



UNDERSTANDING THE ALPHABET SOUP OF ACQUISITION

In an acquisition program involving the purchase of flood prone properties, the following alphabet reference terms are frequently used. To better understand the need for a single item, it is best to recognize its relationship to other elements required in the acquisition process. The terms are;

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds through HMGP, FMA, SRL, RFC, and PDM
2. HMP
3. BCA
4. BFE
5. FFE

1. FEMA Funding Programs

Federal grants for the purchase of flood prone properties by the state, county or local jurisdiction is available through 5 specific programs: Grants range from 75% to 100% of the acquisition cost.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)</i> 	<p><i>HMGP funds are available only after a Presidential declared disaster has been declared. Funding is based on the severity of the event.</i></p>
Annual H M Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Program,</i> 	<p><i>FMA funds are based on annual appropriations. Funds are available to communities with an approved HMP/FMA plan.</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Program</i> 	<p><i>PDM funds are based on competitive annual appropriations..</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Repetitive Flood Claims (RFC) Program.</i> 	<p><i>The RFC and SRL grant programs are designed to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flooding to NFIP-insured structures, and thereby reduce the number of claims paid from the National Flood Insurance Fund (NFIF).</i></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) Program</i> 	

Additional information can be found in NJOEM Handout 003 Fact Sheet

2. Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP)

To be eligible to receive the above federal funds, the State of New Jersey must have a FEMA approved Mitigation Plan in place as well as the county, or a municipality in which the property is located. The New Jersey State Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved in 2008 and is scheduled update/approval in 2011. Twenty of New Jersey's twenty-one counties have completed their plans and the final approval process of the plan is in process or has been completed.

Additional information can be found in NJOEM Handout 005 Mitigation Planning and Handout 51 Status of Planning.

3. Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA)

Also, to be eligible for funding the specific acquisition project must meet a positive analysis of costs that establishes a net benefit that would accrue when completed. Generally the BCA calculation is done by an engineer as part of the application development.

Additional information can be found in NJOEM Handout 033 Benefit Cost Analysis.

4. Base Flood Elevation (BFE)

The Base Flood Elevation is determined from the FEMA Flood Insurance Study or from the more recent digital information developed through the Map Modernization Program.. The BFE supports the acquisition of the property or the elevation of all living or occupied space above the level of all but the most severe flood events. More information on BFE can be obtained locally from the municipal Flood Plain Manager.

Additional information can be found in NJOEM Handout 052 Map Modernization.

5. First Floor Elevation (FFE)

When documenting an acquisition project, the FFE of each structure is documented showing the relationship of the first floor to the base flood elevation. Calculations for BCE are based on the first floor being one foot above the BFE.

As an example, if the BFE throughout the project area is 9 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum, all properties included in this project will be estimated to a minimum elevation of 10 feet.

Technical information on FFE specifics are readily understood by a Licensed Land Surveyor.

The purpose of this handout is to show the relationship of the information included in an application for FEMA funding assistance.

- To be eligible for a Federal FEMA grant from one of the funding programs, the jurisdiction must have a FEMA approved plan in place.
- The project must be cost effective to justify the federal funding.
- Each property to be acquired must be documented with information relating the property to the possible flood impact (the base flood elevation) and the severity of the flood based on its first floor elevation.

For more information Contact:

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