



# City of Austin

## Recommendation for Action

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**File #:** 24-3832, **Agenda Item #:** 21.

2/15/2024

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### **Posting Language**

Approve a resolution authorizing the submission of an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Mitigation Assistance grant program to fund flood education and outreach services.

### **Lead Department**

Watershed Protection Department.

### **Fiscal Note**

This item has no fiscal impact.

### **For More Information:**

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### **Additional Backup Information:**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program is an annual competitive program that provides funding to states, federally recognized tribal governments, U.S. territories, and local governments. Pursuant to the 1994 National Flood Insurance Reform Act, these funds are used for projects that reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings insured by the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

On October 12, 2023, FEMA published the fiscal year 2023 notice of funding opportunity for the FMA grant program with an application submission deadline of February 29, 2024. For this grant application cycle, the available funding is \$60 million for the Capability and Capacity Building Activities category. These funds are used to address the threat of natural disasters, foster greater community resilience, and reduce disaster suffering. FEMA chooses recipients based on the applicant's ranking of the project, its eligibility, and its cost-effectiveness. The Texas Water Development Board serves as the State pass-through agency.

The Capability and Capacity Building Activities category offers two federal cost-share options: (1) up to 90% federal cost-share funding if the average Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Social Vulnerability Index score is not less than 0.5001 for the benefiting area(s) and the activity is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, or (2) up to 75% federal cost-share funding if a higher federal cost share is not available.

The Watershed Protection Department (WPD) intends to submit a grant application for flood education and outreach services that seeks the maximum federal funding amount of \$300,000, with a 75 % or a 90% federal cost share. The grant would fund activities in three socially vulnerable areas located within the 100-year floodplain, as determined by current NFIP data, in north, south, and southeast Austin. As part of these efforts,

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educational materials regarding flood insurance, floodproofing, and disaster recovery will be translated into multiple languages. In partnership with community-based organizations and stakeholders, critical emergency supplies will be distributed at community engagement events that include interpretation services. Participants will learn about the ATXFloods website and register for WarnCentralTexas to receive emergency notifications.

If the funds are awarded, the City will be required to contribute matching funds. In that event, WPD will return to City Council for authorization to accept the federal funds and to contribute the local match. Matching funds are available in WPD's annual operating budget.