

Frequently Asked Questions

Seismic Mitigation Program

AVAILABLE FUNDING

Q. Is Seismic Mitigation Program (SMP) funding available?

SMP projects are funded using available School Facility Program (SFP) New Construction authority, whether they are for replacement or rehabilitation. To view the status of funds for the SFP and its subprograms, including the SMP, school districts may visit the Office of Public School Construction's (OPSC) [Data Dashboard](#). Districts can also access this information by reviewing the Financial Reports section of the most recent State Allocation Board (SAB) [Meeting Agenda](#).

Q. How do I know if my project qualifies for SMP funding?

Qualifying for participation in the SMP begins at the Division of the State Architect (DSA), Department of General Services. Please read DSA's Procedure: School Facility Program/Seismic Mitigation Program (Procedure PR 08-03) to get started, which is located in the [Publications page of DSA's website](#).

QUALIFYING FOR THE SMP

Q. What facilities qualify for SMP funding?

The facility must be a Category 2 building that qualifies as determined by DSA either by the existence of (1) a facility that has a collapse potential due to seismic deficiencies and ground shaking factors and/or (2) a facility that has collapse potential due to faulting, liquefaction, or landslide. Category 2 buildings must meet all of

the following requirements:

- Construction contract must be executed on or after May 20, 2006.
- Project funding provided shall be for the minimum work required to receive DSA approval.
- The building is designed for occupancy by students and staff.
- DSA concurs with a report by a structural engineer, identifying structural deficiencies that pose an unacceptable risk of injury to its occupants in a seismic event.

The building must also be one of the following building types as defined in School Facility Program Regulation Section 1859.2:

- C1 – Concrete Movement Frame,
- C1B – Reinforced Concrete Cantilever Columns with Flexible Diaphragms,
- C2A – Concrete Shear Wall with Flexible Diaphragms,
- C3A – Concrete Frame with Infill Masonry Shear Walls and Flexible Diaphragms,
- PC1 – Precast/Tilt-up Concrete Shear Wall with Flexible Diaphragms,
- PC1A – Precast/Tilt-up Concrete Shear Wall with Rigid Diaphragms,
- PC2A – Precast Concrete Frame without Concrete Shear Walls and with Rigid Diaphragms,
- PC2 – Precast Concrete Frame and Roofs with Concrete Shear Walls,
- URM – Unreinforced Masonry Bearing Wall Buildings,
- RM1 – Reinforced Masonry Bearing Wall with Flexible Diaphragms,
- URMA – Unreinforced Masonry Bearing Wall with Rigid Diaphragms,

- S1B – Steel Cantilever Columns with Flexible Diaphragm,
- S3 – Steel Light Frame Metal Siding and/or Rod Bracing, or
- M – Mixed construction containing at least one of the above structure types.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Q. What documents do I need to submit to OPSC to apply for SMP funding?

- Industry Specialist’s Reports: Reports from a structural engineer identifying the seismic deficiencies and detail the recommended minimum work to mitigate the deficiencies and, if applicable, a report from an engineering geologist.
 - Phase 1 Report – Eligibility Evaluation Report
 - Either Phase 2 Report – Replacement Option Analysis or Phase 3 Report – Seismic Rehabilitation Option
 - A geological hazards report prepared by an engineering geologist if qualification is based on site/ground issues.
- Governmental Concurrence: Two letters from DSA confirming that the facility meets eligibility criteria of the SMP and concurring with the scope of the minimum work required to rehabilitate an eligible building and, if applicable, a letter from the California Geological Survey (CGS).
 - Letter from DSA concurring to Phase 1 Report
 - Letter from DSA concurring to either the Phase 2 Report or the Phase 3 Report
 - A CGS letter is required only if qualification is based on site/ground issues.
- A completed *Facility Hardship Cost Estimate* (Form SAB 58-01): A detailed cost estimate that contains the costs associated with the minimum work to mitigate the seismic threat and remain in the school building.
- Cost/Benefit Analysis: This analysis demonstrates that the minimum work to mitigate the seismic threat and remain in the

- school building exceeds 50 percent of the Current Replacement Cost.
- Site Diagram: Specifically list or mark the building(s) affected.
- A completed *Application for Funding* (Form SAB 50-04)
- DSA Plan Approval letter
- CDE Plan Approval Letter
- Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee (CTEAC) Letter

Note: Please be advised that DSA is the building standards agency that focuses on reviewing compliance and not actual costs associated with the project. OPSC is a funding agency. OPSC’s primary focus when review estimated rehabilitation costs is to ensure that they include only the minimum work necessary to mitigate the seismic deficiencies and obtain DSA approval.

Q. What is a Conceptual Approval?

Because of the complex nature of projects seeking funding from the SMP, which is a subset of the Facility Hardship Program, OPSC will accept most documents in advance of submitting a funding application, to give the district an idea of any potential issues that may arise, and how the OPSC will fund the project.

To apply for Conceptual Approval, the district must submit all of the documents listed above, except plan approval letters from DSA and CDE. While the district does not need to submit DSA-approved plans, some measurable documentation will be required to verify the district’s Form SAB 58-01 and/or square footage of the project.

The Directory of Services contains contact information for all OPSC staff, including the Facility Hardship Team and Financial Hardship Team, and it can now be accessed under the Resources section of [OPSC Online](#), available after logging in. If you have questions or are not already working with a team member, please contact OPSC’s Communications Team at OPSCcommunications@dgs.ca.gov or at (916) 376-1771. Your correspondence will then be forwarded to the appropriate team member for a timely response.

Q. If the SAB approves my Conceptual Application, are SMP funds reserved for my project?

No funds are reserved at the time of a Conceptual Approval. Conceptual Approval is not a mandatory step in the funding process but allows a school district and its stakeholders to receive acknowledgement from the SAB that the project meets program requirements. Conceptual Approval shows that a project is eligible to apply for funding if bond authority is available and all other application requirements have been completed.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Q. What is the State/District matching share percentage for SMP projects?

All SMP projects are funded on a 50/50 state and local match basis. The only exception is when a district obtains financial hardship status; then the project may receive up to 100 percent state funding. Districts may contact the Financial Hardship Team to determine whether a project meets the requirements to qualify for Financial Hardship assistance.

The Directory of Services contains contact information for all OPSC staff, including the Facility Hardship Team and Financial Hardship Team, and it can now be accessed under the Resources section of [OPSC Online](#), available after logging in. If you have questions or are not already working with a team member, please contact OPSC's Communications Team at OPSCCommunications@dgs.ca.gov or at (916) 376-1771. Your correspondence will then be forwarded to the appropriate team member for a timely response.

Q. We need to provide interim housing during the project. Can I get additional funding for interim housing?

Districts may expend SMP funds on interim housing. However, projects are not provided any additional SAB grants for this purpose.

Q. Is there state funding available to pay for the industry specialist to prepare the Eligibility Evaluation Report template?

In Part II of the Form SAB 58-01, a certain amount of funding is provided to cover costs associated with preparing the industry specialist's report. Costs beyond the funding provided for this purpose are eligible expenditures. The district may reimburse itself for those costs after the receipt of SMP funds.

If the School district is planning to apply for Financial Hardship, it should contact the Financial Hardship Team prior to the expenditure of any funding. This is to ensure proper documentation is retained so that any potential Financial Hardship funding is not jeopardized.

Q. What is the order in which projects are funded?

The Facility Hardship Program, which includes the SMP, is a health and safety mitigation program. As such, applications seeking Facility Hardship Program and SMP funding are placed at the top of the SFP Workload List and are given priority for processing depending on availability of State funds. These applications are then funded in order of received date amongst all other Facility Hardship Program applications.

Q. Can I submit an application for reimbursement for seismic work already completed?

Yes. Reimbursement projects for Category 2 buildings that meet the criteria in SFP Regulation Section 1859.82.2 will be considered for funding. As mentioned above, districts must ensure that Category 2 buildings meet all the following requirements:

- The construction contract be executed on or after May 20, 2006.
- The project funding provided shall be for the minimum work required to receive DSA approval.
- The building is designed for occupancy by students and staff.
- DSA concurs with a report by a structural engineer, identifying structural deficiencies that pose an unacceptable risk of injury to its occupants in a seismic event.