Draft National Mitigation Investment Strategy (NMIS)

Highlights from Stakeholder Engagement:
January 11 – March 11, 2018

Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG)
Stakeholder Engagement Overview

Background

In response to a 2015 General Accounting Office (GAO) Report, *Hurricane Sandy: An Investment Strategy Could Help the Federal Government Enhance National Resilience for Future Disasters*, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security tasked the Federal Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) to develop a National Mitigation Investment Strategy (Investment Strategy). The Investment Strategy is intended to improve coordination and awareness of, and increase demand for, natural hazard mitigation products and resources in order to reduce the nation’s exposure to risk. The draft Investment Strategy makes a series of recommendations, organized by six desired outcomes that, if accomplished, could result in a nation that is better equipped for and less vulnerable to natural hazards. The MitFLG invited public comment from over 200 stakeholders on the draft Investment Strategy from January 11, 2018 through March 11, 2018.

Engagement Approach

The MitFLG announced the release of the draft Investment Strategy for public comment through FEMA and other Federal department and agency broad public affairs announcements using the Internet and social media. The MitFLG engaged with all levels of government and key stakeholders, including private businesses, citizens, vulnerable and at-risk populations, critical infrastructure sectors, non-profit, academic, and philanthropic organizations.

![Announcement Diagram](https://www.fema.gov/national-mitigation-framework)

**Announcement**

Open Comment Period Jan 11 – Mar 11 2018

Released draft NMIS, inviting comments, via broad announcement to all national partners and the general public (e.g., Internet, Twitter, Ideascale).

**Reach**

National Stakeholders

- State and Local Governments
- Tribes
- Citizens
- Academic
- Businesses
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Philanthropies
- Professional, Trade, and Advocacy Associations

**Feedback**

750 Comments

Received over 750 comments from a broad range of perspectives.
**Highlights of Broad Themes from Engagement**

MitFLG heard many perspectives on mitigation generally and the draft Investment Strategy specifically. Examples of themes emerging from the engagement include:

- Mitigation is complex and poorly understood. We need to improve public awareness of the value of mitigation and better communicate existing programs and resources.
- Expand funding for mitigation. For example, one respondent suggested a new tax or repurposing part of the gas tax to fund mitigation.
- Opposing views on requirements and incentives. Some stakeholders supported expanding requirements (e.g., policies, regulations) while others proposed better incentives (e.g., tax breaks, insurance premium reductions).
- Streamline Federal grant applications.
- Create an agency point-of-contact for mitigation programs.
- Ensure up-to-date building standards are used.
- Rebuild better with an eye towards future vs. historical risks.
- Develop “resilience data stewards,” and “mitigation educators” to enhance capabilities and coordinate information-sharing.
- Articulate the NMIS Change Strategy: How do we get from today to more significant risk reduction?
- Demonstrate the connection between mitigation and economic resilience, as well as social, environmental, and other community resilience values.
- Better understand how we currently discourage mitigation with an eye towards correcting disincentives.
- Emphasize “co-benefits” of mitigation—how mitigation does not simply reduce disaster risk, but how it also helps create jobs, improve home values, and ensure public safety and health.
- Broaden the national resource base for resilience through increased public sector coordination.
- Use the language of markets to talk about mitigation benefits.
- Better integrate mitigation into disaster preparedness and recovery.
- Create more equitable access to mitigation resources across demographics.
- Improve infrastructure resilience via regional, multi-sector risk assessment and coordination.

**Next Steps**

Based on stakeholder engagement, and through additional review and research, the MitFLG will continue revising the draft, followed by a review from the Departments, Agencies, and White House offices. MitFLG plans to publish the final document in late 2018/early 2019. Our activities will then focus on implementation and the roles that key national stakeholders can play in implementation.