

Montana State Library Funding Guide

Emergency Preparedness

Overview

The Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) administers grant funds to state, local, and tribal governments, as well non-profits, for the purpose of pre and post emergency or disaster related projects. Libraries can work with their local Department of Emergency Services to identify eligible activities and apply for these funds. This guide describes the type of eligible activities and the steps libraries can undertake in order to plan for emergency preparedness.

National Preparedness & FEMA Grants

National Preparedness Mission Areas

FEMA grants applications must demonstrate that projects advance one of the following mission areas of the National Preparedness Goal.

- **Prevention:** Prevent, avoid, or stop an imminent, threatened, or actual act of terrorism or other threats/hazards.
- **Protection:** Protect our citizens, residents, visitors, and assets against the greatest threats and hazards in a manner that allows our interests, aspirations, and way of life to thrive.
- **Mitigation:** Reduce the loss of life and property by lessening the impact of future disasters.
- **Response:** Respond quickly to save lives, protect property and the environment, and meet basic human needs in the aftermath of an incident.
- **Recovery:** Recover through a focus on the timely restoration, strengthening, and revitalization of infrastructure, housing, and a sustainable economy, as well as the health, social, cultural, historic, and environmental fabric of communities affected by an incident.

Project Types:

A review of past grant awards from FEMA programs provides examples of the types of projects that have been funded for libraries.

Mission Area	Project Type
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood proofing • Earthquake retrofitting • Firesafe features in the wildland-urban interface(i.e., metal roofs, ...) • Security measures to prevent other threats identified in the local pre-disaster mitigation plan
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures to protect collections from flood/fire or other disaster • Smoke Alarms • Cybersecurity
Mitigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach information for households/individuals on disaster preparedness & prevention (On-line or print materials) • Training for staff, community groups and individuals regarding preparedness measures
Response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades to Internet, equipment, and space needs for library to be an emergency operation center to coordinate response & provide Internet access to community groups during disaster • Public outreach during disaster (i.e., On-line public alert warning system) • Back-up generators so library can continue to operate during disaster • Cost to improve space and purchase supplies for library to be designated storm shelter during severe weather events • Cost to improve space and purchase supplies for library to be designated as a cooling center on days with extreme heat • Cost to improve space and purchase supplies for distribution of disaster kits and/or emergency supplies during a disaster
Recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide meeting space for outreach/technical assistance for households to apply for disaster assistance • Facility repairs for damage to library following disaster

Montana Multi-Hazard Disaster Planning

Montana Disaster & Emergency Services (MT DES) is the lead agency coordinating comprehensive emergency management in Montana. The State of Montana coordinates with local governments to maintain disaster plans that focus on planning, response, recovery, and mitigation. Each plan assesses the risks for various types of disasters, inventories critical infrastructure that should be protected and identifies resources for responding to a disaster.

Critical infrastructure are those assets, systems, and networks that provide functions necessary for a community to function. There are 16 critical infrastructure sectors that are part of a complex, interconnected ecosystem including communications, energy, transportation, emergency services, and water. Critical infrastructure also includes public buildings, historic structures, polling places and other facilities that are essential for national security, economic vitality and public health and safety. Under these definitions, libraries can be identified as critical infrastructure.

Based on the multi-hazard assessment, pre-disaster mitigation plans makes recommendations for state agencies, local governments, and other stakeholders to improve resiliency and increase the effectiveness of emergency efforts. There are several FEMA grants available to help implement these action items.

Each county in Montana has a multi-hazard plan. These plans often contain goals to coordinate with community groups on education and outreach and to use public facilities as communication centers during times of emergencies. Libraries that are located in high risk areas (i.e. areas subject to flooding) may qualify for prevention funding. Below are the steps local libraries can take to help implement the national preparedness goals.

Next Steps

STEP 1: Review current county Multi-Hazard Disaster Plan to determine if there are existing strategies and grant opportunities related to libraries.

STEP 2: Contact the local Department of Emergency Services to determine if there are potential partnerships with the libraries.

STEP 3: Update the library strategic plan to identify potential strategies and projects related to national preparedness goals.

STEP 4: Coordinate with the local DES and Montana Disaster of Emergency Services to apply for grant funding.

Web Resources

Federal Emergency Management Association - Grants

- <https://www.fema.gov/grants/preparedness>

Montana Disaster and Emergency Services

- <https://des.mt.gov/>

Montana Department of Public Health and Services – Individual and Family Preparedness

- <https://dphhs.mt.gov/publichealth/phep/yourpreparedness>

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency

- <https://www.cisa.gov/infrastructure-security>

Montana State Library, Disaster Planning Resources

https://msl.mt.gov/libraries/library_development/Directors/standards/Disaster-planning-resources.pdf

Prepared by:



<https://home.msl.mt.gov/>