

LUZERNE COUNTY 2020

HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE

PREPARED FOR:
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Department of Planning & Zoning
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Luzerne County Hazard Mitigation Plan 2020

Hazard Plan Highlights:

- **2020 Plan had major changes from prior plans including more than 300 acquisition/demolition projects since the 2011 Flood.**
- **New Plan has 191 mitigation actions. Majority are flood related.**
- **Thirty High Priority Projects identified.**

Mitigation Project Funding Sources

- **FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**
- **FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)**
- **FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)**

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Objectives:

- **To prevent future loss of life and property due to natural disasters.**
- **To provide funding for previously identified mitigation measures that benefit the disaster area.**
- **To implement State, County, and Municipal Hazard Mitigation Plans.**

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Program Funding:

- Based on the percentage of funds spent on Public and Individual Assistance for each Presidentially declared disaster
- Federal law requires States and local jurisdictions to have a mitigation plan prior to receipt of HMGP funds
- For States/territories with a FEMA-approved Enhanced Mitigation Plan (PA), up to 20% of the total of Public and Individual Assistance funds authorized for the disaster (up to \$35.333 billion of such assistance) are available

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Program Funding:

- FEMA provides 75% match funds to States to fund post-disaster hazard mitigation measures.
- **For most disasters, State will provide 25% of total cost.**

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Eligibility:

- **State, County, and Municipal Governments**
- **Certain private non-profit organizations or institutions that own or operate a private non-profit facility**

The Eligible local entity managing the program can receive up to 5% administrative costs (set-aside) to run the project

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Eligibility:

- Projects on private property may be eligible for funding under the HMGP **only if submitted by a local government entity.** (County, City, Township, Borough, etc.).
- Participation in an HMGP project by a private citizen ***MUST BE VOLUNTARY!***

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Prerequisites:

- **County must have an approved and adopted All Hazard Mitigation Plan.**
- **Municipality must have participated and adopted the approved county plan.**
- **Projects must meet the FEMA, State, and local municipal strategies.**
- **Requested project funding must have been identified as a mitigation activity in the county plan.**
- **Project must be cost effective (BCR>1)**

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Eligible Projects:

- Property Acquisition and Structure Demolition
- Structure Relocation
- Dry Floodproofing of Historic Residential Structures
- Dry Floodproofing of Non-residential Structures
- Minor Localized Flood Reduction Projects
- Structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings
- Non-structural Retrofitting of Existing Buildings and Facilities
- Safe Room Construction
- Infrastructure Retrofit
- Structure Elevation
- Soil Stabilization
- Wildfire Mitigation
- Post-disaster Code Enforcement
- 5% Initiative Projects
- Hazard Mitigation Planning (counties)

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

State Priorities:

- **Acquisition/Demolition of damaged, substantially damaged, or destroyed homes**
- **Small structural projects using FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Software**
- **Other eligible State Initiative flood mitigation opportunities**
- **Development of County Hazard Mitigation Plans**
- **Home elevation projects**
- **Eligible business mitigation activities, e.g. flood-proofing or other resilient mitigation retrofitting measures**

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Cost Effectiveness:

- For properties in the 100-year floodplain
- •Acquisitions, if cost is \$323,000 or less*
- •Elevations, if cost is \$205,000 or less*:
- •The project is considered cost-effective and no further Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) is required.
- •For all other project types or properties that do not meet thresholds above, BCA is required

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Acquisition Projects:

- Local government is the applicant, ***not homeowners.***
- Must be ***voluntary participation.***
- Homes are demolished, land is owned by local government and must remain in “open space” use forever.
- PEMA recommends State certified appraisals of pre-flood value for purchase price.
- Some homeowner disaster assistance may be deducted from the final purchase price.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

Acquisition Projects:

- **All homes must be primary residences**
- **Owners must be U.S. citizens/legal aliens**
- **Environmental & Historic Preservation (EHP) Reviews**
- **Acquisitions may be rental units but tenant relocation costs must be included (Uniform Relocation Act)**
- **Mineral rights, gas drilling leases for acquisitions**
- **Federal Duplication of Benefits deductions (IA & NFIP)**
- **Open space uses, post-acquisition transfer of property**
- **Payments to owners are exempt from Federal Income Tax**
- **Only basic elevation costs to minimum level* eligible.**
- *** Minimum level is 100-year flood level plus 1.5 feet.**

FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

Program Highlights:

- The program reduces or eliminates the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and within NFIP participating communities
- Is Nationally competitive; offered on an annual application cycle.
- Appropriated annually with \$175 million since 2016.
- IIJA more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides
 - \$3.5 billion over 5 years, or \$700 million per year for Fiscal Year 2022- 2026.

FEMA Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

Eligibility Requirements:

- Subapplicants must participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). They cannot be on probation or suspended.
- All structures included in the project subapplications must be insured under the NFIP (before, during, and after the mitigation).
- Mitigation Reconstruction
 - Structures listed in the subapplication must have a National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy in effect at the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) application start date.
 - – It must be maintained for the life of the structure regardless of the flood zone.
- Acquisition/Demolition
 - Structures listed in the subapplication must have an NFIP policy in effect at the FMA application start date.
 - – It must be maintained until the transfer of property occurs regardless of flood zone.

Available Funding

**\$800
MILLION**

**TOTAL AVAILABLE
FMA FUNDING
IN FISCAL YEAR
2023**

Allocated up to **\$60 MILLION**

1 Capability and Capacity-Building (C&CB) Activities

- › Mitigation Plans
- › Technical Assistance by States to Communities
- › Project Scoping
- › Additional C&CB Activities

Allocated up to **\$520 MILLION**

2 Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects

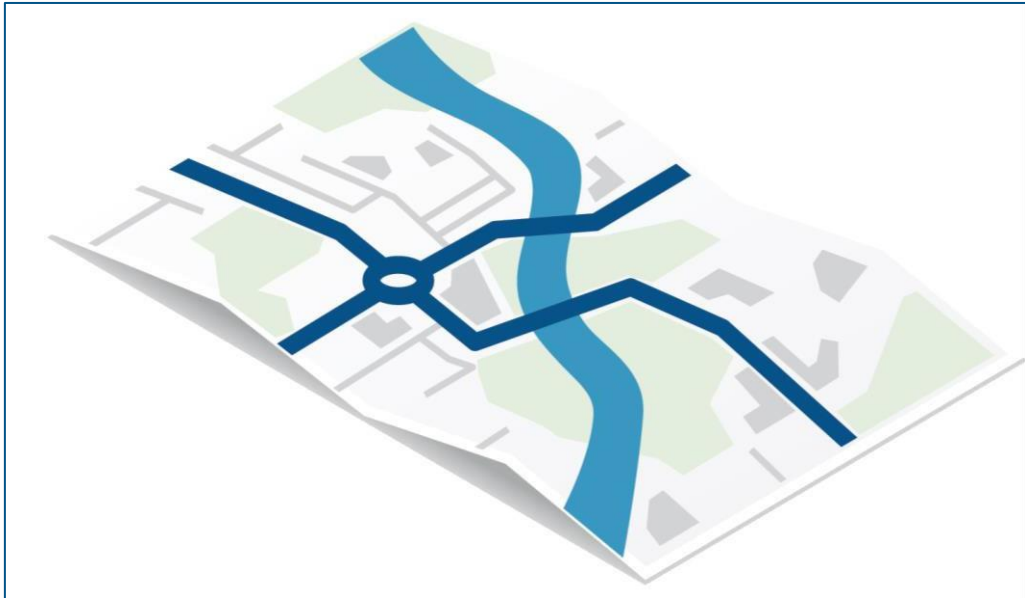
At least **\$220 MILLION**

3 Individual Flood Mitigation Projects

Note: Allocated funding amounts may be reduced by up to 10 percent due to the funding of state, tribal, and local management costs.

Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects - Up to \$520 million

- Up to \$520 million of Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects that address community flood risk for the purpose of reducing NFIP flood claim payments.
 - \$50 million activity cap per subapplication.



Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Floodwater storage and diversion.
- Floodplain, wetland, marsh, riverine and coastal restoration and protection.
- Stormwater management.
- Localized flood control projects with co-benefits to other hazards, as well as social and environmental benefits.



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Individual Flood Mitigation Projects – at least \$220 million

- At least \$220 million of Individual Flood Mitigation Projects that mitigate the risk of flooding to individual NFIP-insured structures and buildings.
 - No activity cap per subapplication.



Eligible projects include, but are not limited to:

- Acquisition and Structure Demolition/Relocation
- Structure Elevation
- Mitigation Reconstruction (up to \$220,000 federal share)
- Wet Floodproofing of Non-Residential Structures
- Dry Floodproofing of Non-Residential Structures
- Dry Floodproofing of Historic Residential Structures



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Fiscal Year 2023 Project and Activity Types

Individual Flood Mitigation Projects

Elevate National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) homes to mitigate future flood risks

Individual Flood Mitigation Projects

Acquire National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) structures and maintain open space

Capability and Capacity Building (C&CB) Activities

Cultivate partnerships to plan for future whole-community flood mitigation initiatives

Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects

Create a sustainable living shoreline

Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects

Restore natural floodplain function

Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects

Design nature-based solutions like a rain garden



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FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

Program Priorities:

- Incentivize natural hazard risk reduction activities that mitigate multi-hazard risks to public infrastructure and disadvantaged communities as referenced in EO 14008.
- Incorporate nature-based solutions. This includes those designed to reduce carbon emissions.
- Enhance climate resilience and adaptation.
- Increase funding to applicants that facilitate the adoption and enforcement of the newest editions of building codes.
- BRIC encourages mitigation projects that meet multiple program priorities.

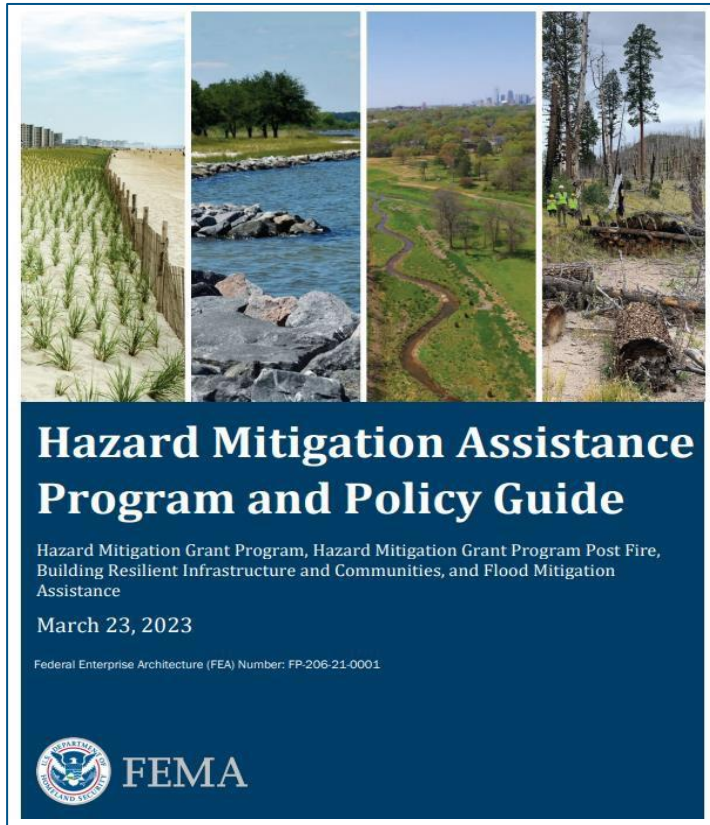
Available Funding

\$1 billion is available for the BRIC program in FY 2023

- State/Territory Allocation: \$112 million (up to \$2 million per applicant).
 - A total of \$1.5 million must be used for Capability and Capacity Building activities per applicant.
 - A minimum of \$400,000 must be used on any combination of Capability and Capacity Building activities and projects primarily benefiting Community Disaster Resilience Zones.
- Building Code Plus-Ups Added
 - State/Territory Building Code Plus-Up: \$112 million (up to \$2 million per applicant).
 - Tribal Building Code Plus-Up: \$25 million
- Tribal Set-Aside: \$50 million
 - The combined cost of the applicant's Capacity and Capability Building (C&CB) activities under the Tribal Set-Aside must not exceed \$2 million per applicant.
 - Up to \$1 million may be used for hazard mitigation planning and planning-related activities per applicant.
- National Competition for Hazard Mitigation Projects: \$701 million (\$50 million per subapplication)

Eligible Activities

View Eligible Activities:



Projects Must:

- Be cost-effective.
- Reduce/eliminate risk and damage from future natural disasters.
- Meet the latest consensus codes (i.e., 2018 or 2021 international building code).
- Align with the hazard mitigation plan.
- Meet all environmental and historic preservation requirements.

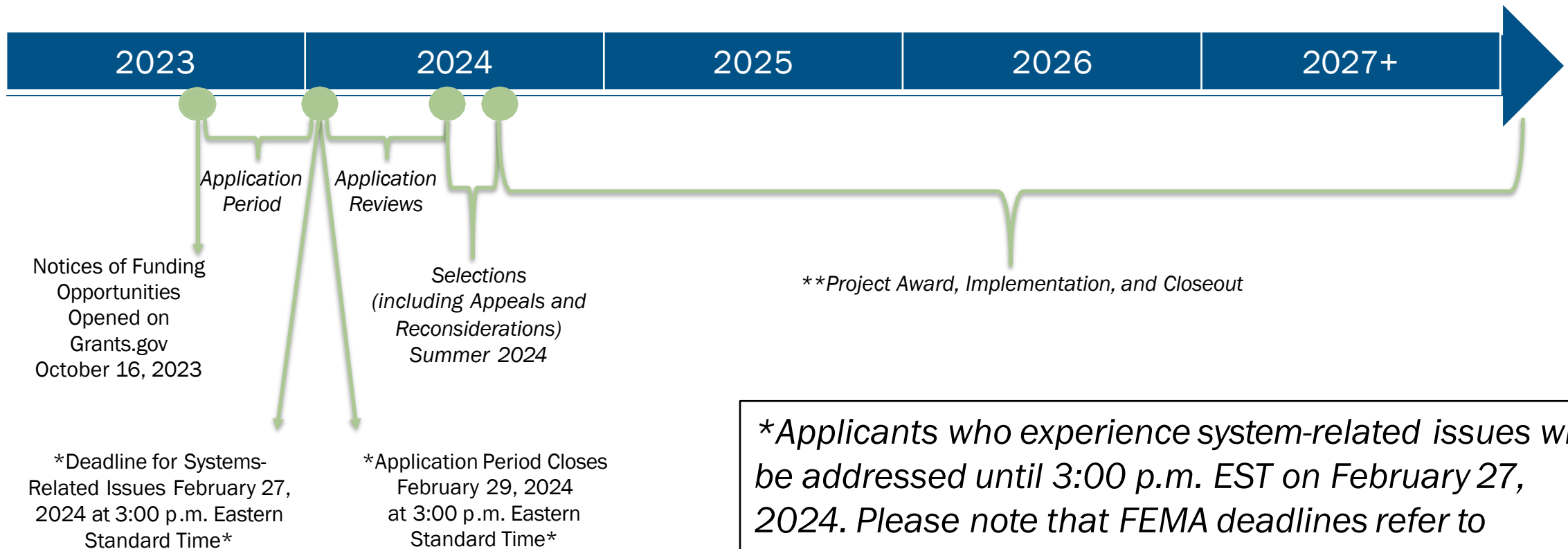
Considerations When Applying to Either Program

- Justice40 Initiative - Executive Order (EO) 14008
- Community Disaster Resilience Zones
- Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA)
- Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA)
- Phased Projects
- Eligible Activities
- Key Program Changes for FMA and BRIC in Fiscal Year 2023

****Consider Applying to Both Programs to Maximize Success****



Application Cycle and Funding Deadlines



**Applicants who experience system-related issues will be addressed until 3:00 p.m. EST on February 27, 2024. Please note that FEMA deadlines refer to application deadlines for the applicants. Subapplicants should consult with their applicant agency to confirm subapplication deadlines to the applicant if applicable.*

***This timeline may vary by project type*



Phased Projects



- Who should apply?
 - Communities requesting federal funding for developing and evaluating projects without assuming the risk of not being selected.
 - This is beneficial for communities that do not have the upfront capital needed to start project development. (Hydrologic and Hydraulic [H&H] studies, Benefit-Cost Analysis [BCA] etc.)
- What is the benefit?
 - Focuses on breaking down complex projects into manageable phases.
 - Allows for the development of all the technical and environmental information, including design, engineering studies and permitting, before issuing a full construction approval.



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Program Support Materials

Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)

- [FMA Website](#)
- [FY 2023 FMA Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO)
 - [FY 2023 FMA NOFO Fact Sheet](#)
- [FMA Resources](#) – Program Support Materials
 - FMA Capability & Capacity Building Activities
 - FMA Localized Flood Risk Reduction Project
 - FMA Individual Flood Mitigation Project

BRIC and FMA

- BRIC & FMA Benefiting Area Map
- BRIC & FMA Cybersecurity
- BRIC & FMA Cost-Effectiveness and Benefit-Cost Analysis
- Mitigation Action Portfolio
- Submitting Phased Projects for BRIC or FMA Funding

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

- [BRIC Website](#)
- [FY 2023 BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) (NOFO)
 - [FY 2023 BRIC NOFO Fact Sheet](#)
- [BRIC Resources](#) – Program Support Materials
 - BRIC Building Codes Activities
 - BRIC Hazard Mitigation Planning Activities
 - BRIC Direct Technical Assistance
 - BRIC Partnership Activities
 - BRIC Project Scoping Activities
 - BRIC Project Subapplicant Tips
 - BRIC Qualitative Evaluation Criteria
 - BRIC System-Based Mitigation
 - BRIC Technical Evaluation Criteria
 - BRIC Tribal Information

Additional Resources

- [Benefit-Cost Analysis Toolkit](#)
- [Building Community Resilience with Nature Based Solutions: A Guide for Local Communities](#)
- [Building Community Resilience With Nature-Based Solutions: Strategies for Success](#)
- [Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool \(CEJST\)](#)
- [FEMA GO system](#)
- [HMA Cost Share Guide](#)
- Property Elevation and Acquisition Job Aids:
 - [Elevation Job Aid](#)
 - [Acquisition & Demolition Job Aid](#)
 - [Acquisition & Relocation](#)
 - [State Floodplain Managers List](#)
 - [State Hazard Mitigation Officers List](#)
- Substantial Damage determinations:
 - [Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage Desk Reference](#)
 - [Substantial Damage Estimator Tool](#)
- [2023 Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program and Policy Guide](#)



FEMA

Helplines

- General questions about the BRIC and FMA programs can be directed to:
 - For Applicants: FEMA Regional Offices at www.fema.gov/about/contact.
 - For Subapplicants: State Hazard Mitigation Officers at www.fema.gov/state-hazard-mitigation-officers.
 - For immediate assistance, you may also contact the HMA Helpline: 1-866-222-3580
- For technical assistance with the FEMA GO system, contact the FEMA GO Helpline:
 - femago@fema.dhs.gov
 - 1-877-611-4700 (Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM ET.)
- For questions about cost-effectiveness and FEMA's Benefit-Cost Analysis software, contact the BC Helpline:
 - BCHelpline@fema.dhs.gov
 - 1-855-540-6744
- For questions about the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) or Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) requirements, contact the EHP Helpline:
 - FEMA-EHPHELPLINE@fema.dhs.gov
 - 1-866-222-3580
- For questions about FEMA's Building Science publications, contact: FEMA-BuildingScienceHelp@fema.dhs.gov
- For questions about FEMA's Safe Room publications, contact: Saferoomp@fema.dhs.gov

Mitigation Project Funding Sources

WHERE TO FIND HELP?

- **Luzerne County**
 - **EMA**
 - Lucy Morgan, Director
 - (570) 820-4400 or lucy.morgan@luzernecounty.org
 - **Planning Commission**
 - Matthew C. Jones, AICP, Executive Director
 - (570) 825-1560 or Matthew.Jones@LuzerneCounty.org
- **Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA)**
 - Tom Hughes, State Hazard Mitigation Officer
 - (717) 651-2726 or thughes@pa.gov

Mitigation
Project
Funding
Sources

