

State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Governments and the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard

Flooding is the most common and costly natural hazard in the United States. A changing climate means future federal investments in communities and critical infrastructure will be increasingly exposed to more frequent and extreme weather events. [Executive Order \(EO\) 13690](#) amended [Executive Order 11988](#) and established the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) to ensure that all federally funded projects are more resilient to future flood conditions.

State, Local, Tribal and Territorial (SLTT) partners play a critical role in successful implementation of the FFRMS. These entities must understand their important functions and FFRMS requirements for federal investments so that all levels of government can work together to build a more flood resilient nation.

Requirements

EO 13690 amends and builds on EO 11988: Floodplain Management, which requires federal agencies to take action to reduce the risk of flood loss; to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare; and to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values of floodplains. Under the FFRMS, agencies are required to expand management from the base flood elevation to a higher vertical flood elevation and corresponding horizontal floodplain. This ensures federally funded projects are more resilient to current and future flood risks while protecting taxpayer investments.

The FFRMS applies to projects involving use of federal funds for new construction, substantial improvement, and repairs to address substantial damage to structures and facilities. In addition, E.O. 13690 requires federal agencies and their non-federal partners to use nature-based solutions and processes in project development where possible. Federal agencies are ultimately responsible for meeting the requirements, but other government partners provide critical support, expertise, and local knowledge throughout the life of an individual project.

State, Local Tribal and Territorial Roles in Implementation

Each SLTT has a unique perspective that adds value to the FFRMS implementation because they have access to resources, expertise, and local knowledge that can positively influence project outcomes, helping federal agencies



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meet the goals and objectives. Government entities have three primary roles with respect to the implementation of the standard: applicant or sub-applicant to a federal assistance program, subject matter expert (SME) on floodplain management, and local development-related issues, and project coordination with other governmental departments in the execution of the federally funded project.

SLTT partners may serve in one or more roles for a single project. Figure 1 highlights how a State, local, Tribal or territorial government might work with the FFRMS guidelines and procedures.

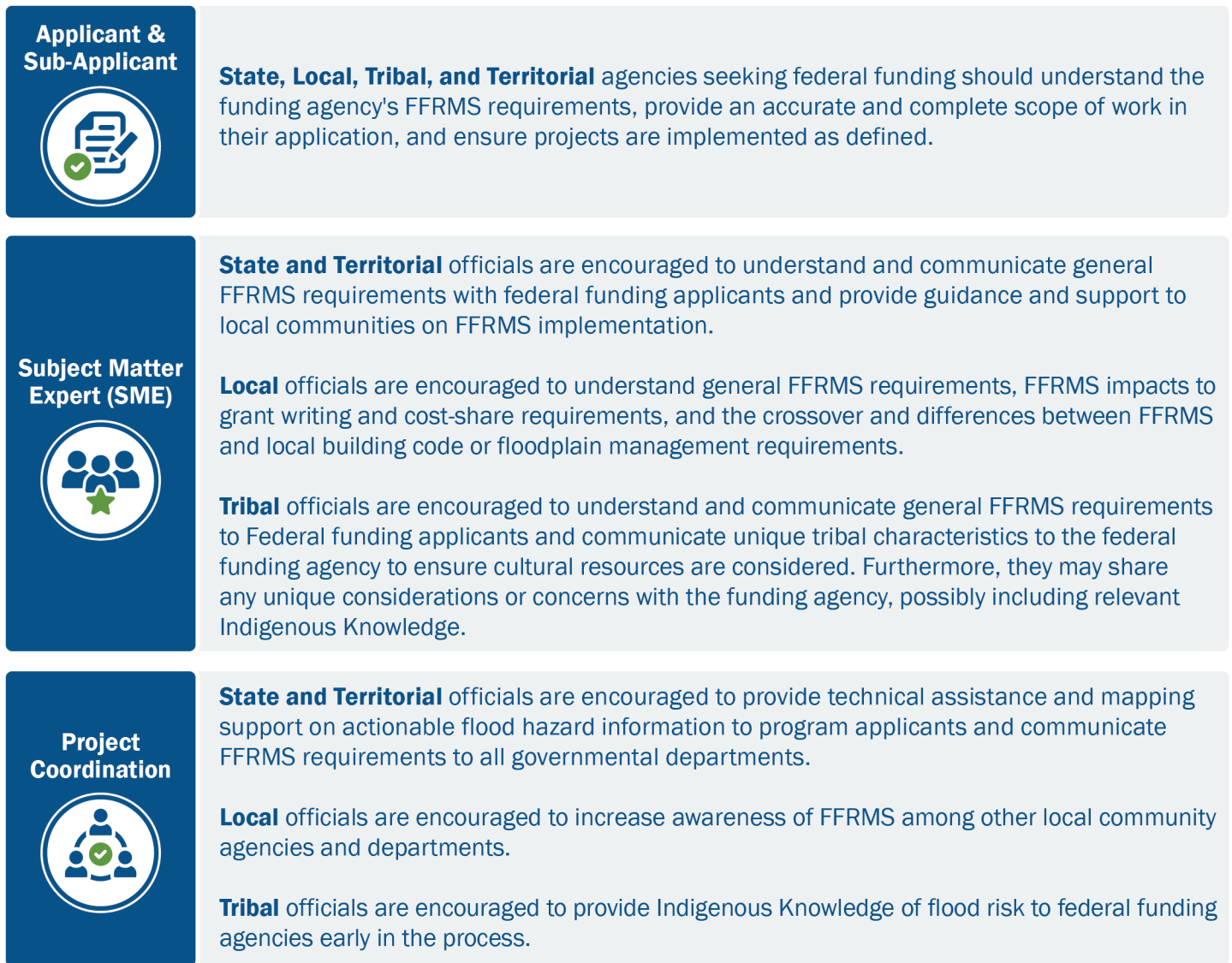


Figure 1 State, Local, Tribe and Territory Roles in FFRMS Implementation

Resources

Below are resources that provide more information on the FFRMS. Applicants should contact the representative of the federal funding agency assigned to their project for more information.

- EO 13690, Establishing a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard and a Process for Further Soliciting and Considering Stakeholder Input. <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2015/02/04/2015-02379/establishing-a-federal-flood-risk-management-standard-and-a-process-for-further-soliciting-and>
- FFRMS Floodplain Determination Job Aid – a resource that walks users through steps on how to conduct manual calculations to determine if a proposed federally funded project is located in the FFRMS floodplain. https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_ffrms-floodplain-determination-job-aid.pdf
- Federal Flood Standard Support Tool (FFSST) - a GIS web-based tool that enables Federal agencies and their partners to ascertain if a federally funded project will be located within the FFRMS floodplain by determining the vertical elevation and corresponding horizontal extent using the freeboard value approach (FVA) or the climate-informed science approach (CISA). <https://floodstandard.climate.gov>
- FEMA's Building Community Resilience with Nature-Based Solutions: Strategies for Success – a resource for more information on nature-based solutions. https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_nature-based-solutions-guide-2-strategies-success_2023.pdf
- For additional information, please visit [Federal Flood Risk Management Standard](#).