

National Dam Safety Program

The National Dam Safety Program (NDSP) is a partnership of states, federal agencies and other stakeholders to encourage and promote the establishment and maintenance of effective federal and state dam safety programs to reduce the risk to human life, property, and the environment from dam related hazards.

Dams play a vital role in the nation's overall infrastructure. They contribute to the economic development of the United States and to the social welfare of the American public. Dam infrastructure can be affected by natural hazards, man-made threats, as well as an imbalance between resources invested and a dam's age.

The NDSP provides leadership, technical assistance, public awareness, and financial assistance to states and territories. To advance dam safety, the NDSP also conducts technical research, maintains and updates a publication library and funds software such as the **Decision Support System for Water Infrastructure Security**.



RESOURCES FOR MORE INFORMATION

FEMA National Dam Safety Program:
www.fema.gov/dam-safety

FEMA Regional Office:
www.fema.gov/about/organization/regions

Association of State Dam Safety Officials:
www.damsafety.org

National Inventory of Dams:
nid.usace.army.mil

National Levee Safety Program:
www.leveesafety.org

United States Society on Dams:
www.usdams.org



LEADERSHIP

FEMA chairs two advisory committees:

The Interagency Committee on Dam Safety (ICODS), the permanent forum for the coordination of federal activities in dam safety and security. This committee was founded in 1980 to encourage the establishment and maintenance of effective federal programs, policies and guidelines to enhance dam safety and security. The committee serves as the permanent forum for the coordination of federal activities in dam safety and security.

The National Dam Safety Review Board (NDSRB) advises FEMA's Administrator in setting national dam safety priorities and considers the effects of national policy issues affecting dam safety. Review Board members include FEMA, the Chair of the Board and representatives from four federal agencies that serve on ICODS, five state dam safety officials and one member from the private sector.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The NDSP conducts national outreach and public awareness initiatives to promote dam safety and mitigation to include developing strategic communication campaigns, sponsoring conferences for federal, state, and local dam safety officials and dam safety technical experts, and exhibiting at conferences.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The NDSP sponsors dam safety preparedness and risk mitigation training programs as well as funds dam safety research and development. It also provides technical expertise and assistance to its stakeholders through its Collaborative Technical Assistance (CTA) program.

The CTA is a partnership and collaborative effort that brings together the federal government's resources to assist communities in addressing complex preparedness gaps. The CTA will include planning for emergencies related to operational discharges or dam-related infrastructure failure.

The CTA is a two-way commitment. FEMA provides participating communities with the necessary expertise, coaching, and tools. In turn, each community is expected to identify a project manager who will attend all relevant sessions and ensure project milestones are met. The CTA is an interactive process that requires continued, dedicated involvement from participating communities.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The NDSP provides grant funding through two programs: the Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams and State Assistance.


HHPD

The Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) grant program makes federal funds available to states and non-governmental organizations for the rehabilitation of dams that fail to meet minimum dam safety standards and pose unacceptable risk to life and property.

Activities eligible for funding

Pre-construction	Construction Ready
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineering plans/specs Environmental Impact assessment Surveys/structural investigations Geotechnical investigations Risk prioritization/risk assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repair or rehabilitation of the dam Dam removal Construction monitoring Installation of early warning system associated with eligible dam project

HHPD grants are calculated using a formula based on the number of eligible dams in a state.



Almost 15,000 dams in the United States are classified as high hazard potential, meaning that their failure from any means, including a terrorist attack, could result in loss of life, significant property damage, lifeline disruption and environmental damage.

State Assistance

The primary purpose of the NDSP State Assistance grant program is to provide financial assistance to states and territories for strengthening their dam safety programs' mission to reduce risks to life, property, and the environment from dam failure by guiding public policy and leveraging industry best practices across the dam safety community.

Any state or territory with a dam safety program authorized by legislation will receive funding. State Assistance grants are calculated using a formula based on the number of eligible dams in a state.

Examples of activities that can be funded include, but are not limited to:

- Training state personnel on dam safety
- Improving coordination with state emergency preparedness officials
- Conducting dam safety awareness workshops and creation of dam safety videos and other outreach materials
- Purchasing equipment, supplies, vehicles to help implement the state dam safety program
- Inspections of existing dams
- Reviewing, testing and approval of Emergency Action Plans

Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021 provides the following funding for the NDSP, to be awarded until expended:

- \$585 million for HHPD grants
- \$148 million for State Assistance grants

The IIJA also provides five-year funding:

- \$67 million for operations and support (to include training and implementation)

Total of \$800 million
to support dam safety programs and initiatives

