



123 NW Highway 19  
Crystal River, FL 34428  
352-795-4216 P  
352-795-6245 F  
[www.crystalriverfl.org](http://www.crystalriverfl.org)

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# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Update on the use of hazard mitigation grants in Crystal River

**November 14, 2023** - With every declared disaster, FEMA provides funds for mitigation. These funds are used to address vulnerabilities in buildings, utilities, and infrastructure. The amount of funding depends on the damage caused by the disaster and is distributed to the counties by the State.

These funds are provided by FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and managed by the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). HMGP is a reimbursement-based program, meaning that the work is paid for by the property owner and then reimbursed by the program. Eligible applicants include State and local governments and some private non-profits.

The list of eligible projects under HMGP includes activities to mitigate damage to flood-prone properties. If a structure qualifies for the program, 75% of the cost to mitigate a structure will be reimbursed by FEMA.

The city began the application process. The Florida Division of Emergency Management anticipates announcement of this program in January 2024. When the application period opens, the City will distribute information through its regular media outlets with guidance and steps to take for interested property owners. These property owners will be required to provide documentation for the application and work with the city to ensure all documents are available. Do not demolish your house or begin work to elevate your home without first discussing your plans with the permitting office.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides funding for long term mitigation activities that reduce the chances of damage in the future. It is not an emergency or recovery program. The application and award process can take up to two years in some cases.

For more information on the City of Crystal River, visit the City's website, [www.crystalriverfl.org](http://www.crystalriverfl.org), or follow them on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cityofcrystalriver](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcrystalriver).