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Subject: New Funding Available for Wildfire Mitigation

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I wanted to give you a heads-up on an important new source of funds that will soon be available to help mitigate wildfire on non-federal lands. On January 3, 2014, the state will invite all eligible applicants to submit Notices of Interest (NOI) for the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). The NOI will be posted at www.coemergency.com and will be **due by January 31, 2013**. This is a short turn-around so I wanted to give you as much notice as possible.

The HMGP program is funded by FEMA based on a percentage of federal flood disaster dollars that are spent in the state. The state will set-aside at least 15% of funds for wildfire mitigation projects, **and projects anywhere in the state are eligible**. The total numbers are unclear at this point, but it looks like somewhere between **\$4.5 million and \$7.5 million** will be available. The state will prioritize applications from communities who have adopted wildfire codes, and eligible projects include **defensible space, ignition-resistant construction, and hazardous fuels reduction**. Projects that are NOT eligible include those that primarily address ecological or agricultural issues, forest management, prescribed burning, clear-cutting, or projects more than two miles from a structure. Projects on federal lands are not eligible.

This is a major opportunity to help mitigate wildfire in communities across our state. Additional background on the HMGP program, including eligibility, cost-share, and roles and responsibilities, can be found [here](#) and the state's applicant briefing materials are [here](#) (note that the applicant briefing is focused on flood recovery, but the HMGP information is still relevant).

Please let me know if I can help you with any additional information.

And as a side note, The Udall-Inhofe Wildfire Mitigation bill – S. 1396 – would add funding to this program automatically. Please let me know if you would like more information about S.1396 and we continue to collect letters of support.

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