

Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) Grant Program

The “Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act” or the “WIIN Act,” was signed into law on December 16, 2016. This created a new grant program under FEMA’s National Dam Safety Program (33 U.S.C. 467f). Section 5006 of the Act, Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams, provides grants for technical, planning, design, and construction activities for the rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams.

Questions?

If you have questions about the application process, visit the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams [webpage](#) on FEMA.gov or email the helpline at FEMA-NDSP-HHPDGrants@fema.dhs.gov for additional grant resources.

What is an Eligible High Hazard Potential Dam?

The use of “High Hazard Potential” is a classification standard for any dam whose failure or mis-operation will cause loss of human life and significant property damage.

Eligible Dams

To be eligible for Rehabilitation High Hazard Potential Dam funding, a dam must:

- Be located in a state or territory with a dam safety program.
- Be classified as “high hazard potential” by the state/territory dam safety agency in the state or territory in which the dam is located.
- Have an Emergency Action Plan (EAP) approved state or territory dam safety program or is in conformance with state or territory law and pending approval by the relevant state or territory dam safety agency.
- Be located in a jurisdiction with a FEMA-approved hazard mitigation plan that includes dam risk.
- Fail to meet minimum state/territory dam safety standards and pose an unacceptable risk to the public.



FEMA

Ineligible Dams

The following dams are not eligible for Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam funding:

- Federally owned dams
- A licensed hydroelectric dam under a hydropower project with an authorized installed capacity of greater than 1.5 megawatts
- Dams built under the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture

What Activities are Eligible?

Eligible Activities*

The HHPD Grant Program will provide assistance for technical, planning, design and construction activities toward:

- Repair
- Removal
- Structural/nonstructural rehabilitation of eligible high hazard potential dams

*Please refer to the Notice of Funding Opportunity on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) for each respective fiscal year to identify specific eligible activities for that funding year.

Ineligible Activities

None of the funds shall be used to do any of the following:

- Rehabilitate a federal dam
- Perform routine operation or maintenance of a dam
- Modify a dam to produce hydroelectric power
- Increase water supply storage capacity
- Make any other modification to a dam that does not also improve the safety of a dam.

What is the Role of the State or Territorial Dam Safety Agency?

Projects shall be approved by the dam safety agency in the state or territory where the dam is located.

Who Can Apply?

“Eligible subrecipient” as defined in the statute as non-federal governments and nonprofit organizations.

Dams that are regulated by tribes are not eligible to receive High Hazard Potential Dams grant funding. The Indian Dam Safety Act of 1994 establishes a Dam Safety Maintenance and Repair Program within the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Allocation

How Are Funds Allocated?

- One-third equal distribution among states or territories that receive a project application.
- Two-thirds among states or territories based on the proportion of eligible high hazard potential dams in the state or territory relative to the national total.

Are there Limits on Grant Amounts?

- A grant under this program should not exceed the lesser of (i) 12.5% of the total amount of funds made available; or (ii) \$7.5 million.
- Non-federal cost share requirement of not less than 35%, which may partially or fully be in-kind non-federal cost share.

What are the Applicant Requirements?

- The state or territory, and the community where the dam is located must participate in, and comply with, all applicable federal flood insurance programs.
- Have a FEMA-approved State/Territory Hazard Mitigation Plan that includes dam risks.
- Commit to provide operation and maintenance of the project for the expected life of the dam following completion of rehabilitation.
- Meet FEMA’s minimum eligibility requirements to ensure that each owner and operator of a dam is under a participating state or territory dam safety program.
 - The owner and operator will act in accordance with this dam safety program.
 - The owner carries out activities relating to the public in accordance with the hazard mitigation plan.
- Comply with the Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 42 section 5196(j)(9) – All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors or subcontractors in the performing construction through this grant shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on similar construction in the locality as determined by the U.S. Secretary of Labor.

- Have a floodplain management plan in place to reduce the impacts of flood events in the area protected by the project or demonstrate that it will be developed no later than two years after the date of accepting the award and be in place no later than two years after the date of completion of construction of the project.

Additional Resources

- Visit the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam [webpage](#) on FEMA.gov for additional grant resources.
- View the [Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams Grant Program Guidance](#) for more information.
- For any questions about the application process, email the helpline at FEMA-NDSP-HHPDGrants@fema.dhs.gov.