

Appendix D: Hazard Mitigation Project Funding Guidebook

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Overview

This *Hazard Mitigation Project Funding Guidebook* is provided by JEO Consulting Group, Inc.

The intent of the guidebook is to provide initial guidance on hazard mitigation project funding opportunities and where to find more information on grants. The information included is consistent with established processes for hazard mitigation planning. However, it is important to note the following in terms of the context for this guidebook relative to the overall planning process.

Project identification includes identifying all possible options to address planning objectives; at this stage, all options are viable. At times, the best option may be to work with other stakeholders in the community to design solutions that are in line with community values while reducing risk (e.g., a bike path or ball field that can double as a retention area, or the preservation of an animal habitat that also serves as a natural buffer). These types of solutions can often be funded in very innovative ways, including solutions which increase local industry and revenue. For information on the broad range of mitigation project types and how projects have been implemented in communities across the country, please refer to FEMA's Mitigation Best Practices webpage at <https://www.fema.gov/mitigation-best-practices-portfolio>.

It should be noted that the grant programs listed in this guidebook are not the only ones that could support hazard mitigation project implementation. Additionally, many of these programs are dependent on yearly funding allocations, resulting in fluctuations in the amount available. However, at this point, it is more important to be aware of the potential for various avenues of support for a broad array of project types. As needs and potential hazard mitigation project options are identified, more information can begin to be gathered on the range of programs which might be utilized. It will be more efficient to start with project options and then follow up with the identification of potential matches, working with the full range of available programs and agencies as part of a comprehensive project evaluation process.

While participation in a hazard mitigation plan is required for a jurisdiction to be eligible for FEMA funds, those are not the only funding source available for mitigation actions. Depending on the type of mitigation project being pursued, FEMA funding is not always the best option, so it is increasingly important to look for other opportunities. Opportunities for funding and technical assistance exist in various federal, state, and local agencies. Non-governmental funding opportunities are available at the regional or local level with private sector businesses, private foundations, and other non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In order to fully map out the range of local and state options, it is necessary to undertake a detailed stakeholder analysis – something which has not been done at this time. The following contains an overview of key federal and state programs that may include opportunities for hazard mitigation project funding, as well as additional information on suggested alternative funding routes.

Federal Funding Resources

Information about federal hazard mitigation project funding opportunities is organized by agency. Under each agency heading, applicable grant programs are listed with a description of the grant and, when available, information on typical funds available, eligibility, examples of past projects funded, and any additional relevant information. Agencies covered in this guidebook include:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – WaterSMART
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Funding
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- U.S. Economic Development Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Forest Service

Note: This is not a complete list of all federal funding opportunities. These grant programs have been chosen for their applicability to popular mitigation actions. The websites and reference materials used to provide this information are as current as possible; however, it is important to note that funding programs are dynamic and subject to frequent changes. While it is helpful to be familiar with the current information, it is equally as important to engage candidate federal and state agencies in a dialog as soon as possible.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC)	
Description	This FEMA program aims to focus on research-supported, proactive investment in community resilience. Through BRIC, FEMA invests in a variety of mitigation activities with an added focus on infrastructure projects benefitting disadvantaged communities, nature-based solutions, climate resilience and adaptation, and adopting hazard resistant building codes.
Funds Available	For Fiscal Year 2022, FEMA will distribute up to \$2.295 billion through the BRIC program in the following manner.
Eligibility	Eligible states, territories and federally recognized tribal governments can submit applications on behalf of subapplicants for BRIC funding. Applicants may have their own priorities or requirements when screening their subapplications. Subapplicants cannot submit these directly to FEMA. Subapplicants must submit them to their applicant for review and submission. Subapplicants are local governments, including cities, townships, counties, special district governments, state agencies and federally recognized tribal governments and must submit subapplication to their state, territory, or tribal applicant agency.
Examples	The top five type of projects funded in Fiscal Year 2021 included Flood Control, Utility/Infrastructure Protection, Stabilization and Restoration, Mitigation Reconstruction, and Retrofits.
Additional Information	A cost share is required for all subapplications funded under BRIC. The non-federal cost share funding may consist of cash; donated or third-party in-kind services and materials; or any combination thereof. Generally, the cost share for this program is 75% federal cost share funding/25% non-federal cost share funding. Additional information can be found at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities/before-apply#funding

Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG)	
Description	FMAG is available to states, local and tribal governments, for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately-owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.
Funds Available	The individual fire cost threshold is based on total eligible costs for the declared fire. The individual fire cost threshold for a state is the greater of \$100,000 or five percent times the statewide per capita indicator, multiplied by the state population (the statewide per capita indicator is adjusted annually for inflation [e.g., the FY21 indicator is \$1.55]).
Eligibility	Eligible applicants are entities legally responsible for the firefighting activities that reimbursement is being requested for, this includes states, local governments, and tribal governments.
Examples	Eligible firefighting costs may include expenses for field camps, repair and replacement tools, mobilization and demobilization activities, equipment use, materials and supplies.
Additional Information	https://www.fema.gov/assistance/public/fire-management-assistance
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)	
Description	FMA is a competitive program that provides funding for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damages to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program. Projects must be cost effective, located in a participating NFIP community in good standing, align with the current hazard mitigation plan, and meet all environmental and historical preservation requirements.
Funds Available	Fiscal Year 2022 had \$800 million available for distribution which was more than five times the amount available for Fiscal Year 2021.
Eligibility	States, territories, and federally recognized tribes are eligible. Local governments are considered sub-applicants and must apply to the State, territory, or tribe.
Examples	Projects include: project scoping, technical assistance, community flood mitigation projects, individual structure/property-level flood mitigation projects, and management costs.
Additional Information	Cost share is required for all subapplications funded by the Flood Mitigation Assistance program. Generally, the cost share for this program is 75% federal / 25% non-federal. Contributions of cash, third-party in-kind services, materials, or any combination thereof, may be accepted as part of the non-federal cost share. More information can be found at https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/floods

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	
Description	FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding to state, local, tribal and territorial governments so they can develop hazard mitigation plans and rebuild in a way that reduces, or mitigates, future disaster losses in their communities. Funding is available when authorized under a Presidential major disaster declaration and in areas of the state requested by the Governor. Federally recognized tribes may also submit a request for a Presidential major disaster declaration within their impacted areas. All state, local, tribal and territorial governments must develop and adopt hazard mitigation plans to receive funding for their hazard mitigation projects.
Funds Available	Amount of funding is based on the estimated total or aggregate cost of disaster assistance: Up to 15% of the first \$2 billion; Up to 10% for amounts between \$2 billion and \$10 billion; Up to 7.5% for amounts between \$10 billion and \$35.333 billion; States with enhanced mitigation plans: Up to 20%, not to exceed \$35.333 billion.
Eligibility	Project eligibility under HMGP can be limited by the State as part of the HMGP Administrative Plan developed post-disaster. For example, funding may only be made available for projects that are related to the type of disaster, i.e., HMGP related to a significant flood disaster declaration may only be designated for flood mitigation projects like acquisitions of repetitively flooded properties.
Examples	Retrofitting existing buildings to make them less susceptible to damage from a variety of natural hazards. Purchasing hazard prone property to remove people and structures from harm's way. Drainage improvement projects to reduce potential for flood damage. Eligible project types do not have to coincide with the type of disaster declaration, as the state decides funding prioritization accordingly.
Additional Information	In this program, private homeowners and businesses cannot apply for a grant. However, a local community or other public entity may apply for funding on their behalf. Generally, the cost share is 75% federal and 25% non-federal funding. The 25% can come from any non-federal source, such as the state or local government, an individual, private contributions, Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) funds from a flood insurance policy, or Small Business Administration loans. Additional information can be found at: https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/hazard-mitigation/before-you-apply

HMGP-Post Fire	
Description	This program provides funding to help communities implement hazard mitigation measures focused on reducing the risk of harm from wildfire. It provides hazard mitigation grant funding to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments in areas receiving a Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declaration. The FMAG is the Disaster Declaration required and funding amounts are determined by FEMA based on an annual national aggregate calculation of the past 10 year's FMAG declarations.
Funds Available	Funds available each year are based on an average of historical Fire Management Assistance Grant declarations from the past 10 years. Total funding available for each FMAG declaration in Fiscal Year 2022 is \$786,552 for applicants with a standard hazard mitigation plans and \$1,048,736 for those with an enhanced hazard mitigation plan. Multiple event funding will be aggregated into one grant under the first declaration.
Eligibility	Eligible projects include defensible space initiatives, ignition-resistant construction, hazardous fuels reduction, erosion control measures, slope failure prevention measures and flash flooding prevention measures.
Examples	Defensible space, reducing hazardous fuels, removing standing burned trees, ignition-resistant construction, installing warning signs, strengthen or harden water systems that were burned and caused contamination, reseeding ground cover, planting grass to prevent noxious weeds, erosion barriers on slopes, modify/remove culverts, drainage dips and emergency spillways.
Additional Information	The application period opens with the state or territory's first FMAG declaration of the fiscal year and closes six months after the end of that fiscal year. Application extensions may be requested. https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/post-fire

Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)	
Description	The Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program makes federal funds available to state, local, tribal, and territorial governments to plan for and implement sustainable cost-effective measures. These mitigation efforts are designed to reduce the risk to individuals and property from future natural hazards, while also reducing reliance on federal funding from future disasters.
Funds Available	On March 1, 2023, FEMA published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for FY23 Pre-Disaster Mitigation grant program. The total amount of funds that are being made available to 100 congressionally directed projects will be \$233,043,782. Applicants may request up to an additional 5% of project costs for management and administration of the program from a separate pool of funds.
Eligibility	Only states, territories, or federally recognized tribal governments identified by Congress in the Consolidated Appropriations Act and enumerated in the accompanying Joint Explanatory Statement for Division F are identified in this Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and are eligible to apply. All applicants and subapplicants must have a FEMA-approved Hazard Mitigation Plan by the application deadline
Examples	Storm Shelters, Wildfire Prevention Project, Bridge Rehabilitation, Drainage Improvements, Water Storage Tanks, Flood Mitigation Planning Projects, Evacuation Center, and more.
Additional Information	https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/pre-disaster

Recovery and Resilience Resource Library	
Description	FEMA developed library to navigate the numerous programs available to the United States and its territories to help recover from a disaster. Tool helps users to find and research federal disaster recovery resources that would be beneficial to pre-disaster recovery planning or in the wake of a disaster.
Funds Available	Varies
Eligibility	Resources are intended for state, local, territorial, and tribal governments as well as non-profits, businesses, healthcare institutions, schools, individuals, and households.
Examples	Evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen rural and urban communities.
Additional Information	https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/recovery-resilience-resource-library

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program	
Description	Funding to help states, local governments, rural areas, and territories address cybersecurity risks and cybersecurity threats to information systems.
Funds Available	\$183.5 million is available under the SLCGP, with varying funding amounts allocated over four years from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The recipient contribution can be cash (hard match) or third-party in-kind (soft match).
Eligibility	All U.S. states and territories are eligible to apply. The designated State Administrative Agency (SAA) for each state and territory is the only entity eligible to apply for SLCGP funding.
Examples	Planning, equipment, exercises, management & administration, organization, and training.
Additional Information	<p>This year, each state and territory will receive a funding allocation as determined by the statutory formula:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocations for states and territories include a base funding level as defined for each entity: 1% for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico; and 0.25% for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. • State allocations include additional funds based on a combination of state population and rural population totals. • 80% of total state allocations must support local entities, while 25% of the total state allocations must support rural entities; these amounts may overlap.

Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Revolving Loan Fund (STORM-RLF)	
Description	FEMA is making \$50 million available to fund capitalization grants that enable eligible entities to administer revolving loan funds and provide direct loans to local governments for projects and activities that mitigate the impacts of drought, intense heat, severe storms (including hurricanes, tornados, windstorms, cyclones, and severe winter storms), wildfires, floods, earthquakes, and other natural hazards. FEMA will work closely with participating entities and gather best practices on topics such as entity administrative burden and capacity, achieving resilience and equity goals, and common project and activity types for loans under this program. FEMA's goal is to increase entity participation with higher funding levels in future grant cycles.
Funds Available	FEMA intends to award \$472 million of the funds available under the new program to address climate change and create a more equitable and resilient nation.
Eligibility	Eligible entities are States, Federally recognized tribes that received a major disaster declaration, Territories, and the District of Columbia. State entities must enroll in this program for it to be an option to local public entities.
Examples	This is an opportunity to prioritize low-impact development, wildland-urban interface management, conservation areas, reconnection of floodplain and open space projects. Funding can be utilized for building code adoption and enforcement. Allowable uses include: Mitigation Activities, Non-Federal Cost-Share, Local Government Technical Assistance, and Entity Administrative Costs.
Additional Information	Application period will be open starting February 1 - April 28, 2023. https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/storm-rlf

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Planning Assistance to States	
Description	<p>Provides assistance in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources. Typical studies are only planning level of detail, not design for project construction. Program can encompass many types of studies dealing with water resource issues. PAS program has two types of efforts-comprehensive plans and technical assistance: Comprehensive Plans and Technical Assistance. Comprehensive Plan Assistance includes planning for the development, utilization, and conservation of the water and related resources of drainage basins, watersheds, or ecosystems located within the boundaries of that State, including plans to comprehensively address water resources challenges such as the state water plan. Comprehensive plans can extend across state boundaries provided both States agree. Technical Assistance provided through the PAS program includes support of planning efforts related to the management of state water resources, including the provision and integration of hydrologic, economic, or environmental data and analysis in support of the State’s water resources management and related land resources development plans identified in the state water plan or other water resources management related state planning documents, such as state hazard mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery plans and plans associated with changing hydrologic conditions, climate change, long-term sustainability, and resilience.</p>
Funds Available	<p>Comprehensive planning activities through the PAS program are cost shared (50 per cent) with the study partner, and voluntarily contributed funds in excess of cost share may be provided by the non-Federal partner. The non-Federal cost share for preparation of a state comprehensive water resources plan may be provided by funds or through the provision of services, materials, supplies, or other in-kind services.</p> <p>Technical assistance activities through the PAS program are cost shared (50 per cent) with the study partner, and voluntarily contributed funds in excess of cost share may be provided by the non-Federal partner. The cost-share for technical assistance must be provided by funds (not in-kind).</p>
Eligibility	<p>States, local governments, other non-Federal entities, and eligible Native American Indian tribes.</p>
Examples	<p>Types of studies in recent years include water supply/demand, water conservation, water quality, environmental/conservation, wetlands evaluation/restoration, dam safety/failure, flood damage reduction, coastal zone protection, and harbor planning.</p>
Additional Information	<p>https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/missions/public-services/planning-assistance-to-states/</p>

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – WaterSMART

Small Scale Water Efficiency Projects	
Description	Funding for small-scale on-the-ground water management projects that conserve, better manage, or otherwise increase efficient use of water supplies. Projects supported by an existing water management and conservation plan, System Optimization Review, or other planning effort led by the applicant are prioritized.
Funds Available	Applicants may request up to \$100,000 in federal funding, with a non-federal cost-share of 50% or more of total project costs for projects with total project costs no more than \$225,000.
Eligibility	Eligible applicants for all WaterSMART Grants funding opportunities include states; tribes; irrigation districts; water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organization with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority; and nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity previously described. To be eligible, applicants must be located in the Western United States or U.S. Territories. Entities located in Alaska and Hawaii are also eligible to apply.
Examples	Example projects include Canal lining/piping, municipal metering, irrigation flow measurement, SCADA and automation, landscape irrigation measures, high-efficiency indoor appliances and fixtures, commercial cooling systems.
Additional Information	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/swep/index.html
Water Marketing Strategy Grants	
Description	Financial assistance for the development of water marketing strategies to facilitate water markets as a tool for helping willing buyers and sellers meet water demands efficiently in times of shortage and prevent water conflicts.
Funds Available	Program funding is allocated through a competitive process. Applicants may request federal funding up to \$400,000 for projects to be completed within three years with a non-Federal cost share of 50% or more of the total project cost.
Eligibility	Eligible applicants for all WaterSMART Grants funding opportunities include states; tribes; irrigation districts; water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organization with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority; and nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity previously described. To be eligible, applicants must be located in the Western United States or U.S. Territories. Entities located in Alaska and Hawaii are also eligible to apply.
Examples	Funding awarded under Water Marketing Strategy Grants can be used for outreach and partnership building, planning activities (e.g., hydrologic, economic, legal and other types of analysis), pilot activities, and the development of a “water marketing strategy” document.
Additional Information	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/watermarketing/index.html

Water and Energy Efficiency Grants	
Description	Focuses on projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings, including canal lining and piping projects, municipal metering projects, and Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and automation projects.
Funds Available	Applicants may request federal funding: (I) up to \$500,000 for projects to be completed within two years, (II) up to \$2 million for projects to be completed within three years; and (III) up to \$5 million for projects to be completed within three years, with a non-Federal cost share of 50% or more of the total project cost. No more than \$5,000,000 in total WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants funds will be awarded to any single applicant under this Funding Opportunity per fiscal year (i.e., an applicant may receive up to \$5.0M in FY 2023 funds).
Eligibility	Eligible applicants for all WaterSMART Grants funding opportunities include states; tribes; irrigation districts; water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, whose members include one or more organization with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority; and nonprofit conservation organizations that are acting in partnership with and with the agreement of an entity previously described. To be eligible, applicants must be located in the Western United States or U.S. Territories. Entities located in Alaska and Hawaii are also eligible to apply.
Examples	Projects conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of hydropower; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to water supply reliability in the western United States.
Additional Information	https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/weeg/faq.html

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)	
Description	Competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. Through creative problem solving and innovation, CIG partners work to address our nation's water quality, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations. Public and private grantees develop the tools, technologies, and strategies to support next-generation conservation efforts on working lands and develop market-based solutions to resource challenges.
Funds Available	Applications made a CIG funding notice is announced each year. Funds for single- or multi-year projects, not to exceed three years, are awarded through a nationwide competitive grants process. Grantees must match the CIG investment at least one to one.
Eligibility	The natural resource concerns eligible for funding through CIG are identified in the funding announcement and may change annually to focus on new and emerging, high-priority natural resource concerns. National and State CIG – all non-Federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply. All CIG projects must involve EQIP-eligible producers.
Examples	Projects may be watershed-based, regional, multi-state or nationwide in scope.
Additional Information	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/

Emergency Watershed Protection Program	
Description	The EWP Program offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural disasters that impair a watershed. EWP does not require a disaster declaration by federal or state government officials for program assistance to begin.
Funds Available	NRCS may provide technical assistance as services and/or funds to plan, design, and contract the emergency measures, subject to an agreement between NRCS and the Sponsor. Installation/Construction costs are not to exceed 75% or 90% for limited resource areas. Engineering/Technical Assistance is not to exceed 100%. No funds are available for real property rights.
Eligibility	Project criteria requires the project to provide protection from flooding or soil erosion; reduce threats to life and property; restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment; and economically and environmentally defensible. Eligible local sponsors for recovery projects include cities, counties, towns, conservation districts, or any federally-recognized Native American tribe or tribal organization.
Examples	Removal of debris from stream channels, road culverts, and bridges; reshaping and protection of eroded streambanks; correction of damaged or destroyed drainage facilities; establishing vegetative cover on critically eroding lands; repair of levees and structures; repair of certain conservation practices; and purchase of floodplain easements.
Additional Information	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewp-emergency-watershed-protection

Small Business Innovation Research	
Description	The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offer competitively awarded grants to qualified small businesses to support high quality research related to important scientific problems and opportunities in agriculture that could lead to significant public benefits. This program has two phases, Phase I is open to any small business concern that meets the SBIR/STTR eligibility requirements and Phase II is open only to previous Phase I awardees.
Funds Available	Funds are offered across 10 topic areas including: Forests and Related Resources, Plant Production and Protection-Biology, Animal Production and Protection, Conservation of Natural Resources, Food Science and Nutrition, Rural and Community Development, Aquaculture, Biofuels and Biobased Products, Small and Mid-size Farms, and Plant Production and Protection-Engineering
Eligibility	The SBIR/STTR programs do not make loans and do not award grants for the purpose of helping a business get established. The program seeks to stimulate technological innovation in the private sector, strengthen the role of small businesses in meeting federal research and development needs, increase private sector commercialization of innovations derived from USDA-supported research and development efforts, and foster and encourage participation by women-owned and socially and economically disadvantaged small business firms in technological innovations
Examples	Salary and wages for company employees, associated fringe benefits, materials and supplies, and a number of other direct costs needed to conduct the proposed R&D
Additional Information	https://www.nifa.usda.gov/grants/programs/small-business-innovation-research-technology-transfer-programs-sbirsttr

Watershed Rehabilitation Program	
Description	The Watershed Rehabilitation Program helps project sponsors rehabilitate aging dams that are reaching the end of their design life and/or no longer meet federal or state standards. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to local project sponsors to rehabilitate aging dams that protect lives and property, and infrastructure.
Funds Available	Across the Nation, watershed REHAB projects provide over \$2.2 billion in reduced flooding and erosion damage while improving wildlife habitat, recreation, water quality and supply for an estimated 47 million people. Costs associated with additional or new water supply storage purposes added to the rehabilitation project may be cost-shared with watershed rehabilitation funds. Eligible project costs are covered 65% Federal/35% Local of total eligible project cost, not to exceed 100% of actual construction cost. No more than 100% of the engineering/Technical Assistance will be covered.
Eligibility	Eligible projects are dams that were originally constructed through a NRCS Watershed Program, no longer meet current safety and performance standards, including dams past their evaluated life, and has current operation and maintenance.
Examples	<i>Information not available</i>
Additional Information	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/watershed-rehabilitation

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program	
Description	The WFPO program provides technical and financial assistance to help plan and implement authorized watershed projects for the purpose of flood prevention, watershed protection, public recreation, public fish and wildlife, agricultural water management, municipal and industrial water supply, water quality management, and watershed structure rehabilitation. The WFPO Program helps units of federal, state, local and tribal of government (project sponsors) protect and restore watersheds up to 250,000 acres. Nebraska Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has assisted public sponsors with construction of nearly 900 dams for the primary purposes of flood reduction and grade stabilization.
Funds Available	Nebraska has had over 60 approved WFPO plans providing over \$80 million in average annual benefits. The percentage of a project that will be covered by the federal cost-sharing varies by project purpose. Engineering and Technical Assistance is covered 100% for most project, except for Municipal and Industrial Water Supply projects. The percentage of installation/construction costs that are covered are as follows: Flood prevention-100%, Watershed Protection - Variable, Public Fish and Wildlife or Public Recreational Development - No more than 50%, Agricultural Water Management - Up to 75%, Municipal and Industrial Water Supply - no more than 50%, Water Quality Management - To be determined, Rehabilitation - No more than 100%.
Eligibility	Project criteria requires public sponsorship, be a watershed project of 250,000 acres or less, and have agricultural benefits that, including rural communities, must be 20% or more of the total benefits for the project. Eligible project sponsors include States, local governments, and tribal organizations.
Examples	Watershed Plans, flood prevention projects, drainage, irrigation, reservoir structure, dams.
Additional Information	https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/nebraska/nebraska-watershed-and-flood-prevention-program

U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Funding

Community Facilities Loans and Grants	
Description	This program provides affordable funding to develop essential community facilities in rural areas, an essential community facility is defined as a facility that provides an essential service to the local community for the orderly development of the community in a primarily rural area, and does not include private, commercial, or business undertakings.
Funds Available	<i>Information not available</i>
Eligibility	Eligible for areas 20,000 or less in population. Applicants are municipalities, non-profits, special purpose districts, and federally recognized Indian tribes. Eligible borrowers include public bodies, community based non-profit corporations, and federally recognized tribes.
Examples	Funds can be used to purchase, construct, and/or improve essential community facilities, purchase equipment, and pay related project expenses
Additional Information	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-direct-loan-grant-program/ne

Community Facility Rural Community Development Initiative Grants	
Description	RCDI grants are awarded to help non-profit housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities and federally recognized tribes support housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas. Funds may be used to improve housing, community facilities, and community and economic development projects in rural areas.
Funds Available	Grants are awarded with a minimum amount of \$50,000 and maximum of \$250,000. Funds are limited and are awarded through a competitive process. Matching fund requirement equal to amount of grant but in-kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds. Partnerships with other federal, state, local, private, and nonprofit entities are encouraged.
Eligibility	Open to public bodies, non-profit organizations, and qualified private organizations. Rural and rural areas other than a city or town with a population of greater than 50,000 people and the urbanized area contiguous and adjacent to such city or town.
Examples	RCDI grants may be used for but are not limited to training sub-grantees and providing technical assistance to sub-grantees on strategic plan developments, accessing alternative funding sources, board training, developing successful child care facilities, creating training tools, and effective fundraising techniques.
Additional Information	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/rural-community-development-initiative-grants#overview

Community Facility Technical Assistance and Training Grant	
Description	Provide associations Technical Assistance and/or training with respect to essential community facilities programs. The Technical Assistance and/or training will help identify and plan for community facility needs that exist in the area. Once those needs have been identified, the Grantee can assist in identifying public and private resources to finance those identified community facility needs.
Funds Available	Maximum grant award of \$150,000. Grant funds are limited and are awarded through a competitive process. Matching funds are not required, in-kind contributions cannot be used as matching funds, partnerships with other entities are encouraged.
Eligibility	Open to public bodies, non-profit organizations, and federally recognized tribes. Rural areas including cities, villages, townships, towns, and Federally Recognized Tribal Lands outside the boundaries of a city of 20,000 or more.
Examples	Webster County purchased a new ambulance and equipment with Rural Development funds (and other sources) and South Sioux City was able to build a new fire station with funding from USDA Rural Development (and other sources).
Additional Information	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/community-facilities/community-facilities-technical-assistance-and-training-grant#overview
Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (ECWAG)	
Description	This program helps eligible communities prepare for, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. A federal disaster declaration is not required, and this grant covers events such as drought or flood, earthquake, tornado or hurricane, disease outbreak, chemical spill, leak, or seepage, or other disasters.
Funds Available	Up to \$150,000 for water transmission line projects. Water Source grants up to \$1,000,000.
Eligibility	Primarily for residential purposes and are eligible for 10,000 or less population areas. Applicants are municipalities, special purpose districts (RWS), non-profits, and Recognized Indian Tribes. Applications are accepted year-round online through the RD Apply or through local RD office
Examples	Construction of waterline extensions, repair breaks or leaks in existing water distribution lines, and address related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply. Water Source Grants are to construct a water source, intake, or treatment facility.
Additional Information	https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/water-environmental-programs/emergency-community-water-assistance-grants/ne

U.S. Department of Energy

Grid Innovation Program	
Description	This program provides support for projects that use innovative approaches to transmission, storage, and distribution infrastructure to enhance grid resilience and reliability. Projects selected under this program will include interregional transmission projects, investments that accelerate interconnection of clean energy generation, and utilization of distribution grid assets to provide backup power and reduce transmission requirements. Innovative approaches can range from use of advanced technologies to innovative partnerships to the deployment of projects identified by innovative planning processes.
Funds Available	The Grid Innovation Program will invest up to \$5 billion (\$1 billion/year for Fiscal Years 2022-2026) in innovation and new approaches to transmission, distribution, storage, and regional resilience. The first funding cycle will include both FY22 and FY23, up to \$2 billion. Projects are subject to a 50% cost share minimum.
Eligibility	Eligible entities include a state, a combination of 2 or more states, an Indian Tribe, a unit of local government, or a public utility commission.
Examples	Transmission, storage, and distribution infrastructure to enhance grid resilience and reliability.
Additional Information	<i>Information not available.</i>

Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants	
Description	Grants provide funding to support activities that will modernize the electric grid to reduce impacts from extreme weather and natural disasters. This grant program will fund comprehensive transformational transmission and distribution technology solutions that will mitigate weather hazards across a region or within a community that can cause a disruption to the power system. Grants awarded under the program will fund transmission and distribution technology projects that seek to address hazards within a region or a community that can disrupt the power system, such as wildfires, floods or hurricanes.
Funds Available	Funding of \$2.5 Billion over five years from FY 22-26 with \$500 million available per year. Funding is capped at the amount the eligible entity has spent in the previous three years on hardening efforts. There is a 100% cost match for this program. The program includes a small utility set aside for those entities selling no more than 4 million MWh of electricity per year.
Eligibility	This funding opportunity is available to electric grid operators, electricity storage operators, electricity generators, transmission owners or operators, distribution providers, and fuel suppliers.
Examples	Infrastructure upgrades to strengthen and modernize the power grid against natural disasters that are exacerbated by the climate crisis.
Additional Information	https://www.energy.gov/gdo/grid-resilience-utility-and-industry-grants

Smart Grid Grants	
Description	Smart Grid Grants is designed to increase the flexibility, efficiency, and reliability of the electric power system, with particular focus on: increasing capacity of the transmission system, preventing faults that may lead to wildfires or other system disturbances, integrating renewable energy at the transmission and distribution levels, and facilitating the integration of increasing electrified vehicles, buildings, and other grid-edge devices. Smart grid technologies funded and deployed at scale through this program must demonstrate a pathway to wider market adoption.
Funds Available	The Smart Grid Grant program will invest up to \$3 billion (\$600 million/year for Fiscal Years 2022-2026) in grid resilience technologies and solutions. The first funding cycle will include both FY22 and FY23, up to \$1.2 billion. Recipients must provide a cost-share of at least 50% of the grant.
Eligibility	This program is open to domestic entities including institutions of higher education; for-profit entities; non-profit entities; and state and local governmental entities, and tribal nations.
Examples	Grid enhancing technologies such as dynamic line rating, flow control devices, advanced conductors, and network topology optimization, to improve system efficiency and reliability. Investments in optical ground wire, dark fiber, operational fiber, and wireless broadband communications networks.
Additional Information	https://www.energy.gov/gdo/grid-innovation-program

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Community Development Block Grants	
Description	Provides annual grants on a formula basis to states, cities, and counties to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.
Funds Available	HUD determines the amount of each entitlement grantee’s annual funding allocation by a statutory dual formula which uses several objective measures of community needs, including the extent of poverty, population.
Eligibility	Eligible grantees include principal cities of Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Other metropolitan cities with populations of at least 50,000, qualified urban counties with populations of at least 200,000 (excluding the population of entitled cities), States and insular areas. Eligibility for participation as an entitlement community is based on population data provided by Census. Each activity must meet one of the following national objectives for the program: benefit low- and moderate-income persons, prevention or elimination of slums or blight, or address community development needs having a particular urgency because existing conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community for which other funding is not available.
Examples	CDBG funds may be used for activities which include, but are not limited to: Acquisition of real property; Relocation and demolition; Rehabilitation of residential and non-residential structures; Construction of public facilities and improvements, such as water and sewer facilities, streets, neighborhood centers, and the conversion of school buildings for eligible purposes; Public services, within certain limits; Activities relating to energy conservation and renewable energy resources; Provision of assistance to profit-motivated businesses to carry out economic development and job creation/retention activities
Additional Information	HUD does not provide CDBG assistance directly to individuals, businesses, nonprofit or organizations or other non-governmental entities. https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg

CDBG Disaster Recovery Assistance	
Description	The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program has Disaster Recovery grants to rebuild the affected areas and provide crucial seed money to start the recovery process. These flexible grants help cities, counties, and States recover from Presidentially declared disasters, especially in low-income areas, subject to availability of supplemental appropriations. Since CDBG Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) assistance may fund a broad range of recovery activities, HUD can help communities and neighborhoods that otherwise might not recover due to limited resources.
Funds Available	Varies according to the state plan outlined by the state department of economic development.
Eligibility	CDBG-DR funds are provided to the most impacted and distressed areas for Disaster Relief, Long-Term Recovery, Restoration of Infrastructure, Housing, and Economic Revitalization. HUD will notify eligible States, cities and counties if they are eligible to receive CDBG-DR grants. Those who receive grant money include state agencies, non-profit organizations, economic development agencies, citizens and businesses
Examples	Funding can be provided to cover unmet needs such as local cost share funding from public assistance projects or hazard mitigation grant projects.
Additional Information	https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/cdbg-dr

Neighborhood Stabilization Program	
Description	The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) was established for the purpose of providing emergency assistance to stabilize communities with high rates of abandoned and foreclosed homes, and to assist households whose annual incomes are up to 120 percent of the area median income (AMI). NSP funds were used for activities which included: Establish financing mechanisms for purchase and redevelopment of foreclosed homes and residential properties; Purchase and rehabilitate homes and residential properties abandoned or foreclosed; Establish land banks for foreclosed homes; Demolish blighted structures; Redevelop demolished or vacant properties.
Funds Available	\$4 billion nationwide. Iowa receives \$21.6 million in NSP funding while Nebraska receives \$19.6 million.
Eligibility	States, certain local governments, and other organizations.
Examples	The NSP provides grants to every state, certain local communities, and other organizations to purchase foreclosed or abandoned homes and to rehabilitate, resell, or redevelop these homes in order to stabilize neighborhoods and stem the decline of house values of neighboring homes.
Additional Information	https://www.hud.gov/program_offices/comm_planning/nsp

U.S. Economic Development Administration

Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance (EAA)	
Description	The EAA provides funding to help plan, build, innovate, and put people into quality jobs in hundreds of communities across the nation. The Economic Adjustment Assistance program is EDA’s most flexible program, and grants made under this program will help hundreds of communities across the nation plan, build, innovate, and put people back to work through construction or non-construction projects designed to meet local needs.
Funds Available	Total Program Funding of \$500 Million with an award ceiling of \$10 Million and a floor of \$100,000.
Eligibility	A wide range of technical, planning, workforce development, entrepreneurship, and public works and infrastructure projects are eligible for funding under this program. Eligible applicants for EDA’s Economic Adjustment Assistance program include a(n): District Organization of an EDA-designated Economic Development District; Indian Tribe or a consortium of Indian Tribes; State, county, city, or other political subdivision of a State, including a special purpose unit of a State or local government engaged in economic or infrastructure development activities, or a consortium of political subdivisions; Institution of higher education or a consortium of institutions of higher education; Public or private non-profit organization or association acting in cooperation with officials of a political subdivision of a State. Individuals or for-profit entities are not eligible.
Examples	Public infrastructure related to economic development.
Additional Information	As part of the \$300 million Coal Communities Commitment, EDA will allocate at least \$200 million of the Economic Adjustment Assistance funding to support coal communities.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Clean Waters Act Section 319 Grants	
Description	Clean Water Act Section 319(h) funds are provided only to designated state and tribal agencies to implement their approved nonpoint source management programs. State and tribal nonpoint source programs include a variety of components, including technical assistance, financial assistance, education, training, technology transfer, demonstration projects, and regulatory programs.
Funds Available	Each year EPA awards Section 319(h) funds to states in accordance with a state-by-state allocation formula that EPA has developed in consultation with the states. Grant totals over the past 5 years have increased from \$155.9 million in 2013 and \$178 million in 2022.
Eligibility	<i>Information not available</i>
Examples	<i>Information not available</i>
Additional Information	https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2015-09/documents/319-guidelines-fy14.pdf

Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving	
Description	This cooperative agreement program provides financial assistance to eligible organizations working on or planning to work on projects to address local environmental and/or public health issues in their communities. The program assists recipients in building collaborative partnerships with other stakeholders to develop solutions that will significantly address environmental and/or public health issue(s) at the local level. Selected applicants, or recipients, are required to use the EPA’s Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving Model as part of their projects.
Funds Available	The EJCPS Program anticipates awarding approximately \$30,000,000 of Inflation Reduction Act funding through 83 cooperative agreements, organized in two tracks of funding. \$25,000,000 for CBOs proposing projects for up to \$500,000 each. Approximately 50 awards for up to \$500,000 each are anticipated under this track. \$5,000,000 for qualifying small CBOs with 5 or fewer full-time employees proposing projects for up to \$150,000 each. For more details about this opportunity, please review closely the “Small Community-based Nonprofit Set Aside”. Approximately 33 awards for up to \$150,000 each are anticipated under this track. Cooperative agreements will be funded for a three-year performance period.
Eligibility	Eligible entities include incorporated non-profit organizations, US Territories, Tribal government, either federally or state recognized, tribal organizations, and freely associated states.
Examples	In 2003 the Pacific Basin Development Council received this grant to build community resiliency.
Additional Information	https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-5

Urban Waters Small Grants	
Description	The mission of this program is to help local residents and their organizations, particularly those in underserved communities, restore their urban waters in ways that also benefit community and economic revitalization. The program recognizes that healthy and accessible urban waters can help grow local businesses and enhance educational, recreational, social, and employment opportunities in nearby communities. Projects should meet the following four objectives: address local water quality issues related to urban runoff pollution; provide additional community benefits; actively engage underserved communities; and foster partnership.
Funds Available	Urban Waters Small Grants are competed and awarded every two years with individual award amounts of up to \$60,000.
Eligibility	Eligible applicants include States, local governments, Indian Tribes, public and private universities and colleges, public or private nonprofit institutions/organizations, intertribal consortia, and interstate agencies.
Examples	An example of a past grant awarded was to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2015-2016 to provide technical assistance and training on stormwater and green infrastructure to small businesses and residents of under-served communities.
Additional Information	https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaterspartners/urban-waters-small-grants

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 (WIFIA)	
Description	The WIFIA program provides long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Borrowers benefit from a single fixed interest rate that is equal to the US Treasury rate of a similar maturity, an interest rate that is not impacted by the borrower's credit or loan structure, custom long-term repayment schedules with options to defer payment for up to 5 years.
Funds Available	\$20 million minimum project size for large communities, \$5 million minimum for small communities of 25,000 or less. WIFIA can fund a maximum of 49% of eligible project costs.
Eligibility	Eligible borrowers are 1) local, state, tribal, and federal government entities; 2) Partnerships and joint ventures; 3) Corporations and trusts; 4) Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs.
Examples	Wastewater conveyance and treatment projects. Drinking water treatment and distribution projects. Enhanced energy efficiency projects at drinking water and wastewater facilities.
Additional Information	Total federal assistance may not exceed 80% of a project's eligible costs. https://www.epa.gov/wifia/what-wifia

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services

North American Wetlands Conservation Standard and Small Grant	
Description	A competitive matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States that further the goals of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act. These projects must involve long-term protection, restoration, and/or enhancement of wetlands and associated uplands habitat for the benefit of all wetlands-associated migratory birds.
Funds Available	US Small Grants may not exceed \$100,000 and require a 1-to-1 ratio match for awarded grant amount. The US Standard Grant is for grants larger than \$100,000 and requires a 1-to-1 match ratio.
Eligibility	US Small Grants proposals are due in October or else will be considered an early submission for the next Fiscal Year. The US Standard Grant has a two deadline for proposals, one in February and one in July. Proposal submitted after July are considered ineligible unless clearly marked as an early submission for the next Fiscal Year.
Examples	Acquisition of land for the purposes of wetlands conservation, wetland restoration projects, wetland enhancement projects, wetland establishment, or other direct long-term wetland conservation work.
Additional Information	https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/north-american-wetlands-conservation-act-us-eligibility-criteria_0.pdf

U.S. Forest Service

Forestry Legacy Program	
Description	Focuses on private forest land that is faced by threats of conversion to non-forest land by urbanization, residential development. Providing economic incentives to landowners to keep forests as forest encourages sustainable forest management and supports strong markets for forest products. Landowners participate in the FLP by either selling property outright or by retaining ownership and selling only a portion of the property’s development rights; both are held by state agencies or another unit of government. Use of a conservation easement allows land to remain in private ownership while ensuring that its environmental values are retained. Program funded by Land and Water Conservation Fund, which invests a small percentage of federal offshore drilling fees towards the conservation of important land, water, and recreation areas for all Americans.
Funds Available	Previous year funds for Fiscal Year 2022 totaled \$88,878,955 across 14 projects.
Eligibility	Private Lands
Examples	Funded projects from 2022 include the Montana Great Outdoors Conservation Project, Oregon's Spence Mountain Forest, Wyoming’s Munger Mountain Corridor Initiative, and others.
Additional Information	https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/forest-legacy/program

State of Nebraska Funding Resources

In addition to federal grants, there are a number of state agencies and programs with potential applicability to supporting funding and implementation of mitigation projects. Many federal hazard mitigation grant programs are administered at the state level by NEMA and NeDNR, as noted above. These agencies will also likely be important in earlier stages of the hazard mitigation planning process by providing current hazard and risk assessment data.

While this section of the funding guidebook attempts to list as many funding options as possible, it is by no means a complete list of programs in Nebraska that could have the potential to support hazard mitigation project implementation. Similar to federal grant programs, many of these programs are dependent on yearly funding allocations, which results in fluctuations in their availability. The websites and reference materials used to provide this information are as current as possible; however, it is important to note that funding programs are dynamic and subject to frequent changes. While it is helpful to be familiar with the current information, it is equally as important to engage federal and state agencies in a dialog as soon as possible. State agencies covered in this guidebook include:

- Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy
- Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
- Nebraska Environmental Trust
- Nebraska Forest Service
- Nebraska Silver Jackets

Nebraska Department of Economic Development

CDBG Program	
Description	The Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, administered through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, helps smaller local governments fund community projects that might not otherwise be financially feasible. Through funding from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the program allows each community to determine which projects are most needed, with a focus on Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, Commercial Revitalization and Economic Development
Funds Available	Annually, Nebraska receives \$10.6± million for distribute to eligible applicants, plus prior year resources not obligated and program income. Congress may, at their discretion, appropriate supplemental CDBG funds in response to a natural disaster where a Presidential Declaration has been authorized.
Eligibility	Communities and counties whose residents are 51% or more low- to moderate-income, based on the American Community Survey Five-Year Estimate 2011-2015.
Examples	Flood control, drainage improvements, property buyout and relocation.
Additional Information	https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/programs/community/cdbg/

Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy

Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program

Description	With the passage of the Amendments to the Clean Water Act (CWA) in 1987, Congress provided for the replacement of the federal Construction Grants program with the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program. The program provides capitalization grants to state to be used as the basis (along with a required twenty percent state match), to create revolving loan funds which provide low-interest loans to publicly owned water and wastewater systems to finance water and wastewater infrastructure projects, and including, stormwater management.
Funds Available	\$28.2± million for DWSRF Program, plus \$28.35 million for Lead Service Line Replacement, and \$7.56 million for Emerging Contaminants. \$17.7± million for CWSRF Program.
Eligibility	Publicly owned water and wastewater systems
Examples	Municipal water and wastewater systems, and stormwater management.
Additional Information	http://dee.ne.gov/Publica.nsf/PubsForm.xsp?documentId=56E958FDC603A27A862588B50052EF8E&action=openDocument

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR)

Flood Mitigation Assistance	
Description	The Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program (FMA) is administered by NeDNR and provides financial assistance for either planning or projects that assist in decreasing long-term risk of flood damage to structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program. The FMA program has priorities to mitigate structures that have suffered repeated flood claims and those with severe repetitive loss.
Funds Available	Approximately \$800 million nationwide in 2022. Nebraska did not receive any FMA in 2022.
Eligibility	Municipalities
Examples	Project (structural or non-structural) to reduce or eliminate repetitive flood damage. This includes: Capability and capacity building activities, localized flood risk reduction projects, and individual flood mitigation projects.
Additional Information	http://dee.ne.gov/Publica.nsf/PubsForm.xsp?documentId=56E958FDC603A27A862588B50052EF8E&action=openDocument
Water Sustainability Fund	
Description	The Water Sustainability Fund (WSF) is a source of financial support to help local project sponsors achieve the goals set out in Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-1506. The Nebraska Natural Resources Commission (NRC) oversees WSF operations including application review, scoring & ranking, and awarding funding to successful applicants.
Funds Available	Of the annual funding appropriated by the Nebraska Legislature, ten percent is designated by statute for projects separating storm and sewer water. The NRC also reserves ten percent for projects requesting \$250,000 or less. A 40% local cost match is required of local project sponsors.
Eligibility	Political subdivisions
Examples	Projects that meet the goals and objectives of an approved integrated management plan or ground water management, projects that mitigate the threats to drinking water, improves water quality, contributes to water sustainability goals and water supply initiatives, reduces threats to property damage or critical infrastructure systems.
Additional Information	WSF applications are filed electronically between March 16th and 31st each year. The applications are typically reviewed during the second quarter with final determination made on each application during the third quarter. https://nrc.nebraska.gov/water-sustainability-fund-0

Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET)

NET Grants	
Description	The NET project will fund any project or portion of a project that achieves one or more of the trusts categories. These categories include habitat, surface and ground water, waste management, air quality, and soil management.
Funds Available	In 2023 the NET Board approved the NET Grants Committee's recommendation to fund 23 projects for a total of \$11,347,203. Grants are funded through the proceeds of the Nebraska Lottery, which determines the amount available to applicants.
Eligibility	There are no restrictions on applicants or project sponsors as long as the project falls within the eligibility criteria. Individuals, private organizations, and public entities may apply. For-profit organizations must demonstrate that the project results in public benefit and does not pay for private benefits. See our eligibility criteria for more information.
Examples	Mobile Prescribed Burn Unit and Education Outreach, Increase Fire Capacity & Rangeland Impact - Sandhills, Early warning: Monitoring for agricultural pests and disease vectors in western Nebraska
Additional Information	The Nebraska Environmental Trust accepts grant applications annually. Applications open around July and are due on or before the first Tuesday after Labor Day in September. Applications need to be submitted through our online grant application portal located at the following address: https://environmentaltrustgrants.org/

Nebraska Forest Service

Fire Shop (FEPP Program)	
Description	Through a cooperative program with the U.S. Forest Service, the Nebraska Forest Service is able to acquire and recondition vehicles which have become excess to the needs of the federal government. These vehicles can be loaned to cooperating rural fire districts. When no longer needed, these vehicles must be returned to the Nebraska Forest Service.
Funds Available	Fire-Fighting Equipment. The Fire Shop can also provide fire districts resources for reducing vehicle maintenance costs and provide routine complimentary maintenance checks.
Eligibility	Cooperating Fire Districts
Examples	Pumpers, trucks, CUCVs, generators, floodlights.
Additional Information	https://nfs.unl.edu/fireshop

Forest Fuels Reduction	
Description	Thinning of dense forests and removal of ladder fuels (ground vegetation that allows a fire to spread into the tree canopy).
Funds Available	Nebraska Forest Service reimburses landowners up to 75% of the costs for tree removal, piling and pile burning (if necessary); remainder paid by landowner.
Eligibility	Eligible locations include Pine Ridge, Niobrara Valley, and Wildcat Hills. State and private forest landowners are eligible to apply.
Examples	Thinning of dense forests and removal of hazardous "ladder fuels" from beneath trees.
Additional Information	https://nfs.unl.edu/fuels-assistance

Hazardous Fuels Reduction	
Description	Thinning of dense forests and removal of ladder fuels (ground vegetation that allows a fire to spread into the tree canopy) from private or state land adjacent to United States Forest Service (USFS) property.
Funds Available	NFS reimburses the landowner up to 100 percent of the costs for tree removal, piling and burning (if necessary). No landowner cost on eligible properties.
Eligibility	Eligible Locations must be adjacent to USFS property in the Pine Ridge. Eligible Applicants are State and private forest landowners
Examples	Thinning of dense forests and removal of hazardous "ladder fuels" from beneath trees.
Additional Information	https://nfs.unl.edu/fuels-assistance

Nebraska Silver Jackets

Nebraska Silver Jackets	
Description	The Silver Jackets are collaborative state-led interagency teams, continuously working together to reduce flood risk at the state level. Through the Silver Jackets program, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, additional federal, state and sometimes local and Tribal agencies provide a unified approach to addressing a state’s priorities. The Silver Jackets team is the forum where all relevant agencies come together with the state to collaboratively plan and implement that interagency solution. Through partnerships, Silver Jackets optimizes the multi-agency utilization of federal resources by leveraging state/ local/ Tribal resources, including data/information, talent and funding, and preventing duplication of effort.
Funds Available	Varies
Eligibility	Anyone impacted by flooding
Examples	Education and outreach, risk assessments, hydrologic studies
Additional Information	https://floods.nebraska.gov/index.html

Alternative Funding Resources

In recent years, states and communities across the country have sought and developed innovative funding sources as alternatives to traditional government grant programs. These funding sources fall into three main categories: Local Funding Options, Public-Private Partnerships, and Private Foundations. These funding sources will be important for current and future hazard mitigation planning efforts for several reasons including:

- Difficulty receiving pre-disaster mitigation grant and assistance programs at the federal and state level.
- Opportunities to fund projects that might not qualify or align with traditional grant and assistance programs. Funding programs seek solutions that reduce risk for a particular threshold (i.e., 1-percent flood) and meet absolute cost-benefit criteria that the agencies themselves must adhere to. Therefore, these programs are not able to support efforts that may help most of the time but don't meet these thresholds.

Local Funding Options

Local funding options are just what they sound like, using local funds for local mitigation projects. Local funds are also needed as the non-federal share or matching funds for federal grant programs but can also be used independently to fund a range of project types. Local funding options include the following:

Capital Improvement Programs

Ongoing civic improvements can include prioritized hazard mitigation projects or mitigation can be included as one aspect of a larger project. For example, improving the hydraulic capacity of a culvert or bridge to prevent upstream flooding while undertaking periodic replacements for end of service considerations is one example. Replacing windows in a school with shatter resistant glass as part of an overall renovation is another example. Capital improvement programs are generally funded with local tax revenues and municipal bonds.

Permits, Fees, and Developer Contributions

Communities can establish fees, earmark a portion of existing permit and fee structures, and/or establish requirements for developer contributions for new developments in hazard prone areas that can then be used to fund local mitigation projects. The proceeds can be accumulated in what is often referred to as a Mitigation Trust Fund and the uses are typically tied to specific project types or relationships with projects already identified in specific plans or documents such as a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP).

Force Account / In-Kind Services

Although there is a cost associated with activities of public employees, there are a wide range of activities that can be undertaken by local government staff and officials as well as interested parties on their behalf that would yield significant benefits. An example is public outreach and education for individual property owners, businesses, and institutions to reduce their risk through correspondingly inexpensive or essentially activities. This would include tapping into available education resources, promoting individual action, etc.

Property Owners

For a project that directly benefits one or more specific properties, the property owner can be asked to contribute. Through the hazard identification and risk assessment process, property owners can become better aware of their risks and options. Owners that recognize they have a real flood problem may be willing to pay a portion of the cost. In recent years, property owners have voluntarily agreed to pay the non-federal share (up to 25 percent of the total project cost) for FEMA HMA grants in some states. In some cases, the owners have paid even higher percentages of the cost. In addition, after a flood, owners may have cash from insurance claims or disaster assistance that they will be using to repair their homes and properties. By including the right floodproofing and mitigation project components into the repairs, the resilience of the property to future flooding may be improved. Having property owners contribute to the project can help stretch available local funds and gives the property owner an enhanced stake in the outcome of the project and incentive to make sure the property is properly maintained.

Individual Participation

Although mitigation is ultimately intended to benefit individuals, HMPs often neglect to integrate participation of potential beneficiaries into the process. The participation by individuals, including small business owners, is important for making sure the resulting HMP reflects community needs and priorities, but it also allows for the planning team to identify measures and options that individuals can take to reduce their own risk at a cost they can afford.

Public-Private Partnerships

Developing a public-private partnership is a phrase used frequently in a wide range of government programs, especially in the context of hazard mitigation. Participation of private sector organizations in solving their own hazard risk situations can be a low-cost and effective method. It also encompasses finding opportunities for public and private sector partners to share costs equitably for larger projects that require substantial funds to implement. Private sector businesses and organizations have their own cost-benefit calculations to perform but joint efforts may make the balance sheets work for both sides.

Private Foundations

Cultivating relationships with local, regional, or even national foundations with interests or missions consistent with hazard mitigation, community sustainability, climate change adaptation, and other related topics can yield successful results in terms of funding and other means of support.

There are many local foundations around the State of Nebraska, many of which fund programs that can be utilized for components of hazard mitigation projects. Many of these foundations only support non-profit organizations, so the applicability of these funds to projects depends upon the partners involved.