



2019 Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Information Bulletin #1 *Hazard Mitigation Plan*

Cook County, Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DHSEM), has contracted with Integrated Solutions Consulting (ISC) to facilitate the planning process and update the Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan. ISC will follow a seven phase planning process:

- Organize resources
- Conduct risk assessment
- Develop public involvement strategy
- Set goals, objectives and actions
- Implement plan maintenance strategy
- Write the plan update
- Facilitate plan review/adoption

This process is modeled after FEMA's Community Rating System's planning process. The final HMP will consist of a base plan covering the whole planning area, as well as jurisdictional annexes that address the specific mitigation actions of the jurisdictions. ISC has developed a web-based tool to facilitate the collection of this data and the creation of the plan. The Cook County Multi-Jurisdictional All Hazards Mitigation Plan must be completed by the fall. Information herein further describes efforts and roles of your organization in ensuring the success of the project.

What is a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

A hazard mitigation plan (HMP) is "the representation of the jurisdiction's commitment to reduce risks from natural hazards, serving as a guide for decision makers as they commit resources to reducing the effects of natural hazards." (44 CFR 201.6) HMPs establish and maintain eligibility for grant funds. The planning process is as important as the plan itself because it creates a framework for governments to reduce the negative impacts from future disasters on lives, property, and the economy. Hazard mitigation planning can significantly reduce the physical, financial, and emotional losses caused by disasters. Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 is federal legislation that establishes a pre-disaster hazard mitigation program and new requirements for the national post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP). It encourages and rewards state and local pre-disaster planning and promotes sustainability. Completion of an HMP will result in more effective risk reduction projects and in a faster and more efficient allocation of funding.

What are the benefits of participating in the Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan?

There are numerous benefits to local jurisdictions of participating in the multi-jurisdictional HMP including:

- The multi-jurisdictional planning effort identifies and creates partnerships that enhance grant funding opportunities.
- Multi-jurisdictional plans enable comprehensive approaches to mitigation of hazards that affect several jurisdictions in a specific geographic area.
- It enables partners within the planning area to pool resources and reduce their level of effort while avoiding duplication of effort.
- Furthermore, FEMA prefers multi-jurisdictional planning efforts.



What is required in a Hazard Mitigation Plan?

FEMA regulations require that the public must be engaged in all phases of the plan's development. The HMP should review and incorporate existing plans and programs that can support or enhance hazard mitigation. The plan must assess the risk to natural hazards that may impact the planning area and identify and prioritize mitigation actions that can be taken. The HMP must also include a strategy for maintaining the plan, which must be updated every 5 years—that's what DHSEM is doing now!

What is required of each planning partner?

- Sign a Letter of Intent to participate and identify a point of contact
- Support the Steering Committee
- Provide information/data (and/or access to information) requested
- Attend and actively participate in meetings/workshops to which you are invited
- Rank the potential risks
- Perform a capability assessment
- Complete the Jurisdictional Annex template
- Identify and prioritize jurisdiction-specific actions
- Adopt the Plan

For more information about this process and the plan, please contact:

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