



GEMA



FEMA

FOR GEORGIA COUNTIES

Disaster News

June 17, 2009

GA-1833-NR-047

State/FEMA Media Contact:

866-993-0144

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED

ATLANTA - The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have scheduled a series of workshops next month to explain a joint hazard mitigation program that funds projects designed to reduce or eliminate damage from future disasters.

A portion of funding made available for disaster response and recovery is allocated for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The program provides grants to states, local governments and Indian tribes to implement long-term hazard mitigation projects after a major disaster declaration.

State and federal officials will be available to answer questions and provide recovery information to workshop participants and to anyone who is interested.

The workshops are being offered as a result of the April severe storms, flooding, tornadoes, and high winds that struck several Georgia counties. The workshops are scheduled at the following times, dates and sites:

- **Monroe County:** Forsyth – 2 p.m., July 8, Georgia Public Safety Training Center, 1000 Indian Springs Drive.
- **Wheeler County:** McRae – 10 a.m., July 9, Little Ocmulgee State Park, Pete Phillips Lodge.
- **Coffee County:** Douglas – 10 a.m., July 10, C.E. Weir Center, 200 East Bryan Street, Building F.
- **Pierce County:** Blackshear – 2 p.m., July 13, Pierce County Commissioners Board Room, 312 Nichols Street.
- **Mitchell County:** Camilla – 10 a.m., July 14, Mitchell County Emergency Services Building, 4767 Highway 37.

Examples of HMGP projects include, but are not limited to:

- Voluntary acquisition or relocation of hazard-prone structures for conversion to open space in perpetuity.
- Retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities for wildfire, seismic, wind or flood hazards (i.e., elevation, storm shutters, hurricane clips), including designs and feasibility studies when included as part of the proposed project.

(MORE)

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT WORKSHOPS SCHEDULED – PAGE 2

- Construction of “safe rooms”(i.e., tornado and severe wind shelters) that meet the FEMA construction criteria in FEMA 320 “Taking Shelter from the Storm” and FEMA 361 “Design and Construction Guidance for Community Shelters”.
- Minor structural hazard control or protection projects that may include vegetation management, storm water management (e.g., culverts, floodgates, retention basins), or shoreline/landslide stabilization.
- Localized flood control projects that are designed specifically to protect critical facilities (defined as Hazardous Materials Facilities, Emergency Operation Centers, Power Facilities, Water Facilities, Sewer and Wastewater Treatment Facilities, Communications Facilities, Emergency Medical Care Facilities, Fire Protection, and Emergency Facilities) and that do not constitute a section of a larger flood control system.
- Development of State or local plans that meet Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 requirements.
- Projects that improve the warning and communication capabilities of local governments for severe weather or emergency events.

The state’s priority for the HMGP is to fund projects in the counties included in the federal disaster declaration for severe storms and flooding from March 26-April 13. The goal is to reduce or eliminate damages to life and property resulting from flooding, high winds and tornadoes.

FEMA leads and supports the nation in a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation, to reduce the loss of life and property and protect the nation from all hazards including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters.

Disaster recovery assistance is available without regard to race, color, religion, nationality, sex, age, disability, English proficiency or economic status. If you or someone you know has been discriminated against, call FEMA toll-free at 800-621-FEMA (3362). For TTY call 800-462-7585.

FEMA’s temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for an SBA loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

###

For more information on Georgia’s disaster recovery, visit www.fema.gov or www.gema.ga.gov or www.ready.ga.gov or <http://twitter.com/GeorgiaEMA>