

State and Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guides: Summary of Changes

The [State and Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guides](#) (policies) are the official interpretation of the requirements in the [Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act \(Stafford Act\)](#), as amended and other federal statutes as well as in federal regulations, specifically [Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) Section 201-Mitigation Planning](#). This summary presents the key changes to the two policies released in April 2022.

Update Highlights

The 2022 policies clarify what FEMA requires for state and local mitigation planning, respectively. The updated policies become effective for all mitigation plan approvals one year from the official release date, April 2022.

State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide

The state policy applies to state governments that update, maintain and implement state mitigation plans. The primary users are state staff that oversee mitigation plan updates and the FEMA officials that review and approve those plans. There are two kinds of state plans: standard and enhanced. All states must meet the standard plan requirements. Enhanced states must meet the standard and enhanced state requirements.

STANDARD STATE UPDATES

The state policy:

- Requires that state plans consider equity and climate change impacts.
- Outlines participants in the state planning process. The process involves a broad range of state and other partners. This includes community lifelines and climate change experts. It also includes state agencies and others that support underserved communities.
- Requires states to describe building code adoption and enforcement, land use, [National Flood Insurance Program \(NFIP\)](#) administration and flood risk mapping in the capability assessment.
- Includes existing mitigation plan requirements for the [High Hazard Potential Dams \(HHPD\)](#) grant program to include all dam risks. Removes the optional Repetitive Loss Strategy.



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- Includes existing mitigation plan requirements for the [Fire Management Assistance Grants](#) program.

ENHANCED STATE UPDATES

The state policy:

- Introduces more advanced lead times and pre-submission coordination for new enhanced states. Provides a more detailed plan submission and review process.
- Requires states that wish to become enhanced to first show they can meet [Hazard Mitigation Assistance \(HMA\)](#) grant performance requirements.
- Requires that states demonstrate local jurisdictions have approved mitigation plans as part of the state's commitment to mitigation. The state must show how it supports the update and adoption of these plans before expiration.
- Strongly encourages enhanced states to [adopt and enforce building codes](#) that advance mitigation and resilience.

Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide

The local policy applies to local governments that develop, update, maintain and implement their own mitigation plans. The primary users of this guide are local staff that oversee mitigation plans and the federal and state officials who review and approve those plans. The local policy includes the following changes:

- Defines who local governments must include in the planning process. This includes representatives from a broad range of sectors, community lifelines, the public and community-based organizations that support underserved communities.
- Requires local governments to include the effects of climate change and other future conditions in the risk assessment.
- Recognizes the important role of adopting and enforcing building codes and land use and development ordinances in the local government's ability to improve mitigation capabilities.
- Facilitates stronger alignment with other FEMA mitigation programs such as the [National Flood Insurance Program](#) (NFIP), [Community Rating System](#) and [flood risk mapping program](#).
- Explains the need to right-size the scope of a plan update, consider both current and future risks, and complete the planning process with plan adoption.
- Includes existing mitigation plan requirements for the [High Hazard Potential Dams \(HHPD\)](#) grant program to include all dam risks. Removes the optional Repetitive Loss Strategy.
- Reorganized requirements for ease of use.

Other Updates

Both policies reflect program and administrative changes to other FEMA programs. This includes programs for which a mitigation plan is a condition of eligibility. For example, references to the [Pre-Disaster Mitigation](#) program have been deleted and new grant programs including [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) have been added.

Both policies connect mitigation planning with community resilience. They also align with [FEMA's 2022-2026 Strategic Plan](#). These priorities include promoting climate change and equity.

For More Information

Download the State Mitigation Planning Policy Guide on FEMA's [state mitigation planning resources](#) page.

Download the Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guide on FEMA's [local mitigation planning resources](#) page.

This fact sheet summarizes important changes to the State and Local Mitigation Planning Policy Guides. Users should read each guide, including the narrative and the requirements tables.

Questions? Contact the lead Community Planner in the Mitigation Division of your [FEMA regional office](#).