jurisdiction being considered to reduce the effects of hazards, with emphasis on new and existing buildings and infrastructure? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(ii))	Section 5.5	X		
C5. Does the Plan contain an action plan that describes how the actions identified will be prioritized (including cost benefit review), implemented, and administered by each jurisdiction? (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(iv)); (Requirement §201.6(c)(3)(iii))	Section 5.5	X		
C6. Does the Plan describe a process by which local governments will integrate the requirements of the mitigation plan into other planning mechanisms, such as comprehensive or capital improvement plans, when appropriate? (Requirement §201.6(c)(4)(ii))	Section 6.3	X		
<u>ELEMENT C: REQUIRED REVISIONS</u>				
ELEMENT D. PLAN REVIEW, EVALUATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION (applicable to plan updates only)				
D1. Was the plan revised to reflect changes in development? (Requirement §201.6(d)(3))	Section 3	X		
D2. Was the plan revised to reflect progress in local mitigation efforts? (Requirement §201.6(d)(3))	Pages 5-1—5-2	X		
D3. Was the plan revised to reflect changes in priorities? (Requirement §201.6(d)(3))	Pages 5-1—5-2	X		
<u>ELEMENT D: REQUIRED REVISIONS</u>				
ELEMENT E. PLAN ADOPTION				
E1. Does the Plan include documentation that the plan has been formally adopted by the governing body of the jurisdiction requesting approval? (Requirement §201.6(c)(5))				NA

REGULATION CHECKLIST		Location in Plan (section and/or	Met	Not Met
Regulation (44 CFR 201.6 Local Mitigation Plans)				
E2. For multi-jurisdictional plans, has each jurisdiction requesting approval of the plan documented formal plan adoption? (Requirement §201.6(c)(5))			X	
<u>ELEMENT E: REQUIRED REVISIONS</u>				
E2. Pending FEMA approval.				
ELEMENT F. ADDITIONAL STATE REQUIREMENTS (OPTIONAL FOR STATE REVIEWERS ONLY; NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY FEMA)				
F1.				
F2.				
<u>ELEMENT F: REQUIRED REVISIONS</u>				

SECTION 3: PLAN ASSESSMENT

A. Plan Strengths and Opportunities for Improvement

This section provides a discussion of the strengths of the plan document and identifies areas where these could be improved as part of the next plan update.

Element A: Planning Process

Strengths

- Great idea to have a website where all materials could be easily shared with the public throughout the planning process and collect their feedback.
- The use of both traditional and social media to publicize the plan was good to see. News articles, rather than traditional legal notices, are a more accessible way to share what the mitigation planning process is really about.
- The planning effort included a diverse group of stakeholders.

Opportunities for Improvement

- The plan references previous guidance (2008). The most recent local plan development guidance is the Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (2013), available here: <https://www.fema.gov/media-library/assets/documents/31598>
- The description of future development potential (Pages 3-14—3-15) is a great addition to the plan update. It's concerning that so many subdivisions are potentially going to be built without a County Growth Policy and/or building codes.

Element B: Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment

Strengths

- The excerpts from the Hamilton, Darby, and Stevensville growth policies demonstrate impressive integration of mitigation into other local planning mechanisms. We agree with the recommendation for a countywide growth policy that would include similar recommendations to avoid future structures in known hazard areas.
- The plan's effort to connect each identified hazard to future development and to changing climatic conditions is a helpful look ahead at what may change for the next plan update. It also helps connect land use policies, authorities, and codes to areas of capability that may need to be strengthened in the mitigation strategy.
- Maps are high quality and extremely legible. The inclusion of specific vulnerability in an appendix makes it clear what is at risk to specific hazard events.
- The descriptions of data limitations is helpful for future plan updates but could also be considered as part of the mitigation strategy.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Figure 9 shows dam failure hazard area in Missoula County.
- Beyond the economic benefits of the public forest, consider their ability to lessen the impacts of flooding and drought in the downstream cities through proper watershed management.
- Table 4.1-2 includes a list of hazards evaluated. However, when they were consolidated into eight hazard categories, landslides and volcanic eruptions were only mentioned as possible

effects of other hazards. Avalanches were not mentioned at all. If these hazards do not pertain to the county or cities, it would be beneficial to state this.

- The plan takes a very limited view of vulnerable populations, only defining them as the very old and very young. However, socioeconomic, mobility, and English language proficiency also contribute to population vulnerability. For future plan updates, consider using a more inclusive definition of vulnerable populations.
- The Severe Weather profile states that “Drought is a consequence of severe weather.” This is not necessarily accurate. According to the National Drought Mitigation Center, droughts can be meteorological (related to severe weather) but they can also be agricultural and hydrological (caused by periods of precipitation shortfalls). It would be beneficial to remove or revise this statement to more accurately characterize the wide-ranging types of drought. The National Drought Mitigation Center defines drought types online at: <http://drought.unl.edu/DroughtBasics/TypesofDrought.aspx> .
- If the planning team did not concur with the CPRI Scoring, it did not need to be included in the plan. Hazards are not required to be ranked or scored, though it can be a helpful tool for understanding which hazards are most important to mitigate.

Element C: Mitigation Strategy

Strengths

- The Bitter Root RC&D seems like a best practice for regional hazardous fuels reduction.
- The plan includes a thorough accounting of land use and development plans and policies, and connects these policies to hazard mitigation clearly.
- The plan does a good job of exploring non-FEMA grant funding opportunities.

Opportunities for Improvement

- With each plan update, we recommend utilizing the process to develop more actionable mitigation projects. FEMA pays for the plan development and mitigation projects but does not pay for the steps in-between. Therefore, we encourage communities to utilize the planning process for deliberating the steps necessary to implement the mitigation solutions, such that when funding becomes available, the projects are close to ‘shovel ready.’ At a minimum, we encourage developing action plans for each high priority mitigation project that includes estimated costs, benefits, alternatives, responsible agency, timeline, etc.
- The description of continued compliance with the NFIP is a little light. Consider using the NFIP Worksheet in the Local Mitigation Planning Handbook (2013) to gather additional information and strengthen this discussion.
- Throughout the hazard profiles, the lack of a building department to support enforcement of the statewide building code was identified as a gap in capabilities. It would be beneficial for the mitigation action plan to somehow attempt to remedy this gap. Similarly, Section 4.1.7 identifies data limitations, but the mitigation strategy, while comprehensive, does not seek to address these data limitations. This would strengthen the plan.

Element D: Plan Review, Evaluation, and Implementation

Strengths

- Plan includes a nice narrative of mitigation accomplishments. The planning process is a great opportunity to celebrate the community’s past successes.

- The FEMA Risk MAP products that were developed in 2015 are appropriately incorporated throughout the plan update.

B. Resources for Implementing Your Approved Plan

FEMA FUNDING SOURCES

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The HMGP is a post-disaster mitigation program. It is made available to states by FEMA after each Federal disaster declaration. The HMGP can provide up to 75 percent funding for hazard mitigation measures. The HMGP can be used to fund cost-effective projects that will protect public or private property in an area covered by a federal disaster declaration or that will reduce the likely damage from future disasters. Examples of projects include acquisition and demolition of structures in hazard prone areas, flood-proofing or elevation to reduce future damage, minor structural improvements and development of state or local standards. Applicants who are eligible for the HMGP are state and local governments, certain nonprofit organizations or institutions that perform essential government services, and Indian tribes and authorized tribal organizations. Individuals or homeowners cannot apply directly for the HMGP; a local government must apply on their behalf. Applications are submitted to Montana DES and placed in rank order for available funding and submitted to FEMA for final approval. Eligible projects not selected for funding are placed in an inactive status and may be considered as additional HMGP funding becomes available. More information: <https://www.fema.gov/hazard-mitigation-grant-program>

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program. FMA provides funding to assist states and communities in implementing measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insurable under the NFIP. The FMA is funded annually; no federal disaster declaration is required. Only NFIP insured homes and businesses are eligible for mitigation in this program. Funding for FMA is very limited and, as with the HMGP, individuals cannot apply directly for the program. Applications must come from local governments or other eligible organizations. The federal cost share for an FMA project is 75 percent. At least 25 percent of the total eligible costs must be provided by a non-federal source. Of this 25 percent, no more than half can be provided as in-kind contributions from third parties. FMA funds are distributed from FEMA to the state. Montana DES serves as the grantee and program administrator for FMA. More information: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-mitigation-assistance-grant-program>

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant Program. The PDM program is an annually funded, nationwide, competitive grant program. No disaster declaration is required. Federal funds will cover 75 percent of a project's cost up to \$3 million. More information: <https://www.fema.gov/pre-disaster-mitigation-grant-program>

Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program. The FMAG program provides grants to states, tribal governments and local governments for the mitigation, management and control of any fire burning on publicly (non-federal) or privately owned forest or grassland that threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster. The grants are made in the form of cost sharing with the federal share being 75 percent of total eligible costs. Grant approvals are made within 1 to

72 hours from time of request. More information: <http://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program>

Fire Prevention and Safety (FP&S) Grants. FP&S Grants support projects that enhance the safety of the public and firefighters from fire and related hazards. The primary goal is to target high-risk populations and reduce injury and prevent death. Eligibility includes fire departments, national, regional, state, and local organizations, Native American tribal organizations, and/or community organizations recognized for their experience and expertise in fire prevention and safety programs and activities. Private non-profit and public organizations are also eligible. Interested applicants are advised to check the website periodically for announcements of grant availability:

<https://www.fema.gov/welcome-assistance-firefighters-grant-program>

OTHER MITIGATION FUNDING SOURCES

Grant funding is available from a variety of federal and state agencies for training, equipment, and hazard mitigation activities. Several of these programs are described below.

Program 15.228: Wildland Urban Interface Community and Rural Fire Assistance. [This program](#) is designed to implement the National Fire Plan and assist communities at risk from catastrophic wildland fires. The program provides grants, technical assistance, and training for community programs that develop local capability, including: Assessment and planning, mitigation activities, and community and homeowner education and action; hazardous fuels reduction activities, including the training, monitoring or maintenance associated with such hazardous fuels reduction activities, on federal land, or on adjacent nonfederal land for activities that mitigate the threat of catastrophic fire to communities and natural resources in high risk areas; and, enhancement of knowledge and fire protection capability of rural fire districts through assistance in education and training, protective clothing and equipment purchase, and mitigation methods on a cost share basis.

Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act - Title III- County Funds. The Self-Determination Act has recently been reauthorized and now includes specific language regarding the Firewise Communities program. Counties seeking funding under Title III must use the funds to perform work under the Firewise Communities program. Counties applying for Title III funds to implement Firewise activities can assist in all aspects of a community's recognition process, including conducting or assisting with community assessments, helping the community create an action plan, assisting with an annual Firewise Day, assisting with local wildfire mitigation projects, and communicating with the state liaison and the national program to ensure a smooth application process. Counties that previously used Title III funds for other wildfire preparation activities such as the Fire Safe Councils or similar would be able to carry out many of the same activities as they had before. However, with the new language, counties would be required to show that funds used for these activities were carried out under the Firewise Communities program. More information: http://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsinternet!/ut/p/c4/04_SB8K8xLLM9MSSzPy8xBz9CP0os3gjAwhwtDDw9_AI8zPwhQoY6BdkOyoCAPkATIA!/?ss=119985&navtype=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&cid=FSE_003853&navid=091000000000000&pnavid=null&position=BROWSEBYSUBJECT&ttype=main&pname=Secure%20Rural%20Schools-%20Home

Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire. Established in 2015 by Headwaters Economics and Wildfire Planning International, Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire (CPAW) works with communities to reduce wildfire risks through improved land use planning. CPAW is a grant-funded program providing communities with professional assistance from foresters, planners, economists and wildfire risk modelers to integrate wildfire mitigation into the development planning process. All services and recommendations are site-specific and come at no cost to the community. More information: <http://planningforwildfire.org/what-we-do/>

Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program. A cooperative program of the U.S. Forest Service that focuses on the stewardship of urban natural resources. With 80 percent of the nation's population in urban areas, there are strong environmental, social, and economic cases to be made for the conservation of green spaces to guide growth and revitalize city centers and older suburbs. UCF responds to the needs of urban areas by maintaining, restoring, and improving urban forest ecosystems on more than 70 million acres. Through these efforts the program encourages and promotes the creation of healthier, more livable urban environments across the nation. These grant programs are focused on issues and landscapes of national importance and prioritized through state and regional assessments. Information: <http://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

Western Wildland Urban Interface Grants. The National Fire Plan (NFP) is a long-term strategy for reducing the effects of catastrophic wildfires throughout the nation. The Division of Forestry's NFP Program is implemented within the Division's Fire and Aviation Program through the existing USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry, State Fire Assistance Program.

Congress has provided increased funding assistance to states through the U.S. Forest Service State and Private Forestry programs since 2001. The focus of much of this additional funding was mitigating risk in WUI areas. In the West, the State Fire Assistance funding is available and awarded through a competitive process with emphasis on hazard fuel reduction, information and education, and community and homeowner action. This portion of the National Fire Plan was developed to assist interface communities manage the unique hazards they find around them. Long-term solutions to interface challenges require informing and educating people who live in these areas about what they and their local organizations can do to mitigate these hazards.

The 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy focuses on assisting people and communities in the WUI to moderate the threat of catastrophic fire through the four broad goals of improving prevention and suppression, reducing hazardous fuels, restoring fire-adapted ecosystems, and promoting community assistance. The Western States Wildland Urban Interface Grant may be used to apply for financial assistance towards hazardous fuels and educational projects within the four goals of: improved prevention, reduction of hazardous fuels, and restoration of fire-adapted ecosystems and promotion of community assistance. More information: <https://www.westernforesters.org/sites/default/files/2017-WUI-Applications-Instructions-and-Criteria-CLEAN-COPY-002b.pdf>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Rural Fire Assistance Grants. Each year, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) provides Rural Fire Assistance (RFA) grants to neighboring community fire departments to enhance local wildfire protection, purchase equipment, and train volunteer firefighters. Service fire

staff also assist directly with community projects. These efforts reduce the risk to human life and better permit FWS firefighters to interact and work with community fire organizations when fighting wildfires. The Department of the Interior (DOI) receives an appropriated budget each year for an RFA grant program. The maximum award per grant is \$20,000. The [DOI assistance program](#) targets rural and volunteer fire departments that routinely help fight fire on or near DOI lands. More information: http://www.fws.gov/fire/living_with_fire/rural_fire_assistance.shtml

U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Community Assistance Program. BLM provides funds to communities through assistance agreements to complete mitigation projects, education and planning within the WUI. More information:

http://www.blm.gov/nifc/st/en/prog/fire/community_assistance.html

Fire Management Assistance Program. This program is authorized under Section 420 of the Stafford Act. It allows for the mitigation, management, and control of fires burning on publicly or privately owned forest or grasslands that threaten destruction that would constitute a major disaster.

NOAA Office of Education Grants. The Office of Education supports formal, informal and non-formal education projects and programs through competitively awarded grants and cooperative agreements to a variety of educational institutions and organizations in the United States. More information: <http://www.noaa.gov/office-education/grants>

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Environmental Quality Incentives Program, administered through the NRCS, is a cost-share program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on that land may apply to participate in EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands. EQUIP is another funding mechanism for landowner fuel reduction projects. More information: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/eqip/>

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Community Facilities Loans and Grants. Provides grants (and loans) to cities, counties, states and other public entities to improve community facilities for essential services to rural residents. Projects can include fire and rescue services; funds have been provided to purchase fire-fighting equipment for rural areas. No match is required. More information: http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=GRANTS_LOANS

General Services Administration, Sale of Federal Surplus Personal Property. This program sells property no longer needed by the federal government. The program provides individuals, businesses and organizations the opportunity to enter competitive bids for purchase of a wide variety of personal property and equipment. Normally, there are no restrictions on the property purchased. More information: <http://www.gsa.gov/portal/category/21045>

Hazardous Materials Emergency Preparedness Grants. Grant funds are passed through to local emergency management offices and HazMat teams having functional and active LEPC groups. More information: <http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat/grants>

U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Enhances the ability of states, local and tribal jurisdictions, and other regional authorities in the preparation, prevention, and response to terrorist attacks and other disasters, by distributing grant funds. Localities can use grants for planning, equipment, training and exercise needs. These grants include, but are not limited to areas of Critical Infrastructure Protection Equipment and Training for First Responders, and [Homeland Security Grants](#). More information: <http://www.dhs.gov/>

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG). The U.S. Department of Commerce administers the CDBG program which are intended to provide low and moderate-income households with viable communities, including decent housing, as suitable living environment, and expanded economic opportunities. Eligible activities include community facilities and improvements, roads and infrastructure, housing rehabilitation and preservation, development activities, public services, economic development, planning, and administration. Public improvements may include flood and drainage improvements. In limited instances, and during the times of “urgent need” (e.g. post disaster) as defined by the CDBG National Objectives, CDBG funding may be used to acquire a property located in a floodplain that was severely damaged by a recent flood, demolish a structure severely damaged by an earthquake, or repair a public facility severely damaged by a hazard event. CDBG funds can be used to match FEMA grants. More Information: <http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/communitydevelopment/programs/>

Volunteer Fire Assistance Program Grants. The purpose of these grants is to organize, train and equip local firefighters to prevent and suppress wildfires. Communities under 10,000 in population are eligible for the funding. Smaller communities may join together in a group and or county effort to submit an application, even if their combined population is over 10,000. There is no pre-set award amount. Financial assistance on any project, during any fiscal year, requires a non-federal match for project expenditures. More information: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans>

Conservation District Grants. This program provide funds to increase conservation district employee's hours to assist in planning, securing funding, and implementing programs that improve public outreach, improve conservation district administrative capabilities, and implement conservation plans. There is a \$10,000 award amount. More information: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans>

Hazardous Fuel Reduction Grants. These grants are for hazardous fuel reduction on private lands to protect communities adjacent to National Forest System Lands where prescribed fire activities are planned. Prescribed fire activities must be imminent (to take place within 3 years of the award). Non-profit organizations, conservation districts, county and municipal governments, fire departments are eligible for this funding. Award amounts typically range from \$50,000 to \$100,000 depending upon availability of funding. More information: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans>

Renewable Resource Grant Program. Administered by the Montana DNRC, this program provides both grant and loan funding for public facility and other renewable resource projects. Projects that

conserve, manage, develop or protect Montana's renewable resources are eligible for funding. Numerous public facility projects including drinking water, wastewater and solid waste development and improvement projects have received funding through this program. Other projects that have been funded include irrigation rehabilitation, dam repair, soil and water conservation and forest enhancement. More information: <http://dnrc.mt.gov/grants-and-loans>

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities. The EPA Office of Sustainable Communities sometimes offers grants to support activities that improve the quality of development and protect human health and the environment. When these grants are offered, they will always be announced on www.grants.gov. More information: <https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/building-blocks-sustainable-communities#2016>

OTHER RESOURCES

FEMA: Grant Application Training. Each year, FEMA partners with the State on training courses designed to help communities be more successful in their applications for grants. Contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer for course offering schedules. Example Courses:

- Unified Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance Application Development Course
- [Benefit Cost Analysis \(BCA\)](#) Course

FEMA: Community Assistance Visit. It may be appropriate to set up a Community Assistance Visit with FEMA to provide technical assistance to communities in the review and/or updating of their floodplain ordinances to meet the new model ordinance. Consider contacting your State NFIP Coordinator for more information.

FEMA: Building Science. The Building Science branch develops and produces multi-hazard mitigation publications, guidance materials, tools, technical bulletins, and recovery advisories that incorporate the most up-to-date building codes, floodproofing requirements, seismic design standards, and wind design requirements for new construction and the repair of existing buildings. To learn more, visit: <https://www.fema.gov/building-science>

EPA: Smart Growth in Small Towns and Rural Communities. EPA has consolidated resources just for small towns and rural communities to help them achieve their goals for growth and development while maintaining their distinctive rural character. To learn more, visit:

<https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-growth-small-towns-and-rural-communities>

EPA: *Hazard Mitigation for Natural Disasters: A Starter Guide for Water and Wastewater Utilities.*

The EPA released guidance on how to mitigate natural disasters specifically for water and wastewater utilities. For more information,

visit: <https://www.epa.gov/waterutilityresponse/hazard-mitigation-natural-disasters>

National Integrated Drought Information System. The National Drought Resilience Partnership may provide some additional resources and ideas to mitigate drought hazards and increase awareness of droughts. Visit: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/what-nidis/national-drought-resilience-partnership>.

STAR Community Rating System. Consider measuring your mitigation success by participating in the STAR Community Rating System. Local leaders can use the STAR Community Rating System to assess how sustainable they are, set goals for moving ahead and measure progress along the way. To get started, go to <http://www.starcommunities.org/get-started>

Flood Economics. The Economist Intelligence Unit analyzed case studies and state-level mitigation data in order to gain a better understanding of the economic imperatives for investment in flood mitigation. To learn more, visit: <http://floodeconomics.com/>

Headwaters Economics. Headwaters Economics is an independent, nonprofit research group that works to improve community development and land management decisions in the West. To learn more, visit: <https://headwaterseconomics.org/>