

Hazard Mitigation Planning for States

Release Date: Jun 3, 2025

The State's Role in Hazard Mitigation Planning

State, local, tribal and territorial leaders use the mitigation planning process to understand their natural hazard risks and develop long-term strategies to reduce risk, using a wide range of resources. Hazard mitigation is most effective when it is based on a comprehensive, long-term mitigation plan that is developed before a disaster. State mitigation plans demonstrate the state's commitment to reducing the impacts of natural hazards on its populations, buildings and infrastructure. This plan reduces risk to key state assets over the long term. It also provides local jurisdictions with critical information and guidance regarding the state's risks, capabilities, priorities and action plans. These can help the jurisdictions develop their own hazard mitigation plans. States are responsible for:

- Updating their hazard mitigation plan every five years as a condition for receiving non-emergency assistance under the Stafford Act.
- Supporting the development of local and, as applicable, tribal mitigation plans.
- Completing the initial review and coordination of local and, as applicable, tribal mitigation plans.
- Communicating plan status and expiration dates to local and, as applicable, tribal governments.

A state must have a mitigation plan to receive certain kinds of non-emergency disaster assistance. These include FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs, Public Assistance funds (non-emergency permanent work), Fire Management Assistance Grants, and Rehabilitation of High-Hazard Potential Dam grants. For more details, visit [Mitigation Planning and Grants](#).

State Mitigation Planning Requirements

State mitigation plans follow the same basic formula: organize the planning process and resources; assess risks; develop a mitigation strategy; and adopt and implement the plan. Because state plans set the overall direction for mitigation statewide, they have a number of required elements. These are described in the



table below.

The state must also meet specific requirements to be eligible for funding under the [High Hazard Potential Dam grant program](#) or to obtain the enhanced status necessary to receive additional Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding. Enhanced status denotes the state has developed a comprehensive mitigation program and is capable of managing increased funding for its mitigation goals. For detailed guidance on the components of a FEMA-approved state hazard mitigation plan, please see FEMA's [State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#).

Element	Overall Intent
Planning Process	Demonstrates a deliberative approach to how the plan was prepared, who participated, and how decisions were made.
Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)	Describes what hazards may affect the state, where they may occur and how frequently they may happen to identify risk-informed mitigation actions. The HIRA must account for changes in population and land use.
State Mitigation Capabilities	Documents the state's capabilities to reduce risk and increase resilience using a wide range of programs, policies and initiatives.
Mitigation Strategy	Guides the development and implementation of hazard mitigation. This involves setting goals, identifying actions and detailing an action plan that reflects the state's risks and priorities.
Local Planning Coordination and Capability Building	Shows how the state supports local and, as applicable, tribal jurisdictions' capabilities to mitigate hazards. Shows how the state directs resources to support effective mitigation planning and investment decisions.
Review, Evaluation and Implementation	Establishes a process for keeping the plan current. Ensures that the plan is implemented overtime and evaluates feedback on the state's progress on its mitigation strategy.
Adoption and Assurances	Demonstrates the state's commitment to mitigation planning and implementation. Confirms that the state will comply with applicable federal statutes and regulations.



State Planning Guidance and Training

FEMA provides a variety of [guidance, resources and training](#) to help states develop hazard mitigation plans.

- The [State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#) is a resource for plan developers to consult during plan updates, to ensure they meet the state plan requirements needed for FEMA approval.
- [IS-329: State Mitigation Planning](#) is a self-paced online course that gives state officials an opportunity to understand the policies and procedures for state mitigation planning. The L-329: State Mitigation Planning Workshop is an in-depth, two day state mitigation planning course. If you are interested in this course or any other training, contact the appropriate [FEMA regional office](#).

For More Information

- [Hazard mitigation planning regulations and guidance](#) direct the development of state hazard mitigation plans, in particular, the requirements in the [State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide](#).
- [HMA Grants Guidance](#) provides information on grant policies and resources that can assist with the development of planning grant applications.
- Contact your [FEMA regional office](#).



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