



Hazard Mitigation Assistance External Stakeholder Working Group

This document includes an overview of the Hazard Mitigation Assistance External Stakeholder Working Group (pages 1-2) and an application form (pages 3-4) for interested candidates to complete and submit for consideration as a representative on the Working Group.

External Stakeholder Working Group Overview

The External Stakeholder Working Group (ESWG) will provide an opportunity for FEMA staff to increase engagement and transparency with non-federal partners in the Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs at the state, territory, Indian tribe, and local levels. The HMA programs provide pre- and post-disaster funding to implement mitigation actions in communities across the country. The Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) program and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) program are both funded by an annual appropriation. The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) provides funding as a result of a Presidentially declared disaster.

The intent of the ESWG is to:

- Open the channels of communication between federal and state, territorial, Indian tribal, and local mitigation staff
- Gather insight into mitigation and/or HMA program issues from the state, territory, Indian tribe, or local perspective
- Increase transparency in HMA goals, program priorities, and policy development
- Help HMA provide a consistent, predictable experience for external stakeholders
- Delve more deeply into issues identified during the HMA Café at the 2016 HMA Workshop

The HMA Café was a series of listening sessions designed to collect feedback from state, Indian tribe, and territory stakeholders on ways in which HMA can improve communication, facilitate implementation of the programs, ensure policies and programs meet existing needs, and better engage stakeholders.

Input from the ESWG will support FEMA in its efforts to streamline and strengthen HMA program delivery overall, provide better customer service to external stakeholders, and facilitate effective and expedient pre-disaster planning and post-disaster community recovery.

ESWG Membership Composition

The ESWG includes:

- One (1) FEMA Headquarters HMA Branch Chief, Chair
- Two (2) FEMA HMA Regional staff representatives
- Three (3) State or Territory representatives
- Three (3) Local/regional representatives – includes representatives from either single-jurisdiction bodies or multi-jurisdictional bodies (e.g., counties, regional planning commissions, council of governments)
- Three (3) Indian tribal representatives

ESWG Membership Criteria

Only candidates who meet the following criteria will be considered for ESWG membership:

- The candidate currently works in a role at the state, local, Indian tribal, or territorial level that directly relates to Hazard Mitigation Assistance programs
- Candidates must be able to participate fully in the ESWG and must be prepared to meet the stated ESWG Membership Expectations (see below)

ESWG Membership Expectations

Members will be expected to:

- Provide insight and external perspective on HMA priorities, issues, and program resources
- Bring a unique perspective on HMA communications, potentially being asked to offer insight into or help craft communications-related resources
- Act as points of contact for other external stakeholders, to include gathering input, requests, ideas, and suggestions for ESWG meetings
- Attend one ESWG meeting per quarter, with two virtual meetings and two in-person meetings each year

Note that funds for travel to in-person ESWG meetings will be provided by FEMA Headquarters.

In order to ensure continuity in the work and transfer of knowledge throughout membership changes, the first group of ESWG members will be divided evenly into 1-year and 2-year service periods.

Please note that FEMA encourages stakeholders with all levels of experience to apply, including stakeholders with a lot of experience to those who are new to HMA.

ESWG Membership Application

To be considered for a position on the ESWG, please complete the included application (see pages 3-4). Please submit completed applications via email to FEMA-HMA-GRANTS-POLICY@fema.dhs.gov. Applications must be submitted by October 31, 2016.



Hazard Mitigation Assistance External Stakeholder Working Group Application

Instructions

Complete all fields and submit via email to FEMA-HMA-GRANTS-POLICY@fema.dhs.gov. Applications must be submitted by October 31, 2016.

Contact Info

First & Last Name:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Extension:

Position/Title:

Jurisdiction & Community Info

Name of Community/Jurisdiction Represented:

Type of Jurisdiction Represented: *(Select one)*

State / Territory

Local / Regional

Indian Tribe / Tribal Nation

Community Characteristics

For each statement below, please indicate the option or options that best describe the community you represent. Note that the second and third statements include descriptions of possible options in italics.

The primary hazard(s) my community faces include... *(Check the box next to each applicable hazard type)*

Flood (coastal)

Wildfire

Drought

Flood (riverine)

Hurricane

Winter Storm

Flood (flash)

Wind

Other (please specify)

Earthquake

Extreme Precipitation

The relative size and location of my community/jurisdiction could be characterized as... *(Select one)*

Big City – *My community is a heavily-developed, high-density urban jurisdiction*

Medium to Small City – *My community is a developed, medium-density jurisdiction*

Suburban – *My community is a moderately-developed, lower-density jurisdiction close to an urban area*

Small Town / Rural – *My community consists mostly of low-density, low-development jurisdictions, and is likely to cover a large geographic area with few residents*

My community’s experience with HMA could be described as... *(Select one)*

Moderately to Very Experienced with HMA – *Historically, my community has received a lot of HMA program funding and is very experienced with at least one HMA program (HMGP, PDM, FMA)*

Limited to No Experience with HMA – *Historically, my community has received less HMA program funding, especially due to fewer disaster declarations, and our experience has centered around one HMA program*

Service Length Preference

In order to ensure continuity in the work and transfer of knowledge throughout membership changes, the first group of ESWG members will be divided evenly into 1-year and 2-year service periods. Indicate how long you would prefer to serve on the HMA ESWG. *(Select one)*

1-year term

2-year term

No preference

Justification

Please provide a statement (200-300 words) that discusses your interest in being part of the ESWG. Your statement should also address the following information:

- How does your community consider HMA in developing a mitigation strategy?
- What do you hope to learn, do, or accomplish while working with the HMA ESWG?
- What experience with hazard mitigation and/or HMA would you bring to the ESWG?