

South Carolina Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund

Hazard mitigation project low-interest loan opportunity



What: Potential for low-interest (1%) loan to fund qualifying mitigation projects or non-federal match for eligible mitigation projects

Who: Eligible applicants are local government entities in South Carolina that have adopted a FEMA-approved local hazard mitigation plan

Due date for project letter of interest: **April 14, 2023**, to SCEMD (*Letter of Interest Form attached*)

Eligible project types include:

- Projects that mitigate impacts/risk from natural hazards including drought, extreme heat, severe storm, hurricane, wildfire, flood, earthquake, storm surge, and coastal erosion.
- Adoption and enforcement of more recent published editions of relevant building codes, specifications, and standards for the purpose of protecting health, safety, and general welfare of buildings' users against disasters and natural hazards.
- Local government implementation of zoning and land use planning changes focused on:
 - Development or improvement of zoning and land use codes that incentivize and courage low-impact development; wildland-urban interface land management; natural infrastructure; green stormwater management; conservation management adjacent to floodplains; implementation of watershed or greenway master plan, or reconnection of floodplains.
 - Creation of land use incentives that reward developers for increasing reliance on low impact development, stormwater management best practices, increased open space and improvement of neighborhood catch basins to mitigate urban flooding, augmenting natural infrastructure adjacent to construction projects, or addressing minimizing wildfire ignition.
 - Study and creation of an erosion response plan that accommodates river, lake, forest, plains, and ocean shoreline retreat or bluff stabilization based on increased flooding and hazard impacts.
 - Study and creation of agricultural risk compensation districts to remove or set back levees protecting developed agricultural land, allowing agricultural producers to be compensated for assuming increased flood risk as part of efforts to mitigate flood impacts on nearby or downstream populations and critical infrastructure.

Next steps and timing: Additional detail will be provided to entities that submit letters of interest, and a virtual information session will be offered March 16, 2023.

After the end of the six-week public notice period and review of proposed projects based on federal and state priority criteria, SCEMD will prepare an Intended Use Plan, with projects to be included, and will make the Intended Use Plan available for public comment from April 19 to April 25. SCEMD will finalize and submit its application to FEMA by April 28. FEMA will review and determine if South Carolina's application merits award of an initial capitalization grant for the revolving loan fund. Loans will be initiated within two years of start of the loan program.

Email your jurisdiction's letter of interest and form (attached; also available at <https://scemd.org/stay-informed/notices-and-agenda/>) to mitigation@emd.sc.gov no later than April 14. For more information or to ask questions, email mitigation@emd.sc.gov.

South Carolina Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Program Letter of Interest

To: South Carolina Emergency Management Division

From: _____ *(county or local government)*

Re: Interest in applying for low-interest loan to support hazard mitigation project

With this letter, the _____ *(county/local government entity)* submits its interest in the project described on the following pages being included in South Carolina's Intended Use Plan for the Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Program. The jurisdiction understands that the award of funds to the state will be determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and if loans are made available to the state, project eligibility and compliance with federal regulations and repayment terms and reporting will be addressed with the jurisdiction before a loan is approved.

For jurisdiction:

Signature

Title

Date

SC Safeguarding Tomorrow Revolving Loan Fund Project Proposal Form

Name of person completing form

Title

Phone number

Email address

Project title

Loan applicant/borrower (county/local government entity)

Community name(s)

Community Identification Number (CID)

County(ies) where project will occur

Census tract(s) where project will occur, if known

Community Rating System Class Rating

Project type (if not listed, complete manually)

If Other, Please specify:

Will this loan be used towards the non-federal cost share for a grant under another grant program?

Primary Safeguarding Tomorrow RLF Program priority (select one from dropdown)

What type of vulnerable area(s) does the project affect? (select one, if applicable)

Major economic sector (if applicable) (select one from dropdown)

What community lifeline does the project stabilize? (select one from dropdown)

Project description

Primary hazard listed in the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan to be mitigated by the project

Additional hazard mitigated by the project, if applicable

Estimated total cost

Loan amount to be requested

Population served (number of residents)

Project anticipated start date

Project anticipated end date

Identify the county/local government's revenue stream to support the project loan repayment.

Return this letter of interest form to mitigation@emd.sc.gov by April 14, 2023.