

November 22, 2023

Public Notice: Application of Hazard Mitigation Grant Program

Horry County is seeking grant funds to provide consultation resources for data collection and drafting of the Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The current plan includes 7 jurisdictions and 6 special purpose districts. The final deliverable would be a FEMA approved multi-jurisdictional all-hazards mitigation plan. Plan Sections would include, but not be limited to Risk Assessment (Identifying Hazards, Assessing Vulnerability and Development Trends), Mitigation Strategy, and Plan Maintenance Procedures.

Horry County will be responsible for facilitating and monitoring the proposed project. The statement of activities is available for review and comment online at <https://www.horrycountysc.gov/departments/community-development/public-notices> Interested persons may direct any comments or questions to Elizabeth Tranter at 843.915.7036 or tranter.elizabeth@horrycountysc.gov. Comments must be received within 15 days of this notice.

Statement of activities

Introduction

Horry County Community Development (HCCD) is seeking funding in the amount of \$196,875.00 in FEMA BRIC – Mitigation: Natural Hazards Grant funding to provide for consultation resources for data collection and drafting of the Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. Horry County will provide \$65,625.00 in match from the general fund to the proposed project. The entire project budget, to include FEMA funding and the County match, will therefore total \$262,500.00.

Identify the problem:

In order for a community to be eligible for certain pre-disaster and post-disaster grant funding assistance for mitigation projects, an approved and adopted mitigation plan is required. The primary purpose is to identify, assess and reduce the long-term risk to life and property from hazard events. Effective mitigation planning can break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. Some key advantages to having a viable plan include:

- Gaining an increased awareness and understanding of local hazard risks and vulnerabilities, as well as existing mitigation capabilities and activities.
- Identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing potential risk reduction measures including both mitigation project and policy alternatives.
- Engaging and communicating with the public, community leaders, other stakeholders on the assessment and mitigation of known hazards.
- Building partnerships by involving citizens, organizations, and businesses to more comprehensively address disaster risk reduction.
- Developing strong partnerships between planners and emergency managers to fully integrate land use and hazard planning efforts.
- Aligning disaster risk reduction strategies with other community objectives.
- Communicating local risk reduction priorities to state and federal officials.
- Increasing the speed and decreasing the costs associated with disaster recovery.
- Pre-identifying risk reduction activities that can be partially or wholly funded through existing mitigation grant programs, including but not limited to FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs, in addition to leveraging other financial assistance to support multi-objective projects.
- Making the hazard mitigation plan a meaningful planning document rather than a requirement that simply needs to be submitted to FEMA for approval.

Project description:

Horry County is seeking grant funds in order to find a well-qualified consultant or planning professional to review, rewrite and provide an up-to-date hazard mitigation plan. The project

would include an update to the current Horry County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan. The current plan includes 7 jurisdictions and 6 special purpose districts. The final product would meet the current State of South Carolina and FEMA standards for a hazard mitigation plan including all sections and incorporating applicable CRS language and assistance with the adoption process. The final deliverable would be a FEMA approved multi-jurisdictional all-hazards mitigation plan. The project would require community outreach and stakeholder coordination. Plan Sections would include, but not be limited to Risk Assessment (Identifying Hazards, Assessing Vulnerability and Development Trends), Mitigation Strategy, and Plan Maintenance Procedures. The project would involve the collection of data needed to accomplish these goals that may include conducting a HIRA or THIRA that incorporates the multi-jurisdictions and the special purpose districts.