



Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) Technical Advisory Council Quarterly Meeting

December 10, 2021

Linking Hazard Mitigation Funding with Climate Resilience Goals and Projects Item 6: Aligning Funding & Meeting of the CDBG-MIT Community Advisory Committee

Purpose

Following record state and federal investments in climate adaptation and disaster resilience, California regions and local governments are eligible for unprecedented amounts of funding to plan for and implement climate resilience projects. While hazard mitigation programs, which fund natural hazard risk reduction projects, represent a substantial piece of the resilience funding puzzle, competitive applications must also leverage multiple funding sources, including state programs. The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD), and Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) offer hazard mitigation funding opportunities that can support climate resilience goals and projects. A panel discussion at the December 10, 2021 Technical Advisory Council Quarterly meeting will highlight how hazard mitigation programs can align with one another as well as with climate adaptation and resilience goals. The discussion also serves as a meeting of the Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Citizen Advisory Committee. The panel will include:

- Maziar Movassaghi, Chief Disaster Recovery Officer, Department of Housing and Community Development
- Jennifer Hogan, Assistant Director for Hazard Mitigation and State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Governor's Office of Emergency Services
- Daniel Berlant, Asst. Deputy Director, Planning & Risk Analysis, Fire Engineering and Investigations, Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Nuin-Tara Key, Deputy Director, Climate Resilience, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (Moderator)

Background

California faces numerous climate risks and natural hazards, including wildfires, drought, extreme heat, flooding and sea level rise, among others. These growing climate risks are increasing the incidence and cost of disasters. As a response, federal and state investments in hazard mitigation are escalating.

Several California agencies administer funding for local hazard mitigation planning and projects, including Cal OES, HCD, and CAL FIRE. Each entity administers these programs

with separate statutory mandates that confer different policy objectives. Cal OES' Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Program, and California Wildfire Mitigation Program, HCD's Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Program, CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grant Program, among other sources, offer local governments, community-based organizations, and tribes with funding opportunities to reduce hazard and climate risks.

While California's hazard mitigation funding opportunities are expanding, jurisdictions can face challenges accessing and leveraging these funds. Common challenges include lack of knowledge of funding sources, and lack of capacity to develop a pipeline of eligible projects and apply for competitive funding.

Program alignment

The Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Program (ICARP) is charged with coordinating state and local adaptation efforts with a focus on efforts that advance climate equity and support integrated climate strategies, or those that benefit both greenhouse gas reductions and adaptation. ICARP staff are working to integrate adaptation and resilience priorities into hazard mitigation programs through a Cooperative Technical Partners (CTP) grant with FEMA and through the state's Community Planning and Capacity Building – Recovery Support Function (CPCB-RSF).

The CTP is a partnership with Cal OES and is funded by FEMA. Its objectives are to: create a pipeline of hazard mitigation projects that are competitive for hazard mitigation funding; streamline funding opportunities to help scale innovative planning, non-traditional hazard mitigation projects, and nature-based solutions; and build awareness of how hazard mitigation funding can be leveraged to support climate adaptation and resilience outcomes.

Through the CPCB-RSF, ICARP aligns disaster recovery policies and programs with climate adaptation and resilience goals. The CPCB-RSF's mission is to help local and tribal governments identify gaps in their recovery capabilities and support development of community recovery solutions. As the economic, social, and ecological impacts of climate-related disasters grow, hazard mitigation planning and programs have become a more significant aspect of disaster recovery and resilience. Through the CPCB-RSF, ICARP promotes climate adaptation and resilience in pre- and post-disaster recovery planning and programs.

Panel discussion questions

These questions will guide the panel discussion:

- How do these programs fit into the state's long-term climate adaptation and resilience goals?
- What is necessary for hazard mitigation programs to advance equity and climate vulnerability?

- How does your program fit into local hazard mitigation efforts? How is your program designed to support existing hazard mitigation plans?
- How are you working to align these programs so they can be used concurrently? What program guideline modifications could make other programs complimentary?
- What barriers have local governments faced in accessing these funding sources?
- How do the programs help make hazard mitigation projects scalable?

Selected hazard mitigation programs in California

Program	Administering entity	Program description	Eligible projects/activities	Alignment efforts	2021 funding
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	Cal OES	<p>Awarded by FEMA to the state, administered by Cal OES. Competitive within state only.</p> <p>Funding triggered by presidential disaster declaration.</p>	Eligible project topics include: mitigation for wildfires, flooding, earthquake, drought, extreme weather, sea level rise, and other impacts of climate change.	25% Local cost share	<p>\$403 million for DR 4482: COVID 19 Pandemic, Awaiting funding estimates for DR 4610 and DR 4619. Funding not yet distributed.</p> <p>Notice of Interest due 12/31/21 Subapplications due 3/10/2022.</p>
Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	FEMA, Cal OES	<p>Competitive application process administered by FEMA</p> <p>Annual appropriation began in FY2020, up to 6 percent of the total Disaster Relief Fund</p>	FEMA prioritizes large scale infrastructure projects that incorporate nature-based solutions, protect disadvantaged communities, and provide hazard risk reduction benefits to people, property, and the environment.	25% Local cost share	<p>FY 2020 California Awardees: 4 CA communities were awarded projects from the competition - \$95.5M</p> <p>\$1 billion total nationwide in 2021</p> <p>Sub-applicants are eligible for up to \$50 million and states allocated \$1 million for capacity and capability building projects.</p> <p>FY 2021 application deadline already passed.</p>

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CDBG – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)	HCD	<p>Competitive application process administered by HCD.</p> <p>50 percent of funds must benefit low and moderate-income (LMI) households, and 50 percent must be spent in HUD-designed most impacted and distressed areas (MID).</p>	<p>Resilient Infrastructure Program (RIP) funds high-impact projects on the basis of a mitigation needs assessment. Projects should reduce the repetitive loss of property and critical infrastructure, maximize impact of funds through leverage</p> <p>Planning & Public Services (PPS) allows for creation or updating of current plans for better alignment with mitigation principles, examining hazards, and establishing actions to increase resilience and preparedness. P&PS can be used for capacity building for future RIP applicants.</p>	Can be used as local match for HMGP and BRIC, as well as Public Assistance	<p>\$152 million total: \$106.5 million for RIP; \$45.5 million for P&PS</p> <p>RIP application deadline on 12/2021, while P&PS funding is rolling</p>
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)	Cal OES	<p>Competitive grant program administered by FEMA that provides funding to states, local communities, federally recognized tribes and territories.</p> <p>FEMA chooses recipients based on the applicant's ranking of the project and the eligibility</p>	Funds can be used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program.		<p>\$160M available nationally</p> <p>Application deadline already past for 2021</p>

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		and cost-effectiveness of the project.			
Fire Prevention Grant Program	CAL FIRE	CAL FIRE's Fire Prevention Grants enable local organizations such as fire safe councils to implement activities that address the risk of wildfire and reduce wildfire potential for communities.	Funded activities include fuel reduction, wildfire planning and fire prevention education. The projects meet the goals and objectives of California's Wildfire and Forest Resilience Action Plan, as well as the State's Strategic Fire Plan.		\$138 million for 105 local fire prevention projects across the state, included in the FY 2021-2022 California state budget. Awards have already been made.
California Wildfire Mitigation Program	Cal OES, CAL FIRE	Community home hardening program to retrofit, harden, and create defensible space for homes at high risk to wildfires—with a focus on high social-vulnerability communities and providing financial assistance for low- and moderate- income (LMI) households. Demonstration program administered by Cal OES, working with a small number of communities, before scaling up in future years.	Program will fund home hardening and defensible space activities on private residences.	Leverages HMGP and other state funding	\$25 million in the FY 2021-2022 California state budget. Demonstration communities have already been determined.