

Call to Submit Proposals for the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program

Interested Communities Must Submit Proposals by March 24

The Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (MSP/EMHSD) is seeking proposals for hazard mitigation projects from interested communities under the new Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund program by the March 24, 2023 deadline. The program, which U.S. Senator Gary Peters created and secured \$500 million in funding to kick start, provides low-interest loans for projects that reduce risks from natural hazards and disasters. An expressed community interest must be documented for MSP/EMHSD to apply for funding for these projects, and when funding is available, communities will be asked to submit a formal application to MSP/EMHSD. Interested local governments and Tribes should submit their proposals using this project information form: <https://bit.ly/3ExW5EB>

Q: What does the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Program do?

- The program was created by Senator Peters' Safeguarding Tomorrow Through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act. The law grants the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) authority to work with states and Tribal governments to establish low interest loan funds for disaster mitigation. The low-interest loans provided through the revolving loan fund program can be used for natural hazard mitigation projects.

Q: What are they calling for?

- The MSP/EMHSD needs community information so the state can apply for a capitalization grant from FEMA. The MSP/EMHSD must provide a project proposal list generated from communities to apply. If funding becomes available to the state, communities who complete the form will be able to submit a formal application for a loan.

Q: Which communities are eligible for these loans?

- The state will award low-interest loans to local governments and Tribes that have a hazard mitigation plan that has been approved by the FEMA. Communities that do not currently have a FEMA approved hazard mitigation plan can apply for funds to complete one. The State of Michigan will be able to offer a capped portion of the funding they receive for hazard mitigation planning loans.

If you have any questions, please contact Elise Lancaster at (313) 505-5615 or Elise_Lancaster@Peters.Senate.gov

To apply please visit: <https://bit.ly/3ExW5EB>

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Q: What are eligible hazard mitigation activities under STORM?

- Hazard mitigation activities include projects that address natural hazards ranging from drought, severe storms, wildfires, earthquakes, flooding, shoreline erosion, high water levels, and storm surges, including hazard mitigation planning projects. These projects can reduce natural hazard risks for homeowners, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and communities.
- Eligible projects could include stormwater management and flood walls to address flooding, and coastal or waterway barriers such as storm walls and breakers to address shoreline erosion problems, among other hazard mitigation activities.
- Communities can also use the loans as a non-federal cost match for other FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant applications. This includes FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program, the Flood Mitigation Assistance program, and Congressionally Directed Spending Pre-Disaster Mitigation projects. HMA programs generally are 75% federal funds and 25% non-federal.

Q: How does this differ from other FEMA mitigation grants?

- This program was created to be more flexible than other FEMA grant programs.
- Funding decisions on projects are made at the state level by people who understand Michigan and its unique threats rather than by FEMA.
- Communities can use these funds to mitigate against shoreline erosion and high water levels, which are generally not or rarely covered by other FEMA grant program.
- FEMA will not require entities to submit a benefit-cost analysis.

Q: What are they calling for?

- Communities interested in applying for a loan must complete the online project information form by March 24, 2023. The form is available here: <https://bit.ly/3ExW5EB>
- If there is adequate community interest in loan funding, the MSP/EMHSD may submit a grant application package to FEMA by April 28, 2023 to apply for funding.