



FEMA

Region 9 – External Affairs  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
1111 Broadway, Suite 1200  
Oakland, CA 94607-4052

Jan. 13, 2020

R9-NR 21-01

FEMA News Desk: (510) 627-7006

Cal OES News Desk: (916) 800-3943

CEA EBB Program: (916) 769-5766

# News Release

## FEMA Issues \$1.2M Installment to California for Earthquake Protection

**OAKLAND, Calif.** – The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released an additional installment of \$1.2 million to the California Earthquake Authority (CEA) for its Earthquake Brace + Bolt (EBB) program. The grant will subsidize a project of the California Residential Mitigation Program, a joint powers authority of the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services and the CEA, for earthquake retrofits on 391 at-risk homes likely to shake from their foundations in the event of an earthquake.

EBB addresses two seismic vulnerabilities found in many older homes that may have short, wood-framed cripple walls under the first floor. The retrofit bolts the house to the foundation, and if short, wood-framed walls are present under the first floor, the retrofit braces those walls with plywood to reinforce and help prevent the house from collapsing or sliding off its foundation during a quake.

EBB is a code-compliant retrofit that lessens the potential for damage and may allow families to remain in their homes after earthquakes. Each EBB recipient receives a grant of up to \$3,000 to bring their home up to seismic code compliance.

FEMA’s \$1.2 million release from its Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), in combination with the applicant’s \$812,000, marks the latest installment of the \$33.3 million project. The remaining \$7.1 million will be released incrementally throughout the life of the grant, as applications are approved, to retrofit a total of 6,667 homes.

FEMA’s HMGP helps states, territories, federally-recognized tribes, local communities and certain private, non-profit organizations become more resilient to potential infrastructure damage and reduce future disaster costs. Over the past 31 years, FEMA has invested more than \$1.4 billion to reduce disaster risk in California.

###

*FEMA’s mission is helping people before, during, and after disasters. Follow FEMA Region 9 online at [twitter.com/femaregion9](https://twitter.com/femaregion9).*