

2019 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Overview

What is mitigation and the PDM?

- Mitigation projects lessen or eliminate the effects of future disasters.
- Congress appropriates Pre-Disaster Mitigation dollars annually.
- Each of the ten FEMA regions receives a set-aside amount for which the states within that region can apply. Applicants/projects compete for the set-aside funding. For 2019, the set-aside amount for Region VIII was approximately \$575,000.
- States can also apply for unobligated PDM funds in other regions. Last year South Dakota received a total of \$1,210,676.41 in PDM funds.
- The PDM program awards planning and project grants to states, tribes, city, county, and township governments as well as certain private non-profit organizations such as rural electric cooperatives.
- PDM requires applicants to develop and adopt a comprehensive Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan that identifies the jurisdiction's mitigation goals. An approved Pre-Disaster Mitigation plan is required to receive any mitigation funds.
- Eligible projects include, but are not limited to, drainage improvement projects, power line burials, acquisition and relocation of structures out of a designated flood plain, and tornado saferoom construction.
- Eligible applicants complete and submit a PDM application to the South Dakota Office of Emergency Management. Applications can be submitted at any time and will be considered when the next round of funding is available to the state.
- Projects must be cost-effective, feasible and meet environmental and historic preservation requirements.
- South Dakota's State Hazard Mitigation Team, appointed by the Governor, awards funding to projects based on priorities outlined in the Statewide Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.

How is the State making PDM funding more accessible?

Currently, each PDM infrastructure project has the following project cost breakdown:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 75\% \text{ federal share (paid by FEMA PDM)} \\
 + \text{ 25\% non-federal share (paid by the applicant)} \\
 \hline
 100\% \text{ project cost}
 \end{array}$$

Starting with PDM projects awarded in 2020, the state will provide ten percent of the total infrastructure project cost. Now each PDM infrastructure project will have the following project cost breakdown:

$$\begin{array}{r}
 75\% \text{ federal share (paid by FEMA PDM)} \\
 + \text{ 15\% non-federal share (paid by the applicant)} \\
 + \text{ 10\% non-federal share (paid by the state)} \\
 \hline
 100\% \text{ project cost}
 \end{array}$$

Applicants may borrow the 15% non-federal share from the Emergency and Disaster fund, payable within seven years.

The addition of state dollars lowers the match requirement for local governments and encourages local participation in mitigation infrastructure projects. These projects will improve infrastructure resiliency for future generations, provide long-term solutions to repetitive loss situations and helps avoid reliance on federal dollars for recovery.