

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHARLESTON, W.Va. – The West Virginia Emergency Management Division, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is proud to announce the launch of a <u>Public Service Announcement</u> (PSA) aimed at encouraging West Virginians to apply for <u>Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants</u>.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants are designed to reduce the risk and impact of natural disasters in our state by providing funding for eligible projects that enhance resilience and mitigate potential hazards. These projects can include home elevation or rebuilding a more resilient home. By actively participating in hazard mitigation, residents, local governments, and organizations in West Virginia can take proactive steps to protect their communities and help build a safer, more resilient state.

Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants play a vital role in strengthening our state's ability to prepare for and respond to natural disasters, ultimately saving lives and reducing property damage.

West Virginians who wish to apply to Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants must do so by contacting their <u>County Commission</u>, <u>local</u> <u>emergency management agency</u>, or county Floodplain Manager before December 31, 2023.

WVEMD Director GE McCabe highlights the crucial role played by Gov. Justice's administration as well as West Virginia's FEMA partners.

"Preparedness and mitigation are essential in safeguarding our communities from the impact of disasters. We're pleased to collaborate with Gov. Justice and FEMA in encouraging West Virginians to take advantage of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants. By doing so, we are investing in a safer and more resilient future for our state." FEMA Region 3 Administrator MaryAnn Tierney echoed McCabe's sentiments. "Flooding is the No. 1 disaster that hits West Virginia nearly every year. Participating in the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program can enable residents to make their homes less vulnerable to flood damage or help whole communities reduce the path of destruction caused by high water. We're pleased and proud to support West Virginia Emergency Management in their efforts to help West Virginians write their own mitigation success stories."

To learn more about the Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants and how to apply, please visit <u>https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation</u>.

For further information, please contact the West Virginia Emergency Management Division at 304-558-5380 or email <u>WVHMGP@wv.gov</u>, or the Federal Emergency Management Agency at 215-931-5597 or

email FEMAR3NewsDesk@fema.dhs.gov.

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FEMA's mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters. FEMA Region 3's jurisdiction includes Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia.

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