# **Hazard Mitigation Planning for States**

This fact sheet provides an overview of hazard mitigation planning guidance, tools and resources for state hazard mitigation officers, planners, state agencies and partner organizations.

## The State's Role in Hazard Mitigation Planning

State, local, tribal and territorial leaders use the mitigation planning process to understand natural hazard risks and develop long-term risk reduction strategies using a wide range of resources. Hazard mitigation is best accomplished 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 populations, buildings and infrastructure. The State Mitigation Plan not only reduces risk to key state assets in the long term, but also provides local jurisdictions with critical information and guidance regarding the state's risks, capabilities, priorities and action plans as they develop their own hazard mitigation plans. States are responsible for:

- Updating their hazard mitigation plan every five years as a condition of 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, including 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 <u>Mitigation Planning and Grants</u>.

### **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, as described in table below.

The state must also meet specific requirements to be eligible for funding under the <u>High Hazard Potential Dam grant</u> 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 <u>State Mitigation Plan Review Guide</u>.



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 future conditions including climate change and 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 by 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 accomplish hazard mitigation and direct resources towards effective mitigation planning and investment decisions.
Review, Evaluation and Implementation	Establishes a process for keeping the plan current, ensuring implementation over time and evaluating feedback on the state's progress toward its mitigation strategy.
Adoption and Assurances	Demonstrates the state's commitment to mitigation planning and implementation and 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 their hazard mitigation plans.

- The <u>State Mitigation Plan Review Guide</u> is a resource for plan developers to consult during plan updates to ensure they meet the state plan requirements needed for FEMA approval.
- The State Mitigation Planning Key Topics Bulletins provide approaches and resources to develop the <u>planning</u> process, <u>risk assessment</u>, <u>mitigation capabilities</u> and <u>mitigation strategy</u>.
- IS-329: State Mitigation Planning is a self-paced online course that provides 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 opportunities, contact the appropriate <u>FEMA regional office</u>.

#### **For More Information**

- <u>Hazard mitigation planning regulations and guidance</u> direct the development of state hazard mitigation plans, in particular, the requirements set forth in the <u>State Mitigation Plan Review Guide policy</u>.
- <u>Mitigation Ideas: A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards</u> provides ideas for mitigation actions.
- <u>HMA Grants Guidance</u> provides information on grant policies and resources that can assist with the development of planning grant applications.
- Contact your <u>FEMA regional office</u>.