Transforming Oklahoma's Hazard Mitigation Program: A New Era of Effectiveness and Transparency

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September 23, 2025

Agenda

- Current State of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance

- OEM's Priorities for Program Transformation

- OEM's Progress to Date

- Open Funding Opportunities

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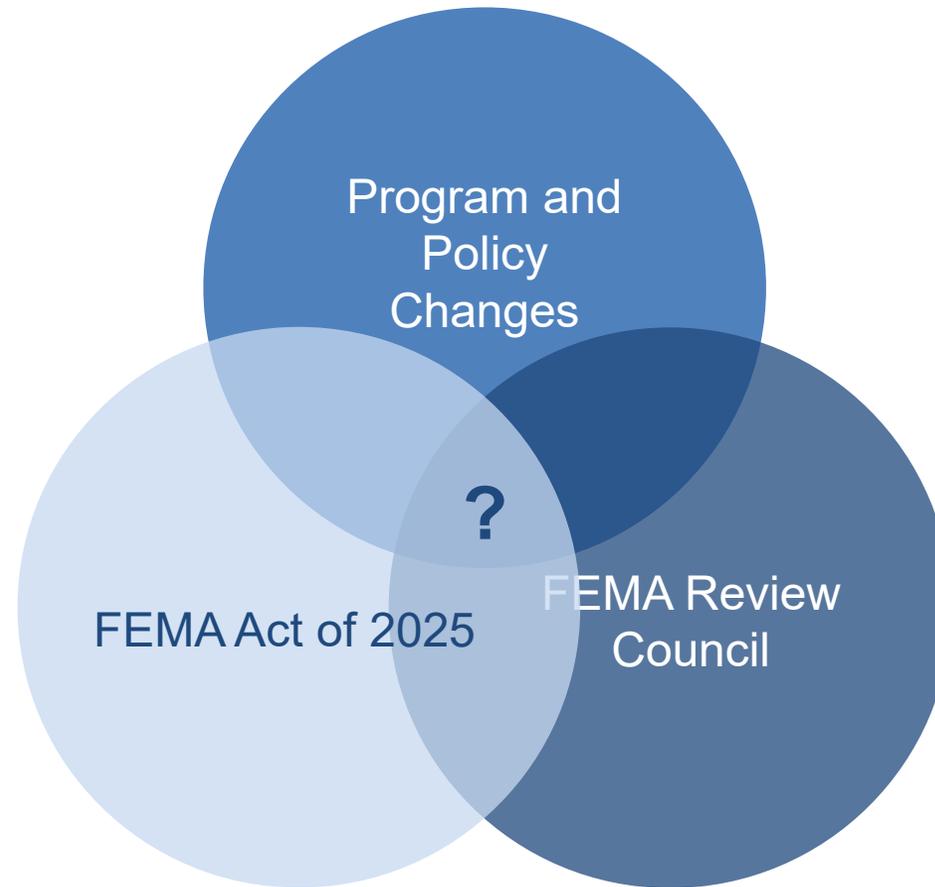Resilience Practice

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Current State of Hazard Mitigation

So, what's the current state of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)?

Program and Policy Changes (2025)

Program Eliminations or Reallocations under Review
In **April**, FEMA announced it was ending the FEMA BRIC program, and portions of the funding may be reallocated. Some states are pursuing litigation to preserve funds, and in **August**, a federal judge issued an injunction.

Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Discount Rate Reverted back to 7%
In **April**, the OMB revoked the 3.1% discount rate and reinstated the older 7% rate. FEMA also tightened the use of social benefits in its analyses.

Delay in FMA and HMGP Funding Streams
FEMA has delayed accepting applications for the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program and FEMA hasn't authorized the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) since **May**.

FEMA's Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide (2025)
Updated in **July,** this update removes climate change and equity requirements, streamlines regulatory references, and introduces a new companion handbook for locals.

FEMA HMA Program & Policy Guide Updated
Version 2.1, released in **August**, incorporates regulatory updates, revised eligibility requirements, and alignment with recent executive orders to clarify program priorities

Fixing Emergency Management for Americans (FEMA) Act of 2025 – Proposed HMA Reforms

Pre-Approved Mitigation Projects
Proposes that states can submit mitigation project plans for preapproval. Approved projects qualify for expedited funding and a higher federal cost share (up to 85%).

Pre-Disaster Mitigation/BRIC Reform
Proposes that the BRIC program shifts from competitive grants to formula-based funding: 40% baseline to all states; 20% based on risk; 20% on population and income; 20% for distressed, rural, and tribal areas.

Allows Matching Mitigation Dollars
Proposes combining funds from different Stafford Act programs (BRIC, HMGP, etc.) for "large," "innovative projects." Provides upfront advances for homeowner retrofits, to prevent cost-reimbursement delays.

Consolidated Grant Application
Proposes a single application covering Sections 203 (PDM), 404 (HMGP), FMA, and preapproved projects. This streamlines the application process and speeds up the obligation of funds.

FEMA Review Council

In response to the FEMA Review Council's Request for Information (RFI), more than 400 responders emphasized the importance of federal support for pre- and post-disaster hazard mitigation programs.

"Mitigation is probably and perhaps the most misunderstood vertical of emergency management. Mitigation saves lives."
– FEMA Review Council Member

"FEMA's Hazard Mitigation and Homeland Security grants are essential for preparedness and faster recovery."
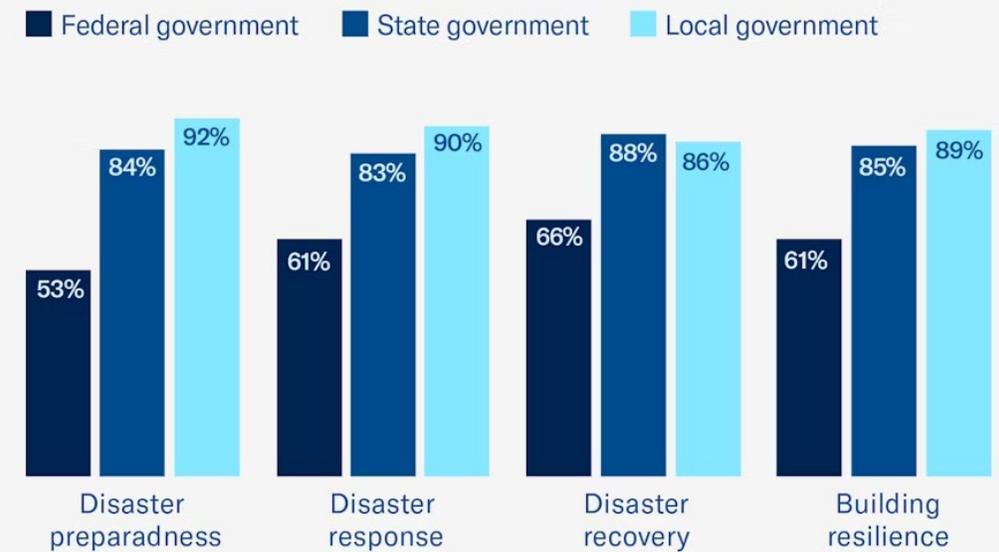*- FEMA Review Council Speaker*

"Mitigation saves lives, it protects property, it reduces the cost of future disasters."
- FEMA Review Council Member

So, what is the current state of FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA)?

1. Shifts in hazard mitigation program delivery are on the horizon - change is certain.

2. Hazard mitigation enjoys continuing, broad bipartisan support.

3. Future hazard mitigation delivery models will prioritize state-led implementation.

4. State programs must remain flexible to adapt to evolving priorities and designs.

How much of a role should the following play in...
Percent Very/Somewhat Prepared

- Federal government
- State government
- Local government

	Federal government	State government	Local government
Disaster preparedness	53%	84%	92%
Disaster response	61%	83%	90%
Disaster recovery	66%	88%	86%
Building resilience	61%	85%	89%

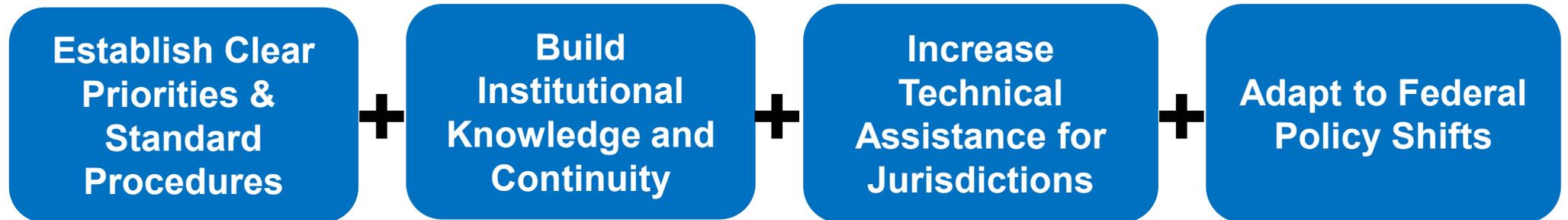*Source: US Chamber of Commerce Foundation*

Priorities for Mitigation Program Transformation

Priorities for Transformation

Establish Clear Priorities & Standard Procedures + **Build Institutional Knowledge and Continuity** + **Increase Technical Assistance for Jurisdictions** + **Adapt to Federal Policy Shifts**
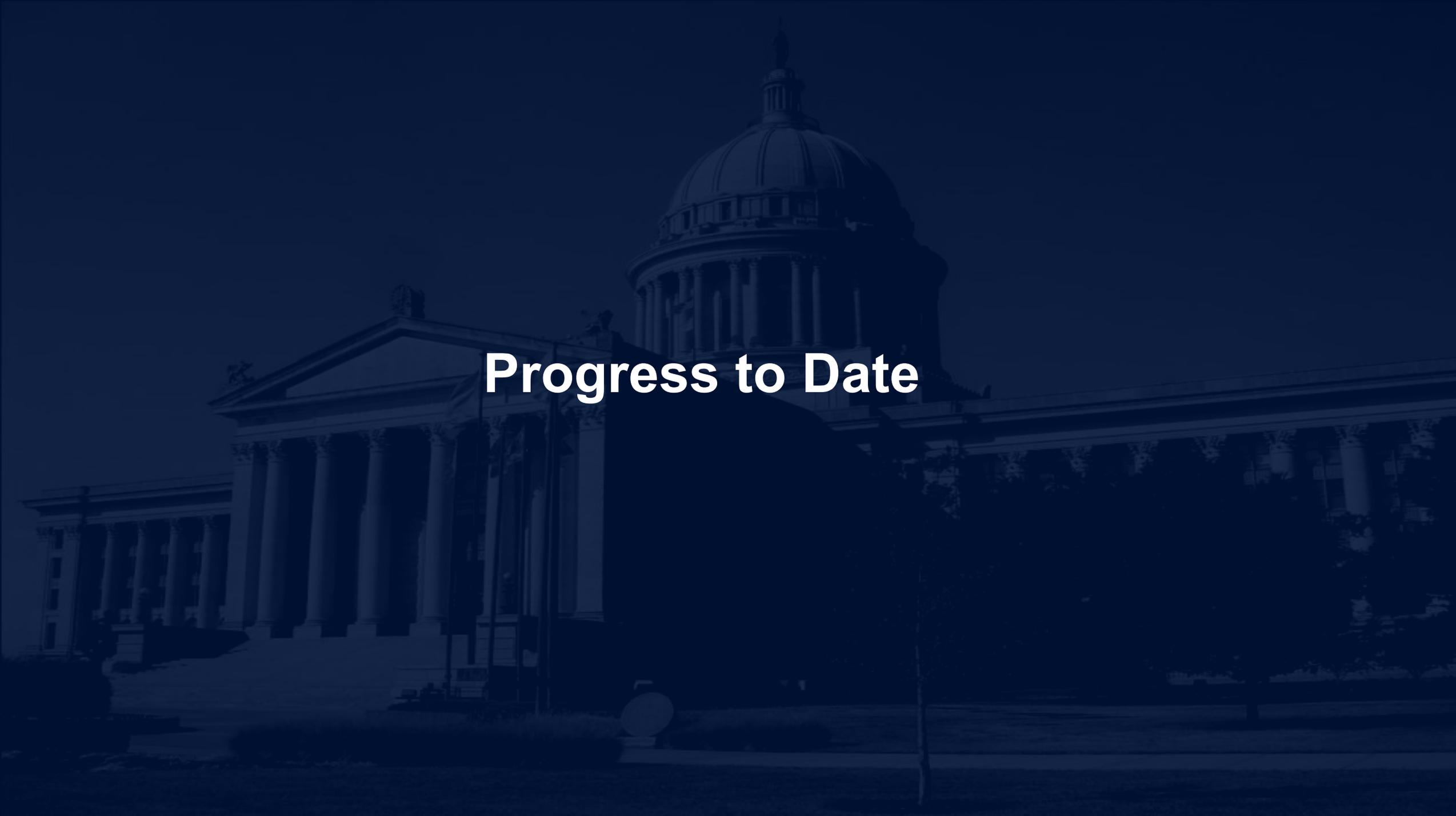
Goals of New Mitigation Program

- Build a more **transparent** and **effective** state mitigation program under the vision of OEM leadership

- **Increase public awareness** of available mitigation funding

- Streamline and **accelerate funding delivery** to communities

- Simplify and improve **outreach, guidance, and technical assistance** for jurisdictions

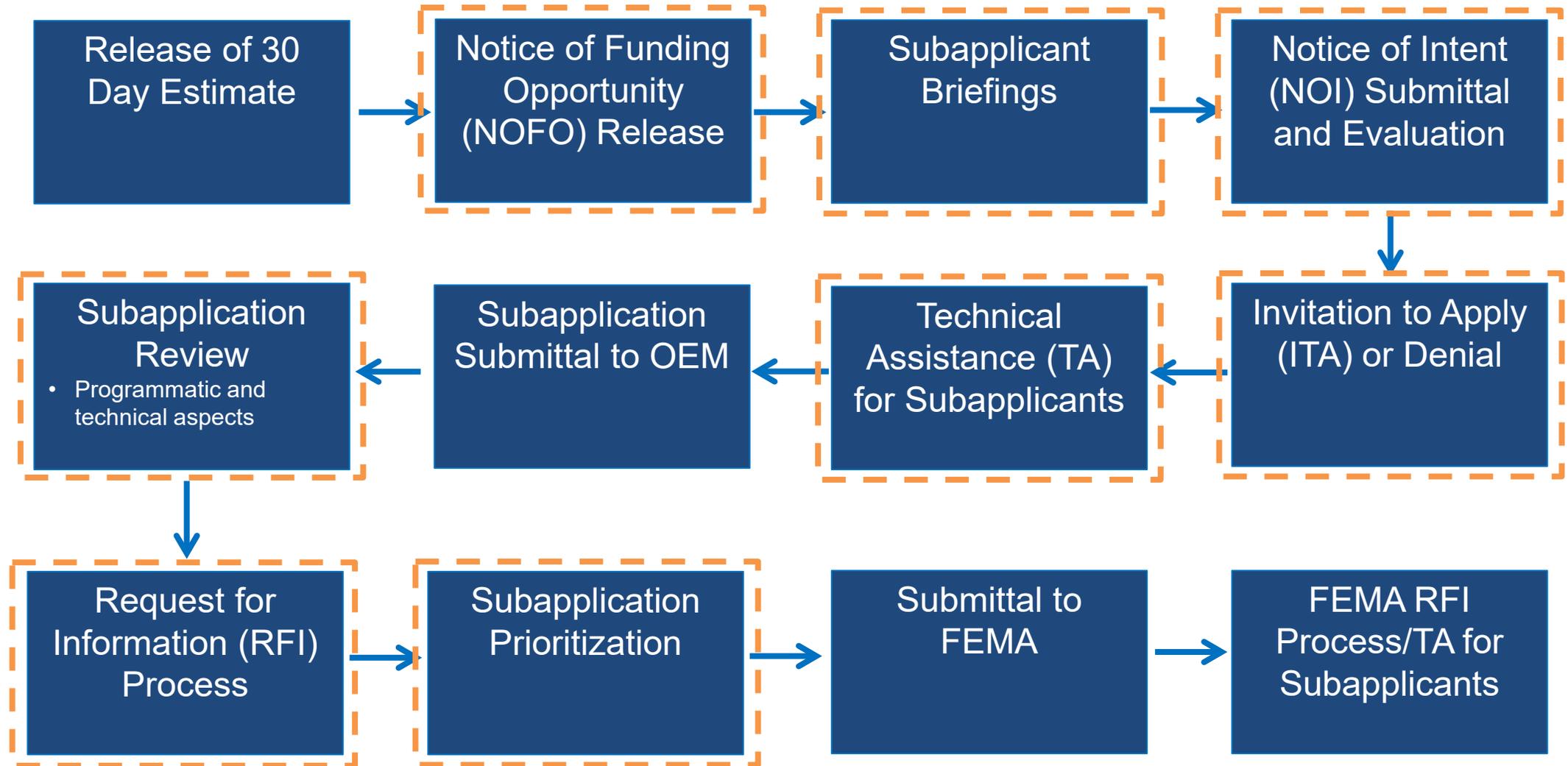- **Build long-term capacity and adaptability** both internal and external to OEM

Progress to Date

Since February 2025, we have…

- Overhauled the HMGP subapplication outreach, intake, review, and submittal process beginning with DR-4791

- Provided direct technical assistance (TA) to OEM staff, subapplicants, and subrecipients

- Developed and implemented training for OEM staff on mitigation best practices

- Developed templates, guides, and outreach materials for a comprehensive HMA Resources Page on OEM's website

- Tested out new standard operating procedures (SOPs)

New Intake Process Overview

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Release of 30        Notice of Funding      Subapplicant         Notice of Intent
Day Estimate    →    Opportunity       →    Briefings       →    (NOI) Submittal
                     (NOFO) Release                               and Evaluation
                                                                       ↓
Subapplication       Subapplication        Technical            Invitation to Apply
Review          ←    Submittal to OEM  ←   Assistance (TA)  ←    (ITA) or Denial
• Programmatic and                          for Subapplicants
  technical aspects
     ↓
Request for          Subapplication        Submittal to         FEMA RFI
Information (RFI) →   Prioritization   →    FEMA            →    Process/TA for
Process                                                          Subapplicants
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NOFO Publication + Briefings

- Funding Details

- Important Deadlines

- Eligibility & Priorities

- NOI & Application Submission Information

- Resources/Contact Information

- Technical Assistance

- Opportunity for Q&A

Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)
Oklahoma Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Tornadoes, and Flooding
DR-4862-OK

Declaration Date:	March 18, 2025
NOFO Issue Date:	June 26, 2025
Subapplicant Briefing:	July 23, 2025
NOI Submission Deadline:	October 20, 2025
Subapplication Submission Deadline to OEM:	January 19, 2026
All RFI Responses from Subapplicants due to OEM:	March 4, 2026
OEM Submits all HMGP Subapplications to FEMA:	March 18, 2026
Anticipated Date for Award Announcement:	Summer 2026
Target Contract Start Date:	Fall 2026
Period of Performance End Date:	March 18, 2030
Incident Period:	November 2, 2024 through November 5, 2024

New Resources Page

New and more organized resources to help jurisdictions with application development:

- NOI submission user guide

- Project type checklists

- Budget workbook template & budget narrative sample

- Letter templates

Helpful Forms

- HM 2 CFR 200 Procurement Requirements Form (signed)
- SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance
- SF-424A Budget Info Non-Construction Projects
- SF-424B Assurances Non-Construction Projects
- SF 424C Budget Info Construction Projects
- SF 424D Assurances Construction Projects
- SF-LLL Lobbying Form
- FEMA Form 20-16C Certifications Regarding Lobbying, etc.
- SRMC Acknowledgement Form (OEM)
- FEMA Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) Toolkit
- Request for reimbursement expense log workbook

- Download all forms

Templates

- Archeological Survey and SHPO Consultation Letter Template
- Floodplain Management Consultation Letter Template
- FWS Consultation Letter Template
- HM OEM Maintenance Agreement
- Land Use and Farmland Preservation Consultation Letter Template
- Local Match Commitment Letter
- ODOT Consultation Letter Template
- OEM 2025 Budget Workbook Template_FEMA HMA
- OEM Budget Narrative Sample
- Public Notice Letter Template
- RCRA and CERCLA Consultation Letter Template
- Subrecipient Management Costs Acknowledgement Template
- USACE Consultation Template

- Download all templates

Clear Prioritization Criteria

- Jurisdictions **within declared counties** with significant damage.

- Projects addressing **principal hazards** of the disaster declaration.

- Projects with **greatest community benefit** (highest benefit-cost ratio (BCR), larger population served).

- Eligible jurisdictions outside declared counties.

Technical Assistance (TA)

OEM is happy to provide technical assistance to subapplicants. Please reach out to **hm@oem.ok.gov**, for any assistance with:

- Project Identification

- Scope of Work Narratives

- Budget Workbook or Narrative

- Benefit-Cost Analysis Toolkit or Memorandum

- Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) Coordination Letters

- Certifications, Assurances and Required Documentation

Assistance is available to all interested jurisdictions!

Open Funding Opportunities
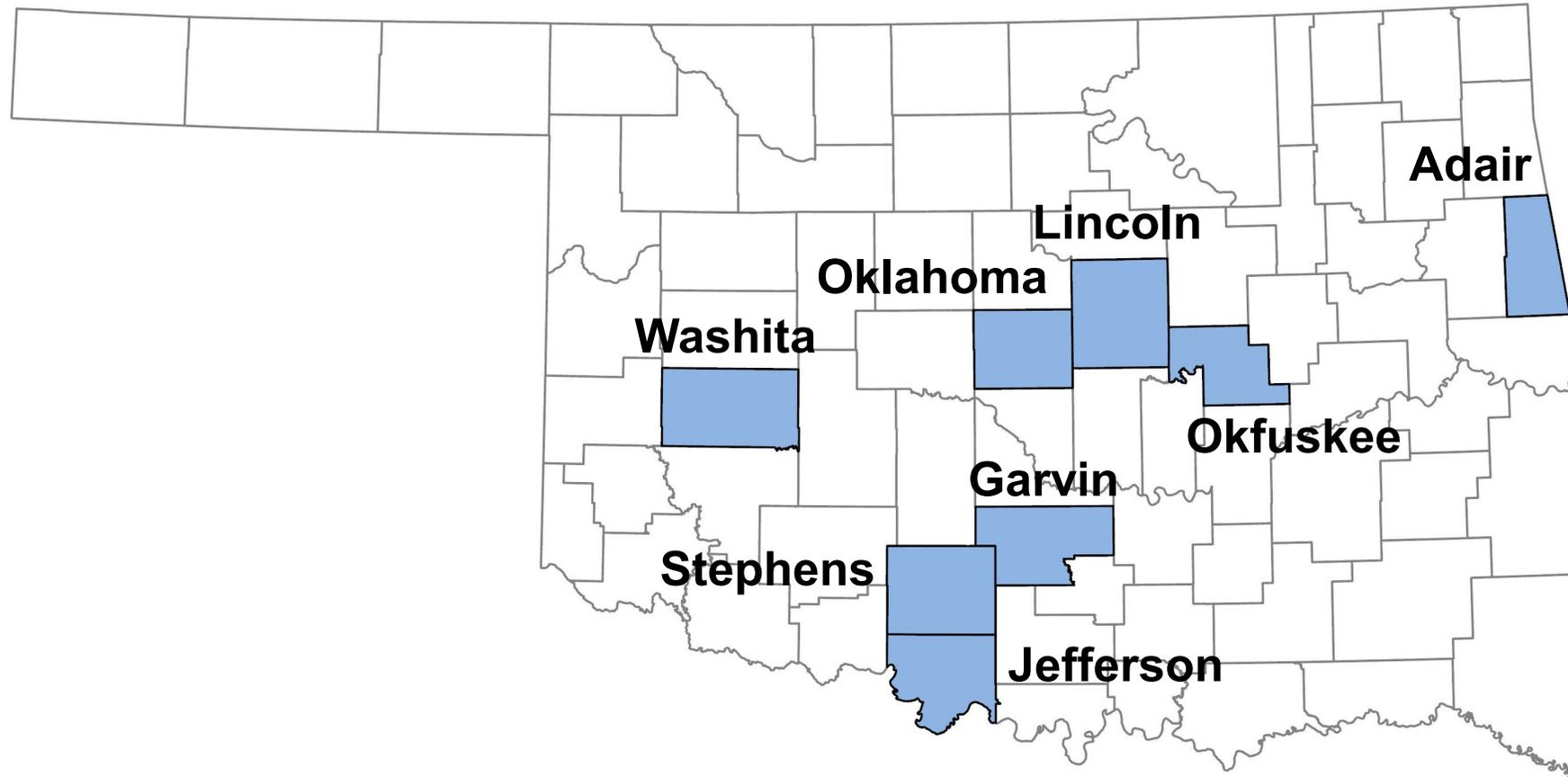
Funding Details for DR-4862 HMGP

- <u>Notice of Intent (NOI) Submittal Deadline: October 20, 2025</u>

- Subapplication Submission Deadline to OEM: January 19, 2026

- All RFI Responses from Subapplicants due to OEM: March 4, 2026

- OEM Submits all HMGP Subapplications to FEMA: March 18, 2026

- <u>Funding Amount: $522,056.00 (30-day lock)*</u>
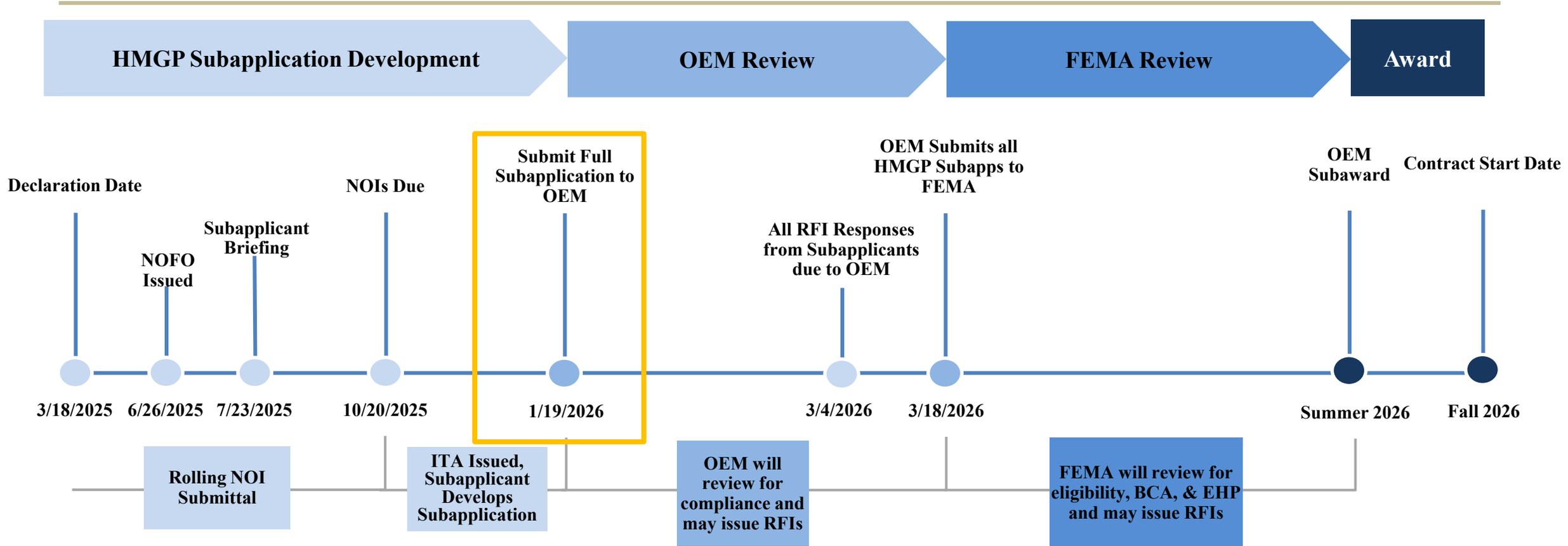
Prioritized Counties

Timeline for DR-4862

See Pages 1 & 21 of the NOFO.
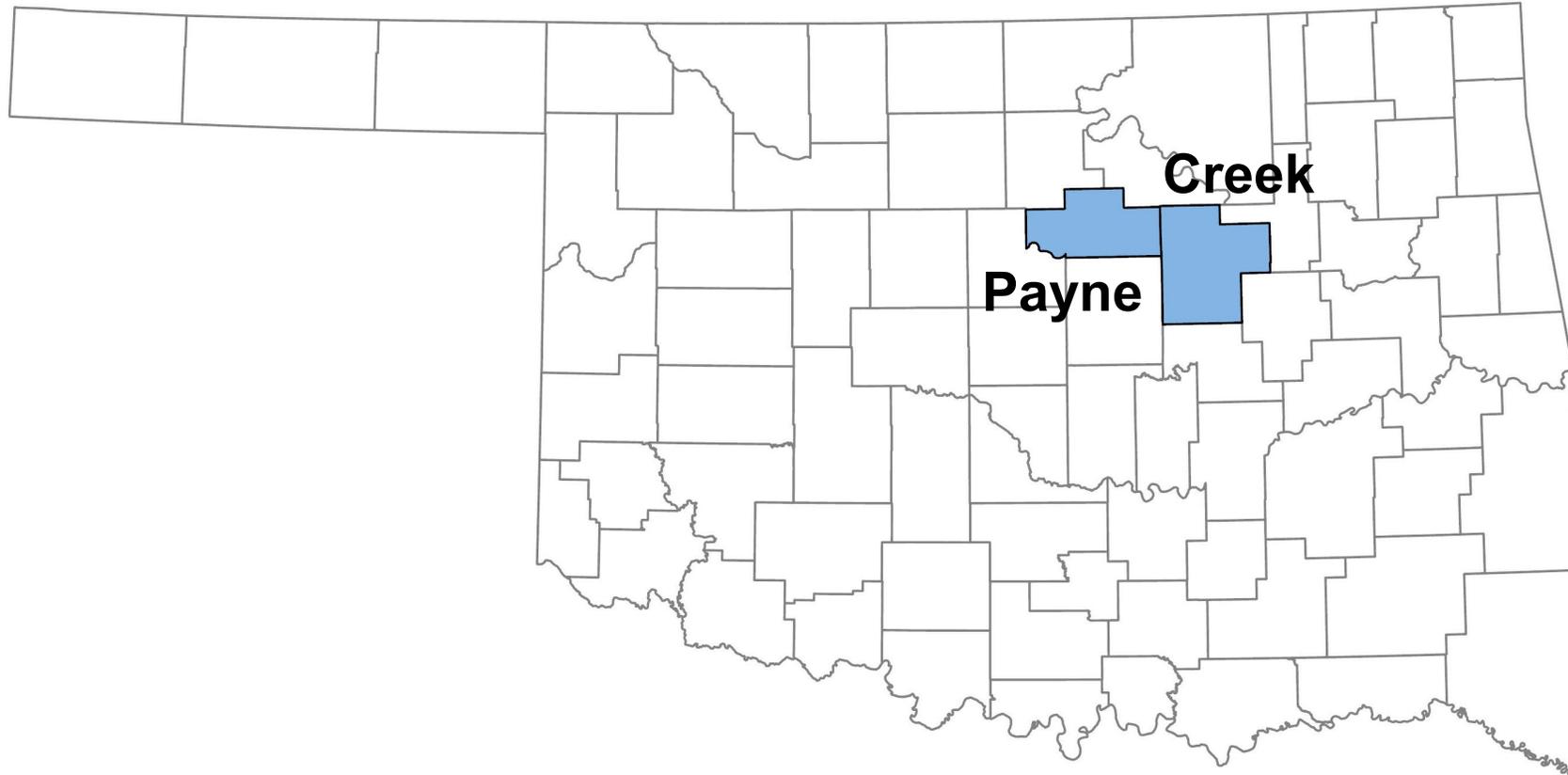
Funding Details for 5543-PF HMGP-PF

- <u>NOI Submittal Deadline: October 31, 2025</u>

- Subapplication Submission Deadline to OEM: February 2, 2026

- All RFI Responses from Subapplicants due to OEM: March 17, 2026

- OEM Submits all HMGP Subapplications to FEMA: March 31, 2026
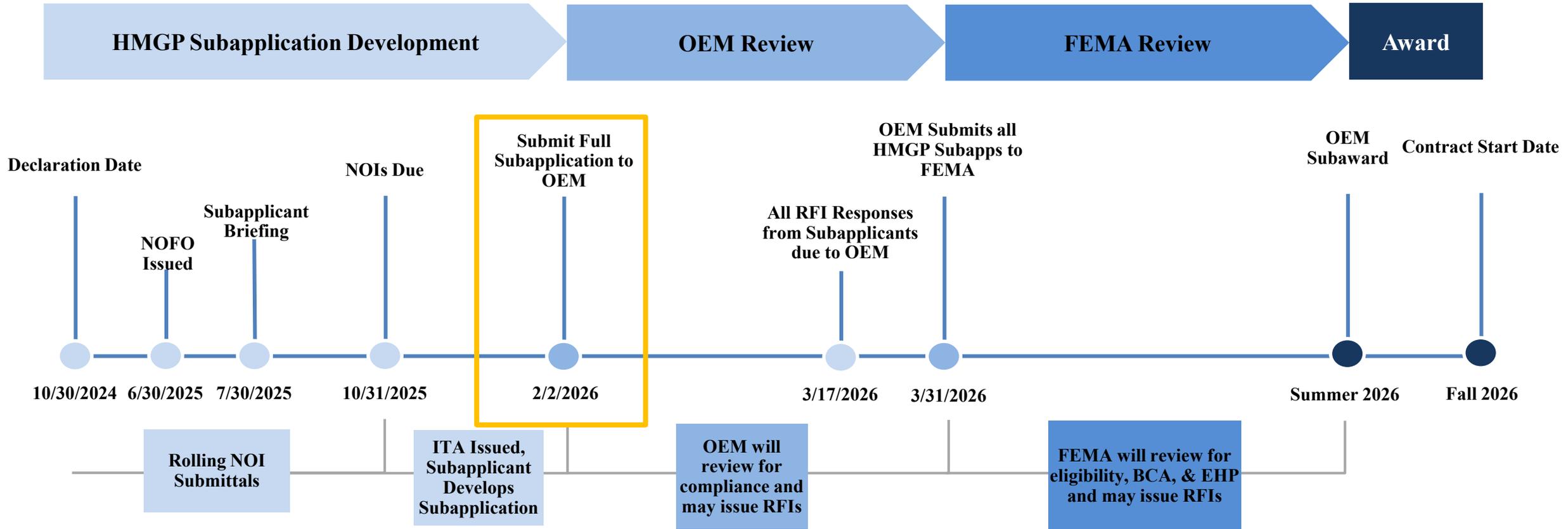
- <u>Funding Amount: $1,927,846.00</u>

EM
Oklahoma Department of
Emergency Management

Prioritized Counties

Timeline for 5543-PF

| HMGP Subapplication Development | OEM Review | FEMA Review | Award |

Declaration Date

NOFO Issued

Subapplicant Briefing

NOIs Due

Submit Full Subapplication to OEM

All RFI Responses from Subapplicants due to OEM

OEM Submits all HMGP Subapps to FEMA

OEM Subaward

Contract Start Date

| 10/30/2024 | 6/30/2025 | 7/30/2025 | 10/31/2025 | 2/2/2026 | 3/17/2026 | 3/31/2026 | Summer 2026 | Fall 2026 |

Rolling NOI Submittals

ITA Issued, Subapplicant Develops Subapplication

OEM will review for compliance and may issue RFIs

FEMA will review for eligibility, BCA, & EHP and may issue RFIs

See Pages 1 & 21 of the NOFO.

EM
Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management

Contact Information

Please reach out with any feedback.

Annie Mack Vest, CFM

Executive Director

Annie.Vest@oem.ok.gov

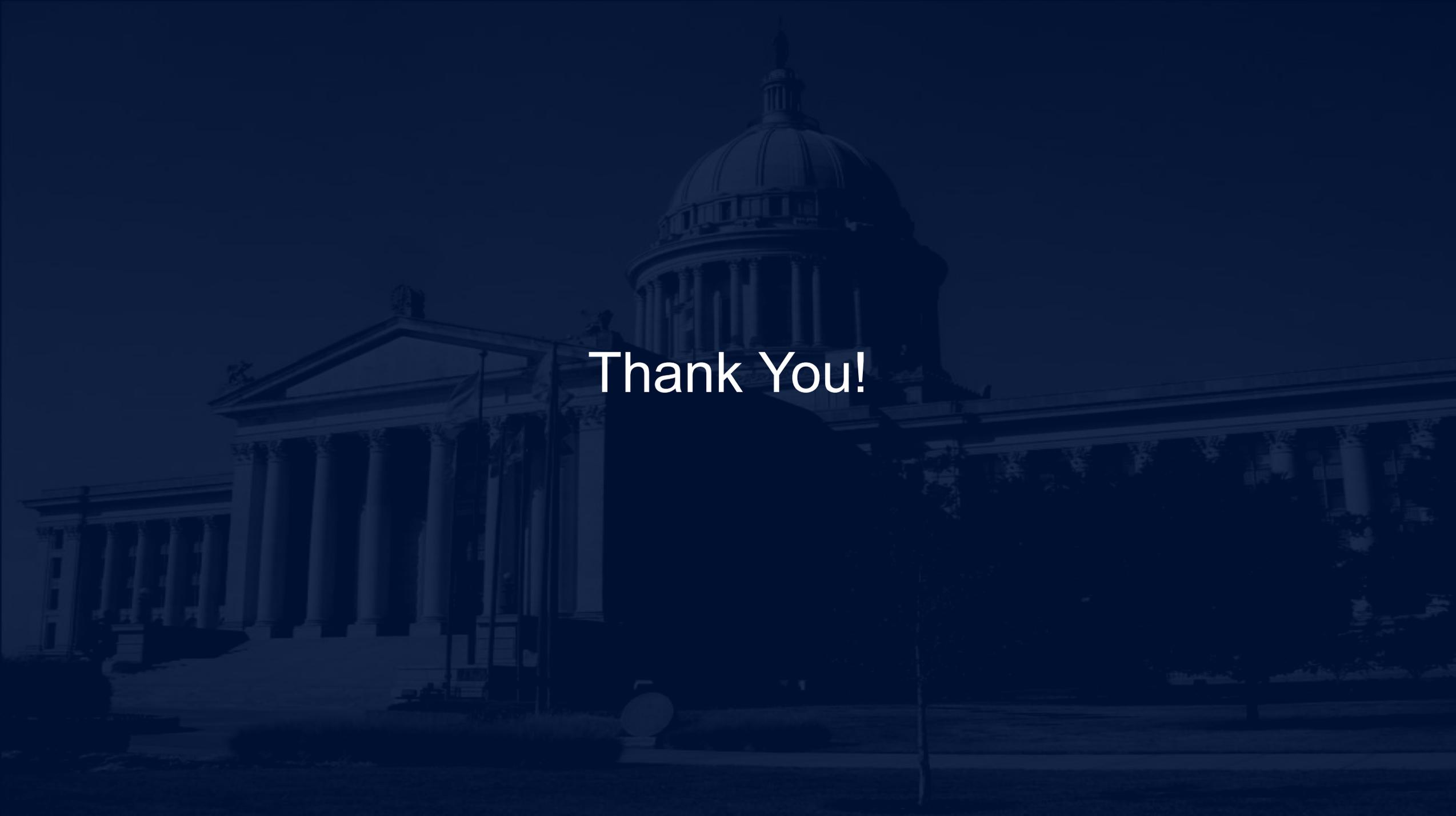**John Dean, MPA, ICMA-CM**

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Thank You!