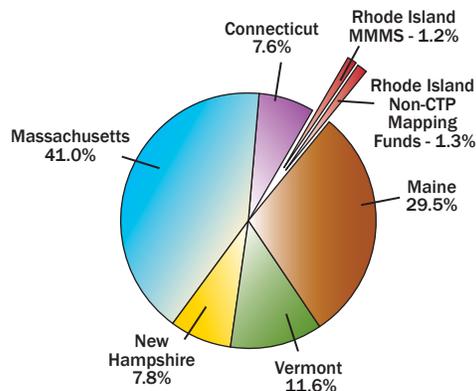


Rhode Island MMMS – Business Plan Summary

Data based on information provided by the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) dated September 12, 2006 and other FEMA sources

REGIONAL AND STATE VIEW

**Federal FY06 Region I Funding
Distribution Total \$6,507,960**



Source: State percentage received of total FY06 Flood Map Modernization Regional production budget according to internal FEMA procurement data (PALT). Rhode Island 2.5%

PURPOSE OF BUSINESS PLAN SUMMARY

The Map Modernization Management Support (MMMS) Business Plan Summary was compiled by reviewing the Federal Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-2009 MMMS Business Plans and FY 2007 updates. These business plans were submitted to the Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) by FEMA's MMMS partners.

The spring 2007 Business Plan Summary is being published at the crossroads of FEMA's mid-program evaluation and the end-state conditions of Map Modernization. This year, the summary reflects the MMMS partners' approach to and the effects of FEMA's mid-course adjustment, in addition to outlining their accomplished and planned MMMS activities, highlighting the MMMS partner's approach to meeting the goals of and program vision for Map Modernization. FEMA's mid-course adjustment is a redirection of improving and updating the Nation's flood hazard identification maps. FEMA will now focus on developing flood

maps that meet new higher standards for mapping and for a greater allocation of resources to those communities at greatest flood risk. The "end state conditions" refer to how successful the flood mapping effort is at the end of Map Modernization in FY 2010.

STATE VISION FOR MAP MODERNIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Our vision for the program remains unchanged from the 2004 plan and 2005 update: By 2009, through effective leadership and partnerships, achieve 100 percent high quality digital flood maps for the entire state, with improved flood hazard data for the watersheds and coastal areas (such as coastal storm surge and erosion data) with highest population and population density, land use change, growth, and need and coastal erosion data for shoreline mapping; create a continuously improving program for flood hazard data development and future map maintenance; foster an environment to build state and local capabilities consistent with the continued availability of federal funding; and promote professional excellence within the state of Rhode Island.

EFFECTS/APPROACH OF/TO MIDCOURSE ADJUSTMENT

This year, FEMA's Map Modernization update will require significant re-writing to reflect the changes to the FEMA program as outlined in FEMA's Flood Map Modernization Mid-course Adjustment, March 2006. When the plan was originally written, FEMA's priority was full digitization of all flood maps nationwide. During the planned maintenance phase to follow the initiative, engineering data (i.e. hydrologic and hydraulic riverine analysis and coastal wave run-up analysis) would be updated.

MAP OF EFFECTIVE DFIRMS



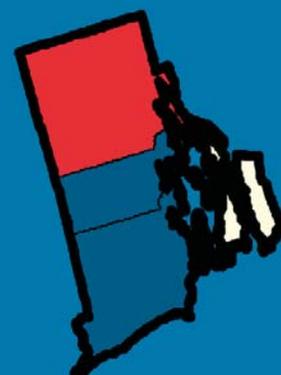
LEGEND

Map of Effective DFIRMs



Source: FEMA Regional Flood Study Sequencing by County – March 2007

MAP OF PRELIMINARY DFIRMS



LEGEND

Map of Preliminary DFIRMs



Source: FEMA Regional Flood Study Sequencing by County – March 2007



FEMA

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SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND STRENGTHS OR SUCCESS STORIES

In addition to National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) activities, the State NFIP Coordinator recently completed the first ever comprehensive multi-hazard mitigation plan, the first ever statewide hurricane evacuation routing system and maps, and a statewide debris management plan, and is working on the statewide recruitment of Community Rating System communities. The State NFIP Coordinator has also been serving as Chair of the National Association of State Floodplain Managers this past year. The NFIP Coordinator is also the state program coordinator for the hurricane and earthquake programs.

SIGNIFICANT COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH PARTNERS

After much consideration and review of the Cooperating Technical Partner (CTP) program requirements, the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency (RIEMA) decided that the CTP program is currently not an appropriate vehicle to foster partnerships in Rhode Island. By the time the RIEMA staff was on board to explore CTP opportunities, most of the scoping projects were already underway and there was limited added value to be had. One of the main goals RIEMA has is to increase communication among state agencies and local governments. With a common interest in natural hazard mitigation, we can better use our resources at this time to work towards joint projects such as securing Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data.

IMPEDIMENTS TO MAP ADOPTION

The state of Rhode Island is a “home-rule” state. Nearly all land use jurisdiction rests with local jurisdictions. There is no county land use jurisdiction in Rhode Island and little other county activity. Rhode Island is also unique in that the entire state is comprised of incorporated areas. The Rhode Island Attorney General’s Office did not think there were any legal barriers that would impede map adoption, but a more definite answer would require more research. To their knowledge, there is no existing language that would prevent or impede the map adoption process. The office believes it is likely that the state could draft a new regulation or statute that would reference the effective flood maps which would need to be “independently legally operative.” This new legislation could be written with “elastic language” as long as the standards and references are clear. Potentially, language such as, “the ordinance pursuant to the current FEMA flood map or as the same as amended or revised from time to time” could approve effective. This new regulation or legislation would

have to be worded carefully and specifically, such that any future changes would not happen in an arbitrary manner.

UNMET NEEDS OF RHODE ISLAND’S MAP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

Historically, RIEMA has lacked the staffing capacity and engineering capacity to conduct additional or technical work because of other commitments. Through the addition of the new RIEMA contract employee to work with the state mapping support contractor on scoping and other activities and focusing on Map Modernization, Rhode Island’s capability and capacity to complete work has increased dramatically. The existing staff still does not have the engineering or technical expertise to conduct a majority of the mapping work but having a dedicated individual to assist in coordination has helped to increase our success as a FEMA partner in Map Modernization.

ACCOMPLISHED ACTIVITIES FY06

- Update the annual MMMS business plan
- Update floodplain management ordinances
- Assess community mapping needs
- Provide NFIP and Map Modernization training statewide
- Conduct outreach; Inventory digital base map data
- Conduct project scoping; Develop topographic data
- Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map (DFIRM) production
- Study Coordination
- Maintain and disseminate flood maps

MMMS ACTIVITIES PLANNED FY07

- Fund a full time Map Modernization Planner
- Map Providence, Washington, Kent, and Newport Counties
- Coordinate and assist activities that will ensure new DFIRMs are adopted
- Coordinate Map Mod activities with GIS users
- Collect shoreline change data
- Conduct Map Modernization daily operations
- With additional MMMS funding, RIEMA would like to help fund the processing of shoreline LiDAR data for the state, and host the Annual Rhode Island Floodplain Manager’s Statewide Kick-Off Conference.